OUR REF : ....

TRN : 100483609200003

DATE : Thursday, 24th September 2020

To: The Parents of students in Years 1 - 3: DISTANCE & BLENDED LEARNING UPDATE

Dear Parents,

Greetings from Saint Mary's. As we begin week five of this Academic year, we invite you to read through the important updates for the coming week. We pray that all of you and your children are safe and well.

SCHEDULED PLANS FOR THE NEXT WEEK:

You will receive the scheduled plans for the next week along with this update. Students who take Islamic Studies in Years 1-3 will have morning lessons to complete the full curricular hours as per the MOE.

BLENDED AND DISTANCE LEARNING:

We would like to clarify that even if your child has opted for Blended Learning, all Distance Learning Schedules and plans are applicable to your child as well. We have over 99.97% of students in years 1-3 who have opted for Distance Learning and even though there may be some elements of work that might be a repetition for the very few who access the school on some days, they MUST attend all live sessions in the evening. Attendance is being recorded per session by each teacher.

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*.

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!!**

ZOOM GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS & PRACTICE OF KEY CONTENT IN CORE SUBJECTS:
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.

SUBMISSION OF TASKS FOR CORRECTION AND TEACHER FEEDBACK:
Subjects scheduled for morning learning MAY have some tasks that require your child to submit work according to a specified deadline. Please make sure that the given deadline is respected and that the completed task is emailed to the teacher from the student's unique email ID. Task documents should be correctly named with your child's full name and correct section. The morning learning tasks that require to be submitted have the date for submission and the subject teachers' email Ids.

ATTENDANCE FOR LIVE SESSIONS:

Your child's attendance is marked for each Zoom Session. In case your child has missed a session, you need to email the class teacher and inform him/her regarding the reason for the absence. If this is not done the absence will be marked as an 'unjustified absence' and will be reflected in your child's report card against that particular subject.

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 IT support with your child's full name and section.

FIRST TERM FEES:

A reminder to all parents that the First Term fees must be paid in full only via the Skiply App **no later than the 30th of September 2020**.

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.

KHDA PARENT-SCHOOL CONTRACT & ADDENDUM WITH LEARNING MODEL CHOICE:

All parents whose children have been studying in our school will have already received the Addendum with the choice of Learning Model directly from KHDA. If you have not already signed this it is crucial that you do so immediately. Parents of students who have been admitted to St. Mary's this year will have received both the KHDA Parent-School Contract and the Addendum with the Learning Model Choice on the email with which you were registered on the KHDA system. When you receive the same, please do not delay in signing it electronically. **ALL PARENTS MUST TREAT THIS AS VERY IMPORTANT AND RESPOND WITHOUT DELAY.** For any queries related to the KHDA Parent-School contract, please email Ms. Mary Fikry on arabicsec-smchs@smgeducation.org

STATIONERY PACKS WITH NOTEBOOKS:

Please note that the stationery packs and notebooks that your child usually receives at the beginning of the Academic Year will now be delivered by Iris International when the textbooks are delivered to your homes. Even if you ordered only for the Active Learn, this comes with some textbooks and so stationery packs will be delivered with these books. Orders have been delivered this week with a few more scheduled for this weekend.

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULES OCTOBER 2020:

Please note that assessment schedules will be prepared and sent in the last week of September with an explanation of how assessments will take place for each subject. Teachers will continue to use formative assessments in lessons to track students' progress.

PRIVACY OF TEACHER VIDEOS:

 Teachers will 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 are always grateful for your support and collaboration. Let us continue to hold one another in prayer and be hopeful for better days ahead. Please remind the children to read as much as they can and enjoy some good quality family time. We send all of you our blessings for your health and safety.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Paul Asir Joseph
(Principal)