



OUR REF : .....

TRN: 100483609200003

DATE : Thursday, 8<sup>th</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 seven. We pray that all of you and your children are safe and well.

### SCHEDULED PLANS FOR THE NEXT WEEK:

You will receive the scheduled plans for the next week along with this update.

### 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!!**

### 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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **FIRST TERM FEES:**

A reminder to all parents that the last date for the payment of the First Term Fees has now passed. **PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE BY THIS WEEKEND AT THE VERY LATEST VIA THE SKIPLY APP.**

## **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.

## **DUBAI MUNICIPALITY POSTER COMPETITION:**

Please find details of this on the school website . This will also be sent to you by the class teacher via the class group email.

## **WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY-10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020:**

Please find details of this in a separate circular issued yesterday on the school website . This will also be sent to you by the class teacher via the class group email.

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 )

