



مدرسة القديسة مريم الكاثوليكية الثانوية - دبي  
St. Mary's Catholic High School - Dubai  
محيصنة (فرع) Muhaisnah Branch

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"Cradle of Quality Integral Education"

Web site: [www.stmarysmuhaisnah.com](http://www.stmarysmuhaisnah.com)

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Dear Parents,

The school is beginning to settle into a nice rhythm now. Subject teachers are setting their first tests and getting feedback about how their children are doing in class.

We have recently carried out a student survey about the school and the results are very positive. The majority of children are clearly enjoying coming to school. A survey for parents will be sent out in the next few weeks.

### Guided Reading

The guided reading book scheme has now begun in the school. This is a dedicated period a week given to reading during the English lesson. Children are provided with books at a slightly higher level than currently read to help push them and improve their reading skills.

### Library

All the library books have now been catalogued and the children are now allowed to borrow books. We even encourage children to come to the library during break time to read and borrow books.

### Show and Tell

Some parents have been asking about Show and Tell. We are introducing Show and Tell into Year 1 and 2. This is a normal part of a UK curriculum where children bring in something to talk about in front of their classmates.

It can be a favourite book, toy, photograph, object etc. It is an activity that can be socially rewarding and academically advantageous for young children while also solidifying the home-school connection.

## Lost and found

The school is beginning to collect some lost articles such as water bottles, cardigans etc. In order to help find out who these items belong to, it would be very helpful if you could label everything in your child's bag with your child's name and class. Items such as pencil cases, water bottles, lunch boxes and cardigans should be labelled.

## Dates

We have some important parent's open days coming up so please make a note of the following:

FS1/FS2 Information day: 24<sup>th</sup> October

FS1/FS2 Parents/teachers meetings: 14<sup>th</sup> November

Yr. 1 – 2 Parents/teachers meetings: 21<sup>st</sup> November

Yr. 3 – 6 Parents/teachers meetings: 28<sup>th</sup> November

This is a chance for you to meet your child's teachers and talk about their progress.

## Hiring out the facilities

We receive many enquiries about hiring out the school facilities for conference or sports activities. We are pleased to announce that the school facilities are now available for hire Sunday – Thursday in the evening from 16:00 p.m. onwards and available all weekend morning and afternoon.

## Extracurricular activities

Now that the school is more settled, we are able to offer an extra curriculum programme. Initially it is only available to Years 4 – 6. The activities available are:

- Campus Journalism
- Elocution and Public Speaking
- Little Doctors and Nurses Club
- Theater Arts (Acting, Stage Presentation, Oration)
- Dance Club
- Basic Taekwondo
- Basketball
- Badminton
- Extended Mathematics
- Arts and Crafts
- Music (Lyre Band/Choir)

## PE KIT

The PE Kit is now ready. It will be distributed through class teachers this week. When children have PE on their timetable, they must come to school dressed in their PE kit with appropriate footwear. They will stay in their PE kit all day.

## ActiveLearn digital platform – a brief introduction and user information

This is available at [www.activelearnprimary.co.uk](http://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk)

The school code, username, password of every child has been now provided for Yr. 1-6 and will be soon provided for EYFS as well.

**The site will work only with Google Chrome and if ‘pop-up’s are enabled on your computer.**

Please be informed that the password of the child can be changed anytime by either the parent or the teacher. If you have any difficulty in logging in, you may use the ‘Forgotten Password’ option and set a new password for the child.

The student will only be able to use the resources that have been **allocated** to him/her by the teacher. Other resources will not be available to him/her. The teachers of English, Maths and Science will soon allocate the resources to them.

The English resource is called Wordsmith, phonics is called the Phonics Bug, Science is known as Science Bug, Maths is called Abacus and guided reading is available on Bug Club.

Wordsmith has four components: fiction, non-fiction, poetry and live (drama). Grammar, spelling and composition work are embedded in the literary pieces and will be done with in parallel with comprehension which means discussing and understanding the literary pieces. The literary pieces of Wordsmith are only available as ebooks and the student will be asked by the teacher to read a certain number of pages each day before coming to class so that meaningful discussion on those pages can be held in class.

Digital homework in English, Maths and Science will be assigned on Activelearn along with written work.

It is important for your child to have internet access at home everyday for his learning needs.

## Islamic New Year

On the occasion of the Islamic New Year, the school will be closed on Thursday and will reopen on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October.