



OUR REF : .....

TRN : 100483609200003

DATE : Wednesday, 25<sup>TH</sup> 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 fourteen.

We pray that all of you and your children are safe and well.

### **49<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL DAY & COMMEMORATION DAY HOLIDAYS :**

The school will be closed for the National Day Holidays from ***Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> December until Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and we return to lessons***

***on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020.*** The school office will also be closed on all these

days. We wish all the families of the school community a happy National Day break with the school

community offering prayers and best wishes for this great nation and its rulers. ***In keeping with***

***the colourful traditions, we are inviting all our students to dress in any of the***

***colours of the UAE National Flag or a combination of all ( red, white, green***

***and black ) on MONDAY, 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020. Children will have a special***

***National Day session on Monday morning with their class teacher and***

***classmates. There will be no homework assigned for this break and we truly***

***hope that you'll can spend some quality family time together.***

### **FIRST REPORT DAY, SATURDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020:**

Kindly refer to the circular sent about report day. Please note that some parent meetings will be

conducted on Friday as many of our teachers have their Licensing exams from the Ministry of Education

scheduled for Saturday. Those teachers will have contacted you by now to inform you of this change of

plan. ***While we are truly grateful to all our parents who have completed their***

***payment of the first term fees, we have deeply reflected on the challenges that***

***the Covid-19 Global Pandemic has brought to families, and in a spirit of***

***goodwill which lies at the heart of our school, we have decided to release the report cards of all our students including those who still have outstanding dues for the first term.***

However we would like to remind all parents that for St. Mary's to sustain itself and continue to provide an education to all our children, it is imperative that school fees are paid in a timely manner and therefore we will not be in a position to release subsequent report cards if there are outstanding dues for the first term. We would appreciate your support for the school by clearing ALL OUTSTANDING DUES before the end of 2020. Reports will be published starting tonight and so we request you to check your SIMS PARENT APP after approximately twenty four hours for your child's report.

### **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.

### **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 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 so kindly complete the payment and process without any further delay.**

**FIRST TERM FEES:** A reminder to all parents that the last date for the payment of the First Term Fees has now passed. **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.

### **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, 18<sup>th</sup> 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.**

### **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 [lpinto-smchs@smgeducation.org](mailto:lpinto-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:

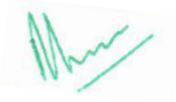
Since there are only two working days we will not upload lesson plans for Sunday and Monday.

### 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 National Day weekend with your families. Please stay safe and avoid crowded places. Please be assured of our prayers and blessings for our Marian Family

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph  
( Principal )

غرس SEEDS  
الاتحاد OF THE  
UNION

