



OUR REF : .....

TRN: 100483609200003

DATE : Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**To: The Parents of students in Years 1-3 – 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. We pray in a special way for those families that are facing many challenges with health and other difficulties related because of the Pandemic and we trust that a peaceful healing and happier times return to one and all. Please read these important updates as we move into week thirty of this Academic Year.

**IN MEMORIAM:**

The Pandemic has severely impacted some families of our larger Marian Family and with great sadness we share with you all that we have recently lost four parents and the spouse of a staff member to this illness. We ask you all to hold these families in close prayer especially praying for strength for the families to cope with such a difficult loss.

**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](mailto:traveldecl-smchs@smgeducation.org)

### **REVISED ADMIN. OFFICE TIMINGS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:**

All parents are requested to please make a careful note that commencing immediately the School Admin Office will be **closed on the First and Third Saturday of every month** and **will work from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm on the Second and Fourth Saturday of every month**. For any urgent collection of documents, the office will intimate you on a case by case basis of any other timings during the week when documents may be collected.

### **NEW DHA REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING COVID-19 SCHOOL CASES:**

Even if a child who has opted for Distance Learning / Blended Learning has tested positive for Covid-19, parents are requested to please access a new link: <https://forms.gle/P38FvRf6NP38vjav8> provided on the school website as per new DHA requirements and fill it up without fail. The new requirements necessitate that the PCR test report is sent by parents to the school on the same day that they receive it from the lab. **THIS IS NOW MANDATORY FOR PARENTS AS PER DHA.**

### **SPRING BREAK :**

The Spring Break for the Academic Year 2020-2021 commences on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and students will return to school on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

### **FINAL EXAMINATION PORTIONS and TIMETABLES :**

The portions for the final examinations will be uploaded under the relevant Department categories on the school website on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2021. Please refer to the school calendar on the website for dates for Final Examinations. Final examination time tables will also be uploaded on the same day.

### **Guided Reading books assigned in Active Learn Bug Club:**

Two books will once again be assigned for children to read through this quarter and through the Spring Break and a quiz on these will be conducted immediately after the Spring Break and the marks will be integrated into the Third Report for English Reading. Reading is the most valuable skill and we would like every child to develop this skill at an early age so your support in encouraging them to read regularly with interest will be greatly appreciated.

### **DL SCHEDULE :**

The DL Schedule for next week will be uploaded to the school website along with this update.

## **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 only for year 10. There will be NO ADMISSIONS FOR YEAR ELEVEN. Kindly check the school website [www.stmarysdubai.com](http://www.stmarysdubai.com) for the admissions notice for further information related to admissions.

## **SECOND TERM FEES – PAST THE DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT:**

Please note that Second term fees should have been paid by the 31<sup>st</sup> 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. **Please note that answer scripts of Mid-Term assessments which are due at a later date, will only be sent if ALL FEES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR HAVE BEEN PAID.**

## **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.**

## **RETURN FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022 :**

It is that time of the year when we need to request parents to start thinking about whether your child will be returning for the next Academic Year 2021-2022 and we will be providing you with a form and some additional details before the Spring Break but we would like you to begin thinking about re-registration for next year.

## **MID TERM ASSESSMENTS :**

It is the last week of the second round of mid-term assessments.

*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 SCHEDULES & PORTIONS :**

We would like to remind all parents to be mindful of the Assessment Schedules for the core subjects as well as those non-core subjects which have Reading Tasks. Assessments **MUST** be completed within the scheduled time. 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 some of the non-core subjects have to be respectfully and strictly followed.

### **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.**

### **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.

### **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:**

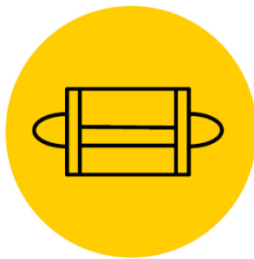
We would like to invite you and your children to browse this section regularly as we will keep updating it with interesting and relevant resources for the children.

## **PRIVACY OF TEACHER VIDEOS :**

Teachers will once again 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.

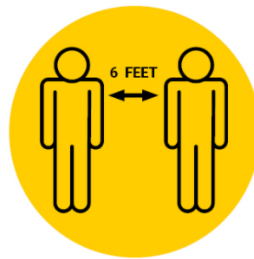
We wish you safe days ahead and we pray for blessings of good health for one and all.

## **Please remember the three W's**



**WEAR**

**YOUR FACE SHIELD  
OR MASK**



**WATCH**

**YOUR DISTANCE**



**WASH**

**YOUR HANDS OR  
USE HAND SANITIZER**

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Paul Asir Joseph  
( Principal )

