



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

Muhaisnah 4  
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"Cradle of Quality Integral Education"

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

Newsletter: Number 2

Dear Parents,

We have had a very busy start to the school year at SMM! We thought it would be useful to mention a few things to keep you up to date.

Firstly, many thanks for your kind words of appreciation and feedback about the school and our staff. It is so rewarding to see the children's happy faces as they arrive at school each day.

### Bishop's Visit

We are honoured to receive Bishop Hinder on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September. He will be formally opening the school. He will be unveiling a plaque at the front of the school before conducting a tour of the school. There will also be an assembly where he will address and meet the students.

### SMM Conference

The school is hosting a conference on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September, where teachers from the five St. Mary's Group of schools will meet to share best educational practice and attend some professional development workshops.

### Active Learn

As I mentioned in my first newsletter, English, Science and Maths is studied using the Active Learn platform. We hope to issue passwords/log ins to parents in the next few weeks. You will then be able to help your child study at home using this interactive tool.

### Merit System

Many parents have asked about the merit system we are using at SMM. We have introduced a green merit system in the school. Teachers are able to give out green merits when they see some excellent work/behavior in the class. The student will then take these merits to Ms. Mari Ella who will collate them and keep a running total. At the

end of the term, the student with the most merits will receive a certificate and the class with the most merits will go on a trip together.

### House Names

The children have all been given a house colour. The house names have not yet been decided. There will be a competition between classes to suggest the house names. The winners will be decided at an assembly.

### Prefects

Ms. Mari Ella together with the subject teachers will be nominating candidates for Student Council who will be our School Prefects. Being a prefect is a very prestigious position and comes with much responsibility. They will help out teachers at break times; at school functions such as Open Day; monitor behavior of students and other duties that may arise during the year where students will be encouraged to practice their leadership.

### Lollipops

I have noticed children eating lollipops at break times. They are a health hazard as they can lead to choking, so please could you refrain from packing lollipops in your child's lunchbox. We are a healthy eating school so please find alternatives to sugar and sweets. Fruit is a great alternative and also good for the growing brain!

### Birthdays

Some parents have asked if their child can come in non-school uniform on their birthday and to bring in cakes/sweets. It is not school policy to allow a child to wear non-school uniform on their birthday and due to our healthy eating policy we discourage children to bring in cakes and sweets on their birthday.

There will be non-uniform days at the end of term or for special events.

### Benches

We have listened to your comments about eating arrangements at break times. We have provided some benches and tables for the children to sit while eating. There will be more purchased in the near future.

### Subject information

Some parents have asked about what topics are being studied in school. We had already planned to put this information on the website. Soon we will post on the website the topics being studied each month in English, Maths, Science and Arabic.

### Suggestion/Comment Box

It is important to receive feedback from our parents so that we can improve. Therefore we have placed a suggestion/comment box in the main foyers of EYFS and the Primary School. If you are visiting the school, please feel free to fill out a form and deposit it in the box provided.

### Parents in the school

We have noticed parents going into classrooms and asking teachers questions about their child whilst the teacher is teaching. This is very distracting for the students and staff. If you wish to enquire about your child's progress, make an appointment with Sister Terry for EYFS issues or Ms. Ishani for primary issues.

We have also noticed parents staying on in the school after they have dropped off their child to the school. This is against school policy and is also a health and safety issue. If you stay on the premises we will not be able to account for you in the event of an emergency.

### Lateness to school

If you take your child to school by private transport and they arrive after 7:30 they must report to reception to obtain a late slip, which they then hand to his teacher when they reach the classroom.

### Eid Holiday

As you will be aware the Arafat and Eid al-Adha Holidays will be soon be announced. These are very special days in the Islamic calendar.

Arafat Day is the second day of the Hajj pilgrimage and is the day before the first day of the major Islamic Holiday of Eid al-Adha.

At dawn on Arafat Day, Muslim pilgrims will make their way from Mina to a nearby hillside and plain called Mount Arafat and the Plain of Arafah. It was here that the prophet Muhammad (pbuh) gave his Farewell Sermon in 632 CE.

The Hajj is the annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca. This pilgrimage is a mandatory religious duty for Muslims that must be carried out at least once in their lifetime by all who are physically and financially capable of undertaking the journey. The Hajj is considered the largest annual gathering of people in the world.

Please keep visiting the website for confirmation of when these holidays will start. Once the KHDA notify us of the dates of the holidays, we will pass on the details.

The staff and students of SMM would like to wish all of our Muslim parents and students a joyous Holiday and to say "Eid Mubarak".