



OUR REF : .....

TRN : 100483609200003

DATE : Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020**To: The Parents of students in Years 1-3 : DISTANCE and BLENDED LEARNING UPDATE****Dear Parents,**

**Greetings from Saint Mary's.** Please read through these important updates for week nine. We pray that all of you and your children are safe and well.

**SCHEDULED PLANS FOR NEXT WEEK:**

You will have received the scheduled plans with last week's update.

**NO MORNING LEARNING TASKS FOR NEXT WEEK:**

We have taken into account that children have their assessments as well as their assessment tasks and therefore we will not be sending the morning learning tasks so that the children can use this time to prepare for their assessments as well as work on their assessment tasks for the Non-Core subjects.

**GOOGLE CLASSROOM FOR YEARS 1, 2 AND 3:**

We have decided to create Google Classrooms for these year groups for a more simplified process for assignment submission as well as for teachers to post teaching and learning material. We hope this will ease the burden of email pressure and will be a more seamless approach for parents and teachers. We have organized some Google Classroom Workshops for parents to guide you about the use of Google Classroom. Please find the schedule below. Class teachers will send you the Zoom Meeting link.

YEAR 1 A, B, C and D ( simultaneous sessions Year 1A and 1B and Year 1C and 1D )	<b>Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b> <b>9:00 to 10:00 am</b>
YEAR 2 A, B, C and E ( simultaneous sessions Year 2A and 2B and Year 2C and 2E )	<b>Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b> <b>10:00 to 11:00 am</b>
YEAR 2D	<b>Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b> <b>5:00-6:00 pm</b>
YEAR 3 A, B, C and D ( simultaneous sessions Year 3A and 3B and Year 3C and 3D )	<b>Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> October</b> <b>9:00 - 10:00 am</b>
YEAR 3E	<b>Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> October</b> <b>10:00 - 11:00 am</b>

### **FIRST TERM FEES:**

A reminder to all parents that the last date for the payment of the First Term Fees has now passed. **WE WILL BE CONTACTING PARENTS WITH OUTSTANDING FEES SOON TO INFORM YOU ABOUT THE NEXT STEPS. Your collaboration in settling your child's first term fees immediately is the need of the hour.**

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM KHDA –TRAVEL REGULATIONS AND TRAVEL DECLARATION :**

A reminder to all parents to check the school website for this important update from KHDA as regards student travel and the required travel declaration form that needs to be filled.

### **GUIDANCE SESSIONS FOR PARENTS FROM LIGHTHOUSE ARABIA :**

We have uploaded details of three sessions for parents from Lighthouse Arabia on the school website.

### **GL CAT-4 EXAMINATIONS:**

We have already sent you a separate and detailed circular regarding these exams so this is only a reminder of the schedule.

**Students who have joined the school this year in the year groups being tested, and have done the CAT4 exam last year in your previous school, are requested to kindly submit your CAT4 results to your class teachers via email.**

Kindly note the schedule for your child's examination : **ALL CHILDREN MUST BE PRESENT ONLINE ON THE DAYS SCHEDULED FOR THEIR EXAMS.**

<b>CLASS</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>DAY</b>
<b>YEAR 2</b>	<b>6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b>	<b>FRIDAY ( 9:00 AM -11:30 AM )</b> <b>We have chosen a Friday morning to ensure that at least one parent is at home to facilitate the technology and assist the children in the event of any technological issues. The Class teachers and IT support staff will be there to assist you and your children.</b>

### **LEARNING LADDERS – YEARS ONE AND TWO FOR ENGLISH, MATH and SCIENCE:**

We will soon be opening up the Learning Ladders Parent portal for parents of years One and Two to begin with and parents will be able to view your child's PROGRESS against the Learning Objective for his/her year group in English, Math and Science. You will receive an email invite for this and our IT will conduct a session to guide you on how this portal can be used. We have already been using Learning Ladders to track the children's progress since last year but now we are opening out the parent portal in phases.

## **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 a few more parents to fill in this information. THIS IS MOST URGENT!!**

## **MOE GUIDANCE ON TEACHING ARABIC AND ISLAMIC STUDIES TO YEAR13-SYSTEM SCHOOLS:**

All schools that are licensed to teach up to Year 13 (UK or IB curricula) need to make some key changes to their Arabic and Islamic Education curricula for the academic year 2020-2021. These changes focus on realigning the year/grade system with the correct curriculum standards. So books that were used in Year ONE are being used in Year TWO and so on. Our teachers have been re-aligning the long term plan and the curriculum based on the guidance document from the MOE and we have also shared that document with you along with this circular.

## **REFUND FOR ARABIC TEXTBOOKS:**

We have asked Arabic teachers to note down the names of students who still require to purchase Arabic textbooks ( in case you gave these away) However, you may still source these as second hand copies if you wish to and so we request you to kindly remind your children to inform their Arabic teachers only if you wish to purchase the textbooks. Please also send an email to the class teacher to confirm a purchase and please mention if you had already paid Iris International for these books. We request your patience while we sort out a process for refunds for those who already have the books but had paid for the same.

## **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.

## **ASSESSMENTS AND ASSESSMENT POLICY:**

We have uploaded our reviewed and revised Assessment Policy on the school website and we invite you to kindly go through it carefully. You will also receive an Assessment schedule from your child's class teacher. Please note that schedules are unique to every section and are based on lessons that are available for that particular section on a particular day. Teachers will have some practice sessions using Google Forms with the children. Submission of some assessments that require written work will have to be emailed by the same evening to the respective subject teacher.

## ***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 if needed 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.

### **ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE:**

We would like to remind all parents to be mindful of the Assessment Schedules for the core subjects. Assessments **MUST** be completed within the scheduled time. Written assessments for English, however, will have to be emailed by the same evening to the respective subject teacher. Attendance for these sessions is a must. If there are any medical or other emergencies that crop up and your child is unable to attend a session, please email the class teacher informing her of the same. The deadlines for the tasks assigned for the non-core subjects have to be respectfully and strictly followed.

### **MISSED ASSESSMENTS:**

In case your child is unwell or if there is any other emergency and he or she misses an assessment, please send an email to the respective subject teacher and copy the class teacher as well. Rescheduled assessments will take place on a Saturday morning and the teacher will communicate further details to you.

### **ZOOM GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS AND PRACTICE OF KEY CONTENT IN CORE SUBJECTS:**

#### **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.

### **ATTENDANCE FOR LIVE SESSIONS:**

Your child's attendance is 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 will be reflected in your child's report card against 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 . Teachers will be using the Active Learn platform for lessons, assessments as well as allocating homework tasks and books for reading. Please do not delay in making the payment for Active Learn so that children can access the platform for their lessons.

### **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.

### **EXPO 2020 SECTION ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE:**

We would like to invite you and your children to browse this section regularly as we will keep updating it with interesting and relevant resources for the children.

### **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.

### **PRIVACY OF TEACHER VIDEOS :**

Teachers will be uploading short video lessons for the children in English, Math, Science and Arabic as part of the morning learning tasks. We ask that you please respect the privacy of the teachers by not sharing these on social media or with parents from other schools. We are sure you as parents will understand the sensitivity of this process and we trust that you will fully respect the privacy of our teachers by not sharing these in any way.

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 )

