



OUR REF :

TRN: 100483609200003

DATE : Saturday, 26th September 2020

To: The Parents of students in Years 4 – 13: DISTANCE and BLENDED LEARNING UPDATE

Dear Parents,

Greetings from Saint Mary's. As we begin week five of this Academic year, we invite you to read through the important updates for the coming week. We pray that all of you and your children are safe and well.

BLENDING LEARNING CRITICAL AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE REQUIRED:

If any child who has opted for Blended Learning shows symptoms of Covid-19, they must be kept at home and a diagnosis must be sought from an approved medical practitioner. The parent must email Ms. Lise-Ann on l.pinto-smchs@smgeducation.org and inform her of the status and send a copy of a PCR test that has been conducted. In addition in case a child or a parent, sibling or any family member of a child who has opted for Blended Learning, tests POSITIVE for COVID-19, an email must be sent to Ms. Lise-Ann without delay and the child must be kept at home to self isolate for 14 days. These are critical DHA requirements and as the Health and Safety Officer of the School, Ms. Lise-Ann will then contact the parents of any other child who was in contact with the child in question as well as staff members who will also have to self isolate for 14 days as part of contact tracing requirements. ***A PCR Negative test for a child who previously tested positive is also required in addition to the 14 day isolation in order for the child to return to school.***

DISTANCE LEARNING CRITICAL AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE REQUIRED:

Even if a child who has opted for Distance Learning has tested positive for Covid-19, parents are requested to please inform Lise-Ann via an email, clearly stating your child's full name, class and section, Emirates ID number, date of birth, home address and parent's mobile number. This is because DHA contacts Ms. Lise-Ann both via telephone and email requesting this information and often it is during late hours in the evening or at night and so this information from you would greatly assist the process with DHA.

UPDATED PARENT CONTACT INFORMATION TO SCHOOL & CLASS TEACHERS:

We have uploaded a link on the school website for you to access and provide us the critical information required without delay. **We are still waiting for many parents to fill in this information. THIS IS MOST URGENT!! PLEASE DO NOT DELAY ANY FURTHER !!!**

ZOOM GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS:

WE WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE THAT THE LEARNING SESSIONS IS STRICTLY BETWEEN THE TEACHER AND THE STUDENTS. All previous guidelines have been made available in our PROCESS MAP and we urge you to go through those carefully. We thank you once again for your collaboration with the teachers in supporting your children through lessons. **It is a huge breach of PRIVACY under UAE law to record any live sessions without the permission of all those in a session.** Unfortunately it has been observed that some parents have been doing this. This is in complete violation of both UAE privacy laws as well as laws concerning Child Safeguarding and Protection and must not ever be done in future. The school will be compelled to report any future actions regarding violation of the same to the relevant authorities. Let us all remember to be respectful to one another as this is a key value to teach our children.

WEEKLY LESSON PLANS:

Every Saturday, we will upload the lesson plans for the week so that you will know in advance of the week what your child is going to be learning in the week to come. These plans can be found under the relevant departments on the school website.

REGISTRATION ATTENDANCE:

The daily registration time is **7:10- 7:20am**. Class teachers will post a **DAILY ZOOM LINK** in the **GOOGLE CLASSROOM** and live attendance will be taken during the morning's registration. It is mandatory for every child to be live on camera for this morning registration and this is the attendance that will be logged into SIMS. ***Children who miss this morning's registration for attendance will be marked as ABSENT even if they attend lessons post this session.*** Kindly make sure that every child understands the importance of this morning's registration. It will also be a time for daily morning prayer before lessons begin for the day.

ATTENDANCE FOR LIVE SESSIONS:

Your child's attendance is also marked for each Zoom Session. In case your child has missed a session, you need to email the class teacher and inform him/her regarding the reason for the absence. If this is not done the absence will be marked as an 'unjustified absence' and for that particular subject.

ACTIVE LEARN/ ACTIVE TEACH:

The Login credentials for your child's Active Learn have been sent to your child's unique school email ID. In case payment for Active Learn has not yet been made, kindly contact Iris International immediately to have this done so that you can receive the login credentials for Active Learn for your child. In the event that you have paid for this but have still not yet received the login credentials, kindly send an email to the class teacher with your child's full name. Year 7 and above will begin receiving these by tonight as they have been scheduled to be sent.

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.

DAILY CLASS GROUP EMAIL:

The class teacher will continue to update parents daily with an easy to follow schedule for the next day as well as any other important school updates and circulars. In addition on Saturdays, parents of children from years 4-11 will receive a weekly schedule of Zoom/ Google Classroom lessons. For years 4-8 we have also created one single spreadsheet that the class teacher will post every evening in the Google Classrooms that will carry all the Zoom meeting codes and links for all lessons for the next day. It will be like one single reference space and will simplify the process for parents and students.

FIRST TERM FEES:

A reminder to all parents that the First Term fees must be paid in full only via the Skiply App **no later than the 30th of September 2020.**

STATIONERY PACKS WITH NOTEBOOKS:

Please note that the stationery packs and notebooks that your child usually receives at the beginning of the Academic Year will now be delivered by Iris International when the textbooks are delivered to your homes. Even if you ordered only for the Active Learn, this comes with some textbooks and so stationery

packs will be delivered with these books. Orders have been delivered this week with a few more scheduled for this weekend.

COMMUNICATIONS POLICY:

We have uploaded our communications policy and we would urge all parents to please go through it. All teachers email contacts are available in the CONTACTS SECTION of the school website. We believe that most matters and concerns can be resolved by writing in to the concerned teacher and clearing any doubts or queries you might have. For more serious concerns or issues, you are requested to kindly send an email to our Vice Principal, Ms. Lise-Ann who is in charge of Communications. Her email ID is lpinto-smchs@smgeducation.org Kindly provide your mobile phone contact when you write to her as she might require to call and speak to you. She will apprise the Principal of all related issues that require attention.

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULES OCTOBER 2020:

Please note that assessment schedules will be prepared and sent in the last week of September with an explanation of how assessments will take place for each subject. Teachers will continue to use formative assessments in lessons to track students' progress. Some summative assessments for senior cohorts have already been carried out and these will be included as part of the assessments.

GL EXAMINATIONS IN MATH FOR YEARS 5-10 HAS NOW BEEN REDCHEDULED TO THURSDAY, 15TH OCTOBER 2020 FROM 10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

NETFLIX'S –THE SOCIAL DILEMMA:

While social media is seamlessly woven into the fabric of our everyday lives, the Netflix documentary The Social Dilemma shows how harmful spending endless hours on social media can be, particularly when it comes to our children. There are some good takeaways for parents from this documentary and it is definitely worth a watch.

We are always grateful for your support and collaboration. Let us continue to hold one another in prayer and be hopeful for better days ahead. Please remind the children to read as much as they can and enjoy some good quality family time. We send all of you our blessings for your health and safety.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)

