



PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER



No.1

STAR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL,

08th September 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to our Star Family!



It has certainly been a very different return to school this year; however as usual it has been wonderful to see all the returning faces of the children and parents, to enable our Star Family to ignite once more.

Even though it's been a while since we have been together, it's so lovely to finally see one another again. We may have social distancing, hand sanitisers and masks which hide our faces... however our eyes are smiling brightly! Welcome back everyone...to those new and those returning, here's to a super year ahead.

There are several things I wish to talk about in this first newsletter, so my apologies if it is rather document heavy and mostly related to the new protocols which we have had to apply.

NEW STAFF

Welcome to Ms. Joanne who will now be joining the Year 2 team, to Ms. Janine McGill, who will join Year 5, but also will be our new Health and Safety Officer and finally to Ms. Marjorie who will be joining Year 2.

We are very happy to welcome them all into our Star Family.



Ms. Marjorie



Ms. Jenine McGill

YEAR 2

In Maths, Year 2 have been practicing their place value skills by drawing diennes and part whole models to represent numbers to 100.

In English Year 2 have been reading 'The Smartest Giant in Town' by Julia Donaldson. We made predictions about the end of the story and then drew what really happened!



CORRIDORS

Please have a look at our corridors.



KHDA / DHA / MOE FORMS

Please can I remind parents that you must complete the following surveys / forms sent out by the KHDA, Municipality or DHA:

1. Travel declaration form
2. Health form

Those who haven't completed the form, please find the links below:

Link to the Travel & Health Declaration form:

<https://www.dha.gov.ae/en/Pages/coronaregistration.aspx>

When completing the School Name and School Email, please ensure you enter the following information:

School Name: Star International School Mirdif Branch

School Email: healthandsafety@starmirdif.com

Link to Health Form:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kLbPQ_bo95hwYHvZPnPwQm0vkBhl-HUv/view?usp=sharing

CHILDREN RETURNING FROM TRAVELLING AND BACK TO SCHOOL

Please can I remind parents that when children have completed their isolation period, parents need to escort children into school. Please arrive at the main reception where all the paperwork for travelling needs to be completed. Please also bring all documentation with you, including passport to view entry to UAE.

CASES of COVID

As parents are aware, we have COVID cases amongst some staff. In order to support the absent teacher's class, we have created a model of teaching which means all year group teachers teach each class one of the core subjects. One teacher is teaching all the maths, one the English / phonics and one the Science. We feel that this has offered an equitable curriculum to all students in these classes for the first two weeks. **We are really looking forward to having our poorly teachers back next week.**

DROP OFF

Our drop off in the morning is going very smoothly and very well. We are however a little concerned that next week we will have all of EYFS using the main drop off to EYFS as well. In order to try and alleviate some congestion, we are extending the EYFS drop window from 07:40 - 08:30.

We will continue to ask years 5,6,7,8 and 9 to drop off at the swimming pool car park if they do not have siblings. This is a slight change but we feel that things are working well and therefore want to keep things as easy as possible and change free.

Drop off next week will therefore continue with Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 being dropped off at the EYFS drive through area. Year 5,6,7,8 & 9 at the swimming pool area.

If we feel we need to change this, we will let you know throughout next week.

PICK UP

The EYFS pick up both in the morning and afternoon will remain the same.

Year 1 Pick Up is successful, however next week, the new car park at the front of school will be completed. We will be asking you to park on this car park and walk into the school through **GATE 3**. You will enter school via the main double doors and then move left, following the corridor until you get to year 1. Parents then need to walk forward and exit by the small door at the far end of the corridor. You will then need to walk around the front of school and exit by the middle Gate 2.

Year 2 Pick Up

This will continue as before.

Year 3 Pick Up

Next week, Year 3 will park on the front car park and enter school via the middle gate 2. Walk through the small door by Ms Gill's office and collect your children. Continue walking one way and exit via the large double doors.

Year 4 / 5 Pick Up is working perfectly, this will continue

Year 6 Pick Up

Year 6 will continue to be picked up at the swimming pool car park.

Year 7, 8 & 9 Pick Up

Year 7, 8 & 9 will be collected on the car park at the front of school. Year 7, 8 & 9 will go to cars independently.

Please be aware that older children may pick up siblings from the younger classes, but only at 3:15pm.

STAY HOME IF UNWELL

Please read the 'STAY AT HOME IF UNWELL POLICY' below:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BYHyhqsEjhwI-n8SOD1qeLBhNPT6cy8rgzvNSgHuQbs/edit>

It is crucial if your child is unwell that you keep them at home.

Most children, unfortunately when they are ill will display one of the following:

- sore throat
- fever
- runny nose
- cough
- headache
- possible shortness of breath

All these being symptoms of COVID 19.

Please use the following protocols if your child is ill.

FIRSTLY - DON'T SEND THEM TO SCHOOL

If the child is ill at school:

- Child goes home
- Parents **MUST** take the child to the Doctor to find out diagnosis
- The child recovers **FULLY** at home
- The child will **NOT** be allowed back into school without a diagnosis letter from the Doctor who treated them
- On arrival back, the parent must bring the child to Ms Bernadette, Ms Janine or Ms Anagha: they will also meet with Head of School.

- Excel spreadsheets need to be completed for these sick children.

Only after all the above is complete will the child be allowed back into class.

Please also note that Distance Learning will be offered after 48 hours of absence.

If a child has had COVID

Prior to return to school, the child must take a COVID test and stay home until the result. They will only be allowed back into school upon result of the negative test and a clearance certificate from the supporting health authority who looked after the child.

On arrival back in school, in order to follow KHDA protocols, parents must escort the child into school, bringing them to the main EYFS or main reception along with the two documents above.

A 'return to school' meeting must be held with the Heads of School and the nurse before the child can be allowed back into the classroom. All documentation will then be added to the various excel spreadsheets we need to complete.

I am aware these procedures are very strict, however as with everything else at this time, this is the way it has to be.

FEEDBACK from PARENTS

Thank you for all the feedback we have had in the last few weeks. Your feedback is and has always been welcome, however, it saddens me to say that on occasions in the past couple of weeks, there have been some very inappropriate comments placed on the class rep messages regarding staff in school. This isn't what we as a school expect and is unacceptable behaviour in the UAE. I am aware that when things don't go the way you want, or when things happen that annoy/ upset you, you want to vent, however a watsapp platform isn't really the place to do this.

Class reps, can I please ask you to ensure that what is messaged on these class rep groups is appropriate, not defaming in any way and remains the professional platform that means school and our parent community can work together.

WELCOME BACK

Hopefully we will be welcoming back Mr Donal and Ms Marion this coming week. I know they are really excited about getting back into school. Thank you for your patience with the quarantine situation. In relation to this, with the situation at present, I am almost certain that in the near future, we will have other cases of COVID. In order to move forward with these situations, we have to follow protocols and ask that you are accepting of any strategies which we may need to put into place.

ARABIC A

Please can I politely remind parents that if children hold an Arabic passport and are registered with this passport in the KHDA system, they have to follow the Arabic A curriculum. There is no movement on this. The only authority that can change this, is the KHDA itself.

Kind Regards,

Ms Gill