



OUR REF :

TRN : 100483609200003

DATE: Thursday, 21st May 2020

To: the Parents of students in Years 1-4 – Sixth update for the extended phase of Distance Learning

Dear Parents,

Greetings from Saint Mary's. We trust that this update finds you and your families continuing to be safe and well. We would like to request your sincere prayers for members of our Marian family who have not been so fortunate and are facing challenges of ill health and other burdens. It has been two months now that the children have been following the Distance Learning Programme and we are grateful for your support and their collaboration with their teachers and the school staff. It has been a truly challenging time for us all and we pray that all our Marian families continue to receive the blessings of God's strength and courage to face these unprecedented times. We pray that the festival of Eid be a blessed and beautiful one for all those celebrating and we extend our special Eid wishes to our Marian family.

EID BREAK: According to the Federal Authority for Government Human resources in the UAE, the Eid Al Fitr break will be from Ramadan 29 to Shawwal 3 as per the Islamic calendar. Exact dates will be confirmed closer to the observation based on moon sighting. There will be no live lessons for students of years 1-4 this week and based on the final declaration of the Eid break only some revision work for Math, English, Arabic and Science will be sent for Wednesday and Thursday (27th and 28th May) or only Thursday 28th May in the event that Wednesday is also declared a holiday.

THIRD REPORT WITH FEEDBACK TO PARENTS: We are in the process of preparing a third report based on the work done by children over the last two months. ***We have marked this report out of 50 and additional formative comments will also be included for each subject.*** For English, Math, Arabic and Science, teachers have been conducting Assessment for learning during their live sessions and will also be looking at assignments that have been given over the last few weeks. For other subjects, teachers will be looking at the work done over the last few weeks. We have requested parents to kindly send the specified work in a zipped folder by Sunday, 24th May. ***We would like to reiterate that we have only asked for work that has already been assigned over the past weeks and which should have been well completed by now. Please respect the deadline for sending in the work required or the reporting process will get held up for the entire cohort. Your collaboration to this end will be greatly appreciated.***

NEW SCHEDULES FROM 31ST MAY 2020: We are attaching the new schedules for this final phase of Distance Learning for this Academic Year. You will read in another part of this circular that if an online assessment has been scheduled for a particular day then there will be no LIVE ZOOM SESSIONS on that day even if featured in the schedule. We have moved back to the evening schedule as we understand that many parents have gone back to working at their premises and we know that it is critical for an adult to monitor younger children while they are online. Children with older siblings can also benefit from the older sibling facilitating the technology for them.

EMAIL NOTIFICATION TO CLASS TEACHERS FOR MEDICAL ABSENCES: While most parents have been contacting class teachers in the case of medical absences not all have. May we request you to kindly drop an email to the class teacher stating that your child may not attend live sessions due to medical reasons. We completely respect your privacy at this time and there is no reason for you to share any details of the medical illness but do let us know so that we may log in the absence as justified.

UPGRADE TO ZOOM 5.0: After 30th May 2020, the older version of Zoom will not work. We had sent all parents a reminder notice with a link to download the latest version of Zoom with enhanced security features. Please ensure that this is done without fail.

FINAL ASSESSMENTS AND ASSESSED ASSIGNMENTS FOR FINAL REPORTS: You will receive an Assessment Schedule for June 2020. We will be having simple online assessments through Google Forms for Years 1-4 in English, Math, Science, Arabic and Social Studies. For the other subjects we will be sending simple assignments for the children to complete on the morning of the assigned day and parents MUST email the work done to the subject teacher before the end of that day. Email Subject must read as: **GEOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENT FOR JOHN SMITH YEAR 2A**. Please also name the assignment with the same name.

ALL CHILDREN MUST BE PRESENT FOR THE ONLINE LIVE ASSESSMENT SCHEDULED FOR THAT EVENING.

Academic honesty is a fundamental part of learning and teaching and a core value of Saint Mary's Catholic High School Dubai. While we understand that children are in your physical space during these assessments we also know and trust that parents are the first teachers of values to their children. We therefore request you to only facilitate or help with the technological aspect of the assessment administration but to refrain from assisting in any way with the content of the assessment. We know that above all else both parents and teachers want the values of honesty and integrity to be deeply embedded in the children as key drivers for their journey through life. Children watch us very closely and look up to us as role models and we want them to know that they can continue to maintain these values even when they are doing an assessment at home.

We have included all the information you need regarding the Assessments including the topics to be reviewed in one easy to read sheet. **PLEASE NOTE THAT WHEN A LIVE ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN SCHEDULED, THERE WILL BE NO OTHER LIVE SESSION THAT EVENING EVEN IF FEATURED ON THE SCHEDULE.**

THE FIRST TERM AVERAGE AND THE THIRD REPORT ALONG WITH THESE JUNE ASSESSMENTS AND ASSESSED ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE USED TO GENERATE THE FINAL REPORT and PROMOTIONS.

Assignments will be sent at the beginning of the week so you can go through the requirements and explain the same to your child. However we expect that assignment to be done on the morning of the scheduled day.

TRANSFER CERTIFICATES AND MEDICAL RECORDS: A reminder to parents who are planning to transfer out of the UAE or transfer from our school to another to kindly send an official email requesting a TC and the child's medical records to maryscol@emirates.net.ae. Please address this email to Ms. Shirley (the Principal's secretary).

DL SECTION ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE: We would like to remind ALL parents to kindly visit the DL section on our school website as we have been updating it with many useful links , documents, vital information for keeping your children safe online, tips on well-being and mindfulness to name a few. We are sure that you will find these useful and we will keep updating this section as often as we can.

ATTENDANCE IN LIVE SESSIONS: While the majority of children have been keeping up an excellent rate of attendance, we would like to encourage parents of those children who have not been regular to please make sure that your children are attending the live sessions and participating in them. This will help in a big way to mitigate potential gaps in learning that will be hard to overcome with irregularity at this stage.

EID MUBARAK: We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Marian Family members a peaceful and blessed Eid. Our prayers are with you all at this special time and we pray that you all enjoy meaningful a quality time with your families. Please remember to stay home and stay safe and enjoy the festival in the tranquillity of home and family.

We would like to thank all of you, dear parents for your continued support and collaboration and above all for your prayers during this most challenging time of our lives. Please continue to stay positive and remind the children that they are always in our thoughts and prayers.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)

