



OUR REF :

TRN: 100483609200003

DATE : Saturday, 20th November 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 thirteen. We pray that all of you and your children are safe and well.

COMPETITION AND PROGRAMME PARTICIPATION UNDER DL SECTION OF OUR WEBSITE:

We would like to invite you to please check this new section we have added for many interesting programmes and competitions that the children can participate in.

REFUND FOR ARABIC/ ISLAMIC STUDIES/ MORAL EDUCATION BOOKS AND COLLECTION OF SOCIAL STUDIES TEXT BOOKS **UPDATED LINK:**

We have uploaded a refreshed link on the school website for the purpose of booking an appointment with Iris International for refunds.

GATE 5 WILL BE INACCESSIBLE TEMPORARILY:

Kindly note that due to major road works just outside GATE no. 5 , we will be keeping this GATE CLOSED until it is safe to use it.

BOARD EXAMINATION REGISTRATION FORMS JUNE 2021 (GCE/ IAL/ GCSE/ IGCSE):

We would like to remind those parents who have not yet completed this process that the due date was 5th November 2020 so kindly complete the payment and process by this weekend.

KHDA WELL-BEING SURVEY FOR YEARS 7-13:

The KHDA Well Being Survey will be done during school hours in the coming week during school hours for years 7-11. Years 12 and 13 will be given a slightly broader window taking into account the rigours of their Academic work and giving them time to pace themselves at a time that is optimal for them.

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 :

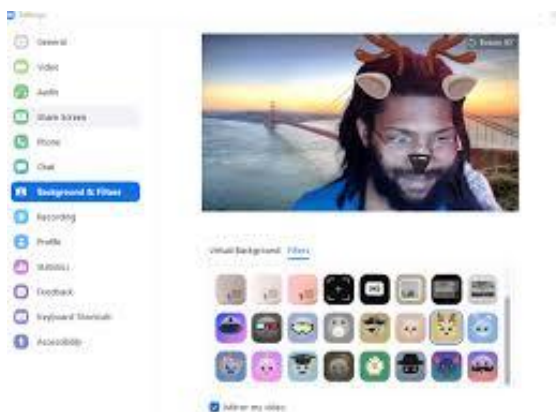
We have uploaded details of three sessions for parents from Lighthouse Arabia on the school website.

NEW LESSON TIMINGS WITH SCREEN BREAKS IN BETWEEN LESSONS:

We have posted new lesson timings to include screen breaks in between lessons. These went into effect from Sunday, 18th October 2020. We have done this to provide a space for the children away from the screen to help overcome the effects of screen fatigue. Our hope is that the children use this break to physically move away from the screen and do a bit of stretching and perhaps take a little walk in any physical space available to them. We would also like you to remind children about the **20-20-20 RULE- The rule says that for every 20 minutes spent looking at a screen, a person should look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds.**

NEW ZOOM FILTERS NOT TO BE USED BY CHILDREN FOR LIVE LESSONS:

Please remind your children that the new Zoom filters are not to be used for live lessons. Teachers will remind them as well and they have been instructed to remove children from lessons if they use these filters.



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 and students 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. **PLEASE REMIND YOUR CHILDREN NOT TO EVER SCREENSHOT ANY LIVE SESSION.** Some have done this and even posted the same on Social Media.

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.

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.

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.

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.


We wish you all a safe and blessed weekend with your families . Please be assured of our prayers and blessings for our Marian Family. **Please remember the three W's**

Wash your hands !

Watch your distance !

Wear your mask !

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)

