

## Return to School Guidance for Students and Families

We are very excited to welcome you back to School. As we return to school in September 2020, the safety of all of our students, staff and families is of the highest priority. There are going to be some changes in the way that everybody needs to conduct themselves at school, so that we all remain safe and healthy.

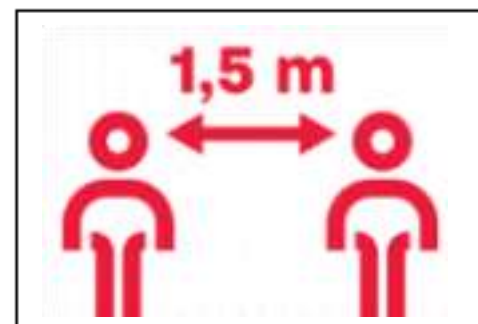
With this in mind KHDA and the DHA have issued very detailed guidance to schools in Dubai, which as a school community, all members are expected to adhere to. This document outlines the expectations we have of students, staff and families regarding the delivery of a high-quality education in a safe environment.

We have an amazing community of families and staff at APS and we really appreciate your cooperation with the guidance outlined below, to ensure that everybody experiences a safe and happy time at school, whilst feeling fully supported.

Please read this document carefully and keep it somewhere safe for your reference. Kindly note that this guidance is subject to change, based on any updates we receive from regulatory authorities.

### Social Distancing

- All people at school need to maintain the safe distance of 1.5/2 meters from each other. This includes in lessons, hallways, outside the building, during break and lunchtime and on school transport.
- The desks in classrooms will be set out at 1.5/2 meters' distance from each other and students are expected to use the same desk for all of their lessons. Please refrain from swapping desks, as this is not allowed.
- Teachers will largely be at the front of the classroom, with the stipulated distance between themselves and the students.
- Students who are in Kg and grade 1, will be placed into stable groups of 10 children or fewer and will have an area assigned only to that group. This means that each group will not be allowed to mix with other groups of students. As much as possible, the same teacher will be assigned to the group.



- Students and staff must avoid sharing resources, such as stationery and toys. Anything which is used by more than one person must be thoroughly sanitized before the next person can use it. Some resources and facilities will remain unavailable for the time-being until the school is advised that we can use them again.

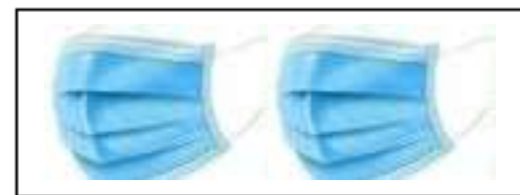
- Students will remain in one classroom for their lessons and the teacher will rotate to avoid unnecessary contact with large groups of students in hallways.



- Students will need a plastic wallet for their notebooks and stationary that remains in school. For other resources, it is advisable for students to carry their equipment with them. **No wheelie bags.** **Only SMALL ruck sacks.**
- No facilities outside of the school grounds may be used for educational or extra-curricular school activities.

## Protecting yourself and others

- Everybody is expected to wear protective face masks throughout the day. Students who are 6 years old and above must ensure that they have 2 masks with them every day and they will be required to change their mask after the break.
- Whilst the school will have some spare equipment, this is for emergencies only, such as a student's mask getting broken. It is the responsibility of the student and their family to provide the correct protective equipment. Students or staff who do not follow these regulations will not be able to enter the school premises.
- Students who are below 6 years old are not required to wear a mask.
- For students or staff who have a medical certificate stating that they do not need to wear a mask, it will be compulsory for that individual to wear a face shield at all times instead.
- Any student or staff member who is at-risk due to a medical condition must provide a medical certificate stating the medical condition, which puts them in this category. These individuals will be offered online provision for the time-being.
- Students must wash their hand thoroughly with soap and water before and after eating, as well as after using the washrooms and at regular intervals, as advised by



staff. Hand sanitizers will be available throughout the school.



- There will be bins allocated for the disposal of masks and gloves.

• There is a thorough programme of regular cleaning and sanitization throughout the school day and after the school closes to ensure that we are maintaining the highest levels of cleanliness.

- It is not permitted for parents to arrive at school meeting, which has not been scheduled. Meetings online,



requesting a will take place

or for face-to-face meetings, these must be pre-arranged.

## Signs

- You will see special signs around the school, both on the walls and the floor. Please make sure that you follow the information they are providing carefully. For example, you may see arrows on

the floor, or walls which will be directing you to enter/exit rooms in a certain way, or to walk in a certain direction.

- Some hallways will operate on a one-way system. Whilst at times this may be frustrating as you can see where you want to go, please follow the direction stated so as to avoid unnecessary contact with other people.



## Wellbeing

- Any health concerns experienced during the school day should be reported immediately.
- Anyone who is taken unwell and shows signs of a temperature will be taken to an isolation room, where there will be a colleague in PPE to assist you.
- Parents must come and collect their child immediately after being informed of illness. Parents are responsible for keeping their child at home until they are fully better in the case of general illness.
- In the case of COVID-19 being diagnosed, a negative test is required before the individual is allowed to return to school.
- It can be a very stressful time for everyone and the school will have counselling available to anyone who needs it. Please ask if you need support with this.
- Please treat any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 sensitively and be supportive when that person is able to return to school.
- There will be at least one member of staff holding a current certification in paediatric first aid and CPR available at school.
- Anyone who is feeling unwell, regardless of COVID-19 symptoms, must remain at home.
- Any individual, who has come into close contact (more than 15 minutes at 1.5/2 meters) with a person showing symptoms or who has a positive test result, will need to go into quarantine for 14 days.
- Parents must ensure that their contact details are up-to-date with the school to assist with tracing and contacting anyone, who has come into close contact and needs to go into quarantine.



## Prayer

- Staff must bring their own prayer mats if operational, but must pray in their offices and not in the prayer room.
- Masks must still be worn during prayer.

## Eating and drinking

- The school is allowed to provide pre-packed food and drink for students if operational, but there will be no live cooking on site.
- We advise that students bring sufficient food and drink with them for the day. Do not share food and drink with other people, even if they are your friends.
- Students are encouraged to use a face shield when the mask has temporarily been removed.



- There will be no water dispensers available.



## Transport and pick-up/ drop-off

- Parents must wait at the bus stop with their child/children until they have been temperature checked and the bus departs if operational. Please observe social distancing from other families at the bus stop.
- The bus will operate at 50% capacity and will indicate where students are allowed to sit. Buses will be sanitized daily.
- Students and staff will have their temperature checked upon arrival at school. This will be through designated entrances. Those found to have a temperature of 37.5 or above will be taken aside to a segregation zone, where they will be given a second test with a hand-held thermometer. If this also shows a high temperature, the individual will be taken to the isolation area, where protocols will be followed for suspected illness.



- Parents may pick up their child from the designated areas only and must adhere to any traffic management.
- Only one parent can come inside to collect their child from a designated area. Those with compromised health conditions, such as the elderly, should not pick up or drop off children.





- There is a 10-minute limit on waiting time for parents at the designated area, when waiting for children. Social distancing of 1.5/2 meters applies and masks must be worn.

### Break and Lunchtime

- Break and Lunchtime will be staggered as much as possible to avoid too many students and staff congregating.

### Use of equipment and resources

- The Librarian and other support staff will be wearing masks and gloves. They will sanitize their gloves after each interaction.
- The library counter and equipment will be sanitized every hour and a separate drop-off box will be provided for items requiring sanitization.
- Staff will supervise the viewing of books and use of equipment to minimize contact made. Students should be encouraged to reserve books online and collect from a specific counter to avoid touching multiple items in the search for their chosen book.
- Practical lessons may take place if it is possible to sanitize the equipment between groups and after the lesson.
- Any items, which are coughed on/sneezed on/inserted into the mouth must be removed immediately for sanitization.
- Students and teachers must bring their own stationery, devices, gadgets etc. and avoid sharing them with anyone else. If it is absolutely necessary to share an item, it must be thoroughly sanitized afterwards before being returned to the owner.
- Teachers will be encouraging the use of devices to avoid touching exercise books. Please ensure that student devices are adequately charged for the school day so that work can be completed as required.
- Parents who are collecting resources should do so in a socially distanced manner outside of school hours as stipulated by the school.



- Events such as Sports Day, school trips, celebrations and student camps are cancelled until further notice, but extra-curricular activities can be offered, mostly online.

## Training and reminders

- All staff will have completed COVID-19 safety training before the start of the school year.
- Staff and students will be given regular reminders about the protocols in place. This may come in the form of emails, newsletters, videos, form tutors, online assemblies etc.
- Staff will remind students on a daily basis about the procedures and expectations.

Thank you for reading and adhering to the guidelines in this document. Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team if you require further clarification on any of the points mentioned.