

GLS / C /817-24

CIRCULAR

26<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## Parental Expectation

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Dear Parents,

As we embark on another enriching academic journey, we would like to emphasize the critical role parents play in ensuring the success and well-being of our students. Education is a partnership between home and school, and your active involvement and support are invaluable. To foster a conducive learning environment and promote holistic development, we kindly request your cooperation in understanding and adhering to the following parental expectations:

### **Regularity in Attendance**

Regular attendance is essential for academic attainment and progress. Please ensure that your child does not miss school except when he or she is sick.

**Compulsory Attendance for Exams:** It is imperative that all students attend exams scheduled except during medical emergency or compassionate leave, for which documentation will be required.

**Punctuality:** Ensure that your child arrives at school before 7:30 a.m. Please adhere to a strict schedule regarding arrival time, pick up time and completion of schoolwork. Ensure your child's punctuality to school as it sets a positive tone for the day, allows for a smooth start to the learning process, and fosters responsibility.

**Discipline:** Discipline is a non-negotiable aspect, extending to behavior in school buses. Students are expected to maintain decorum and respect school rules during school hours as well as when they are commuting to and from school. Own Transport students using the Metro should also ensure discipline as they represent the school's ethos through the school uniform.

**Regular Study Habits:** Encourage consistent study habits at home for academic success. Establishing a dedicated study routine is crucial.

### **School Uniform:**

- Please ensure your child comes to school in complete uniform.
- Parents are requested to monitor their wards to ensure they carry necessary items such as lab coats when they have their lab period, girl students to wear Islamic scarves during Islamic lessons, and caps during P.E. classes as per the timetable.
- Students are expected to wear the school cardigan as part of the uniform. This helps in maintaining uniformity and ensures the comfort of the students. Other jackets and cardigans will not be permitted.
- Please ensure that any lost or damaged parts of the school uniform are replaced within one week to maintain a complete set at all times.

**Books (Grades 1 to 9):** Students must bring the prescribed books according to the daily timetable. Please encourage students to independently pack their bags according to the Timetable.

**Backpack Guidelines:** Please note that trolley bags are not permitted as they are heavier to carry and may pose safety hazards. Please ensure that your child uses comfortable and appropriately sized backpacks.

**Student Reflection Journal:** Please encourage your child to use the student reflection journal to log the books read, acts of kindness, and other values learned during the course of the year.

**Water Bottles:** opt for spill-proof, BPA-free steel water bottles that fit easily into pockets.

**Lunchbox Essentials:** Prepare lunchboxes with leak-proof, easy-to-open containers that contain wholesome snacks and have no sharp edges.

**Labelling Belongings:** Label backpacks, lunch boxes, water bottles, pencil boxes/pouches, and cardigans for easy identification. This reduces the risk of misplaced items and facilitates their return if lost.

### **Health, Safety and Personal Hygiene**

- **Health Updates:** Please keep the school informed about any allergies, medical conditions, or medications your child may have. This information is vital for us to provide appropriate care and support.
- **Vaccinations up to the age of 6 years:** Ensure your child is up to date with all required vaccinations up to 6 years of age as per local regulations.
- **Illness Protocol:** If your child is unwell, please keep them at home to prevent the spread of illness to others. Let us work together to maintain a healthy environment for all students and staff.
- **Well-Groomed:** Ensure your child comes to school well-groomed, with neat hair and trimmed and clean nails. We request that students refrain from using hair color. Boys must keep their hair short and well-trimmed.
- **Personal Hygiene Kit:** Equip your child's bag with napkins, hand sanitizer and disposable wipes for hygiene needs. This helps them stay clean and comfortable throughout the day.
- **Good Health & Well-Being:** Encourage healthy habits such as nutritious eating, adequate sleep, and good hygiene.
- **A Pair of Extra Clothing:** Please provide your child with an extra set of clothing stored in their bag, to be used in unexpected situations, particularly for children up to grade 2.
- **Safe Device Usage Protocols (for Grade 2 upwards):** Please note that learning devices brought to school should not have games or social media applications downloaded. VPN usage is not allowed. The school will conduct cyber safety sessions intermittently, and we ask parents to reiterate these expectations at home. Random device checks will be conducted by teachers as and when appropriate.

### **Extra Classes for Secondary Students:**

To enhance our students' learning experience and provide additional support where needed, extra classes may be scheduled for secondary students as deemed necessary by the faculty. Your cooperation in ensuring that students attend these extra classes will be crucial in ensuring that all students can achieve their full potential.

**Distribution of Gifts on Birthdays:** For the health and safety of our students, please refrain from distributing any eatables, including chocolates, during birthdays or celebrations. However, distribution of stationery or child-friendly gifts that do not pose health and safety risks is permitted.

**In addition to the above, we expect parents to:**

- **Provide accurate contact details** for emergency situations. It is imperative that we can reach you promptly if needed.
- **Maintain open communication** regarding their child's academic progress and behaviour, acknowledging emails promptly.
- **Contribute to a positive and supportive relationship** to foster an inclusive school community.
- **Check 'The Week That Was (TWTW)' and the focus of the next week (The weekly update)** sent via emails on Friday afternoons by the class teacher which will give you information about the learning covered during that week along with the focus to be covered in the upcoming week in all subjects for all grades.

- **Log in to Phoenix Classrooms** and check the Learning resources for the week. Teachers will upload the learning resources for the portion covered for the week on Phoenix classroom. Please log in to the Phoenix classroom to access the learning resources and support reinforcement of learning at home. After logging in to the Phoenix classroom, navigate to the grade folder, and select the specific subject folders to access the learning resources for the week.
- **Attend the 3 or 4 Open Houses scheduled** in an academic year as it serves as an essential platform for parents and teachers to discuss the academic and overall progress of the student.
- **Engage in the Open Doors initiative wherein parents are invited to sit** in their child's lessons to observe the learning experiences provided to all children in the class from May 2024 onwards.
- **Talk, Share and Encourage your child** - as an actively engaged parent, please talk to your children and encourage them to share their learning experiences at school daily.
- Refer to the **school activities calendar** which will be uploaded on our school website in the first week of April. Please note that the dates might be subject to change based on KHDA approval and other unexpected events.
- **Apply for leaves for your ward** through the Phoenix Parent Portal.
- **Pay the monthly tuition fee** on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> of every month

**Family First GEMS Initiative:** We encourage your active participation in all Family First initiatives, which are central to GEMS Education's teaching philosophy. In 2024, Family First initiatives will feature a comprehensive survey on family values, monthly discussions in the style of TED Talks focusing on various facets of family support with insights from global experts and advocates and a year-end gala to honour stories that embody the Family First philosophy.

Your engagement and partnership are essential in creating a nurturing and supportive learning environment for our students. Together, we can ensure that all children under our care succeed and become the best versions of themselves.

Thank you for your whole-hearted cooperation and commitment to your child's education.

Looking forward to a meaningful and purposeful association with all of you during the new academic year 2024-25.

Warm regards,



**Asha Alexander**

**Principal**

**Executive Leader - Climate Change**

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