

ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL

Circular - June 12, 2020

DEAR PARENTS,

1. LEARNING MUST GO ON WITH

Hope you are in good health and peace! This is in continuation of my circular dated June 05, 2020, in which there was no mention about the start of learning sessions/activities for KG Section and Classes I to IV in the wake of Coronavirus. You are aware that Classes IX and X have been attending online guided learning since May 20 and Classes V to VIII with effect from June 03. We know online academic learning can never replace Classroom Learning but the present day situation gives us the message that we need to welcome practical approaches to stay connected with our children ensuring that learning continues.

2. NO ONLINE SESSIONS FOR KG AND I TO IV

In the recently held School Staff Meeting, it was decided to keep the children in KG Section and Classes I to IV engaged in age appropriate learning activities. St. Francis School doesn't encourage online learning sessions for KG and Classes I to IV as there are potential dangers for small children getting exposed to mobile screen/internet unlike the higher class students who are expected to be monitored by the parents.

2.1 Teachers have prepared subject wise WORKSHEETS for KG and Classes I to IV with age appropriate activities. Parents are requested to make it available to their child as and when the worksheets are made available to them by the TEACHERS. The worksheets will be uploaded on school website and the same will also be sent to your WhatsApp on Fridays.

2.2 Parents can print out the worksheets and guide their child as per the instruction given on the worksheet itself. Parents must ensure that the children maintain the worksheets on subject wise file BECAUSE the School will definitely ask for the Worksheet File once the school re-opens. Parents who are not able to print out the worksheets from the above two sources may collect the worksheets from the School Office on Fridays.

2.3 Those parents who are able to guide their child on these lines can surely look forward to expected outcomes by the end of the current crisis. I thank and appreciate the parents who spend their valuable time with their children on a daily basis in spite of the present helpless situation.

3. FEEDBACK FROM THE PARENTS

Learning is an interactive, collaborative process which depends heavily on the quality of the relationships between *students and teachers*, between *parents and teachers*, and between *parents and students*. Are we together in taking the responsibility of "*continued learning*" during this unprecedented period of time? The efforts that our TEACHERS take will be in vain unless the parents, teachers and students are not **TOGETHER** on our journey forward in this period of uncertainty.

3.1 ONLINE GOOGLE FEEDBACK FORM

St. Francis School Teaching Family is at the interest of knowing the opinion of our parents regarding the online guided learning - the school is offering for the students of Classes V to X. **An Online Google Feedback Form Link** is sent to your WhatsApp along with this circular for the parents of Classes V to X to fill up and submit. I request only the parents and not the children to fill up the form. Your feedback will be a great help for the school to decide further to make the online sessions more practical and resourceful.

3.2 NOTEBOOKS SUBMISSION OF CLASSES IX AND X

Parents of Classes IX and X are requested to submit their ward's subject notebooks (Maths, Social Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology either on June 18 or 19 in the school office. (Office time: 9.00am to 2.00 pm) Parents can collect the notebooks on June 22. Submission of notebooks is compulsory. Children are not allowed to enter school campus for safety reasons.

4. PARENTS' OPINION ON SCHOOL RE-OPENING

Our Government has proposed a tentative date for reopening of schools. The opinion from all stakeholders, including parents will be collected by filling up the form sent by the Education Department. You are requested to come to the school and fill up the form before June 19. Your opinion is important as re-opening the schools in the present situation is a collective decision and responsibility of our government, school management and parent community for the welfare and safety of school/student community. Parents are requested to follow the schedule given below for visiting school to fill up the form given by Education Department.

- 1. Classes I to IV on June 15 and 16 from 9.00 am to 2.00 pm.**
- 2. Classes V to X on June 17 and 18 from 9.00 am to 2.00 pm.**

5. A LOVING NOTE FOR THE CHILDREN

Dear children,

Every child across the globe is struggling to fight **this** nightmare of corona virus. We all want this pandemic to end from the face of this earth and I am sure it will definitely end very soon but till then, we fold our hands in prayer looking forward to the day we hear the laughter of children in class rooms and the corridors with shouts and cheers. The good times will return very soon, we pray for.

- 5.1 It has been almost for three months that you are away from school but you have not kept yourself away from LEARNING. You have had significant communication from the school over the past three months – all at the interest of your learning and how you spend your time meaningfully and productively. One of the most central questions I would always like to ask each one of you is:

5. 2 **HOW HAVE YOU SPENT THE PAST 90 DAYS AT HOME AS A STUDENT?** I know you all have your own descriptive answers. I want you to ask the same question repeatedly for yourself again and again till you get some factual answers. You will know where you are...You will know what your ambitions are... You will know what your priorities are...You will know how responsible you are... I know you spent your time taking care of yourself and your parents during the lock down period and you still continue caring for each other. I appreciate you for the same.

5. 3 Have you heard about the saying? “*Who you are tomorrow, begins with what you do today*”. This was a quote one of you spoke about during your presentation on “MY MOST FAVOURITE QUOTE” in the school. The quote doesn’t require further explanation for you. What I want you to reflect on is, how RESPONSIBLE are you in TEACHING yourself? You are a teacher for yourself first. Remember, SCHOOL CLASS ROOM is not the only place for learning. SCHOOL TEACHER is not the only teacher who teaches you, of course, your School Teacher plays an important role in your life. All of life is about learning. It starts at home. It happens by doing things; many of them outside the class room.

5. 4 The past 90 days left you with an opportunity to realise and introspect yourself on how meaningfully, productively and independently you spent your days at home with your parents. It’s never too late for a new beginning in your life, therefore I write to you again. Write a personal reflection or story describing your experience of learning at home during the lockdown. I am very much interested to hear your story/reflection as many as possible. I believe you are already working on what Joyita Ma’am asked you to build up in her circular dated May 22. I will send the same to you once again in case you missed it. The entire school will be happy to know what you did during holidays. Bring your creative and innovative piece of works when our school re-opens. I will demonstrate them in the school provided they are presentable, motivational, creative and learning for the school community.

6. 1 **DO YOU HAVE A DAILY TIME-TABLE FOR YOURSELF AT HOME?**

There are children who wake up at the same time they used to go to the school and their time has been divided between studies, hobbies and physical exercises in the first and second half of the day. Those children are self-driven and they know their priorities in life. St. Francis School has good number of students who fall in this category. I am so pleased with those children. Unfortunately, there are also children when they get boredom, they go to phones, tablets to watch movies, TV shows, browse through social media channels to just kill their boredom. I am not asking those children not to use electronic gadgets especially mobile but they need to control their screen time on mobile or TV. I advise them not to play games on mobiles and watch cartoon programs on the television.

Children, I remind you one again and this is my humble request to every one of you: Keep the mobile phone of your parents away from your focus and

concentrate more on your day today learning. You have been given the textbooks of all subjects and you know why they are given to you even when the school is not re-opened. I wish that every one of you prepare a daily timetable for personal studies and reading. Learn to teach yourself. Be a teacher for yourself.

7. Prayerful Greetings

Be sure of my prayers for you and your families for God's continuous care and protection from illness and despair. I look forward to your continued support and patronage. Wishing you peace, good health and optimism! May the Lord give us peace!

Brother Sanil Tharayil
Principal