



OUR REF :

DATE : Thursday, 4th February 2021

To: The Parents of students in Years 4-13 - DISTANCE and BLENDED LEARNING UPDATE

Dear Parents,

Greetings from Saint Mary's. We continue to ask all of our Marian family to hold the school community in prayer especially for the health and safety of our children and their extended families. Please read these important updates as we move into week twenty four of this Academic Year.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN FRATERNITY 4TH FEBRUARY 2021: The international community is set to observe February 4 as International Day for Human Fraternity after the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution based on an initiative that was introduced by the UAE, Bahrain, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The day will be marked annually beginning 2021. We had organised some engaging activities this morning with secondary children and we were very happy with their enthusiastic and critical responses to the various activities that ranged from poster making to challenging debates.

TRAVEL DECLARATION: In order for the school to be compliant with the UAE Covid-19 travel requirements, please click on the official DHA link (available on website) and answer the relevant questions even if your child has not travelled. We appreciate if you are not travelling that you complete it as soon as possible. If you are travelling, please complete it prior to your child's return to lessons. The email required to be filled in the field on the form is

traveldecl-smchs@smgeducation.org

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.

YEAR 11 AND 13 BOARD EXAMINATIONS: We have just been officially informed that the Edexcel Board will use a robust approach based on teacher assessment for GCSE/ International GCSE, GCE/ International AS/A Level assessment in May-June 2021 and exams will not go ahead as planned. We will continue to update you of the next steps. We would ask you to reiterate the importance of daily study to your children so that they are doing their best on all assessments as we have been encouraging them with from the beginning of this year.

READING QUIZ: The Reading Quiz based on the book assigned for the winter break has been scheduled for today during the class teacher's session.

ADMISSION FORMS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022: We would like to inform all parents that admissions to the Academic Year 2021-2022 are now open. There will be NO ADMISSIONS FOR YEAR ELEVEN. Kindly check the school website www.stmarysdubai.com for the admissions notice for further information related to admissions. Please note that admission to years ONE and TWO are now closed.

SECOND TERM FEES – PAST THE DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT: Please note that Second term fees should have been paid by the 31st of January 2021. We will not be able to issue any letters or other official documents to students who have any Outstanding Fees at this point.

OUTSTANDING FIRST TERM FEES : We are at a time junction of having gone four months past the last day for first term fee payments but we still have a large number of students with outstanding fees for the first term. We are urging all parents who have not yet cleared these outstanding fees from term one to do so without delay. Please note that we will not be in a position to provide examination marks, report cards, reference letters or any other official documents to students who still have outstanding first term fees.

BLENDED LEARNING: Please note that every child must bring a fully charged device for use during lessons on the days when they are on-site. Face shields are a must and the Hygiene Kit must contain three masks, a Face Shield, personal sanitizer and a pack of sanitizing wipes.

Children must also carry a headset with them.

KHDA PARENT SURVEY FOR ALL PARENTS IN DUBAI: We would like to invite you to please complete the survey by using the link under the KHDA section of the school website.

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.

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.

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.

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 safe days ahead with blessings of good health for one and all.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)

