



OUR REF :

TRN: 100483609200003

DATE : Thursday, 8th October 2020

To: The Parents of students in Years 4-13 – 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.

BLENDED 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 !!!**

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. Submission of some assessments that require written work will have to be turned in at the end of the session.

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. ***For older children, we recommend that you have a conversation with them about the school's clear expectations for 'Academic Honesty' and that they must not resort to any unfair means while doing their assessments.***

ATTENDANCE FOR THESE ASSESSMENTS IS CRITICAL AND WE URGE YOU TO SPEAK TO YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT NOT TAKING THESE LIGHTLY. WE WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO CREDIT OR MARK ASSESSMENTS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN DONE OR THAT ARE TURNED IN LATE. If a child is sick please send an email to the class teacher and please cc the subject teacher if a child has missed a test in a particular subject.

As part of the Academic Honesty and Integrity students MUST NOT EVER UNSUBMIT any assessment submitted in Google Classroom for editing purposes. Teachers get a notification when a student UNSUBMITS a document and NO MARKS will be given in this case.

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.**

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 as well as the **UAE NATIONAL ANTHEM** before lessons begin for the day.

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.

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

GOOGLE CLASSROOM STRICTLY FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS AND NOT A FORUM FOR COMMUNICATION BY PARENTS:

We would like to remind all parents that the GOOGLE CLASSROOM is an educational space strictly for the children and their teachers. **KINDLY DO NOT POST MESSAGES TO THE TEACHERS IN STREAM.** If you wish to communicate with any teacher kindly send them an email.

CLASS TEACHER SESSIONS WITH A FOCUS ON WELL BEING:

Every class will have two sessions with their class teachers on ANY two Thursdays of the month from **12:00 – 12:20 pm. (school hours)**. Class teachers will inform students which Thursdays this will be scheduled for their respective classes. Attendance is mandatory and there will be a focus on well being as well as a space to share any urgent concerns with their teachers.

SCHOOL EMAIL ID TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR SCHOOL WORK:

Students **MUST NOT USE** the school email ID credentials to register on any gaming website or third party eBook websites etc. Students should be very careful when visiting any website they are unsure of as there is the potential possibility of clicking on pop ups which could lead to inadvertently sharing information from a child's device to the linked pages. If any student or parent finds any unusual activity happening with your school email ID, kindly forward the same to IT support on their email and they will look into the matter immediately.

DUBAI MUNICIPALITY POSTER COMPETITION & EMIRATES LITERATURE FESTIVAL COMPETITIONS:

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

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY-10TH 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.

OFFICIAL SCHOOL TIMINGS :

Please note that official school timings for students are from 7:10 am until 1:40 pm. We had included some dispersal time slots initially and hence lessons currently end at 1:20 pm. Since over 99% of our student body is on Distance Learning we do not require these dispersal times and will therefore be posting new lesson timings that reflect this change. These will be effective from 18th October 2020.

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. We also pray for the families in our school community who are grappling with ill health and other challenges. Stay safe and blessed.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)

