

This letter is sent on behalf of Principal, Fatima Martin

Dear Parents and Students of this institution, which we all have come to love and call it our home away from home, GEMS New Millennium School, Al Khail

The December break was meaningfully spent with the half-term CBSE Board Exams for Grades 10 and 12, The Duke of Edinburgh Practice Journeys and Internship Opportunities in senior grades.

The regional rounds spelt SUCCESS for our top contending team of **Janhavi Kalani (Grade 9)**, **Riya Roy (Grade 10 i)** and **Sarah Joy (Grade 9)** as they were selected as the Finalists of **I CAN Children's Global Summit 2021**. We are proud of their triumphant journey from a scratch idea to a constructive elevator pitch at the Global Summit. The Indian Consulate Official who was blown away with their concept idea and presentation has invited them to present their project at the Indian Consulate during the Republic Day event. And this is the **ONLY team** he invited. Need I say more!

Simultaneously it is a delight to have younger students engage in meaningful opportunities, with parents, which I am privy too, when you tag me on your SM posts. Thank-you.

I wish YOU the very best that the New Year 2022 offers, including good health, joy, prosperity and happiness.

The KEYWORD for this new year is inspired by the glorious country we live in, again home away from home in a broader context.

It alludes to the massive **SHIFT** in so many areas, exponentially looking ahead, adopting a Saturday/Sunday weekend, a huge step that inspires us to normalize to change, which is the only constant.

S	H	I	F	T
Sustainable Solution Seekers	Holistic Learners	Innovators	Forward Thinkers	Thought Leaders

Joining me in extending the **end of year thoughts and reflections**, is our **Chairman, GEMS Education, Dr. Sunny Varkey**. [Click here to read.](#)

Some pointers to note as we gear up for resuming school on Monday, 3rd January 2022:

School Timings, nature of lessons and PACT guidelines:

As per the most recent **KHDA** guidelines, **in-class lessons will continue** as in the previous semester. Students (if tested positive or are primary contacts) have been permitted to attend online classes, as in the previous semester.

Timings for in-class lessons:

7.30 AM to 1.30 PM: Monday to Thursday

7.30 AM to 11.30 PM: Friday

PACT (Optional) for students of Grades 3 to 8: This will be **on-line** via TEAMS and **begins on 3rd January, Monday.**

3.30 PM to 4.15 PM Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

We have considered the travel time/lunch time for students, before they join for the PACT session online.

Extended day lessons for **Grades 9 to 12** on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. This will be **on-line** via TEAMS.

1st session: 3.30 PM to 4PM

2nd session: 4 to 4.30 PM

We have considered the travel time/lunch time for students, before they join for the remainder of their timetabled lessons.

For any assistance or clarification for use of TEAMS, please contact, our Ed-tech Team:

Ms. Anita Pradhan: anita.p_nms@gemsedu.com

Mr. Bernard Kuria: Bernard.k_nms@gemsedu.com

Do take a read of the guideline on joining MS Teams [by clicking on this link.](#)

Additionally, KHDA has mandated the following measures:

- No extracurricular activities of any kind
 - At NMS, we have canceled swimming lessons until further notice across all grades
 - PE lessons will involve non-contact sports. Morning practice sessions stand canceled for now.
- Canteen should be shut
 - For NMS it means that all students should bring their own breakfast/snacks and NO sharing of food will be allowed.
- No school trips
 - This has direct impact on the Duke of Edinburgh journeys that were planned in January. These are deferred until we receive permission from KHDA. Mr. Steven Crasto, DofE Co-ordinator at NMS will provide detailed information about this to concerned students and parents.
- No collective gatherings, including assemblies
 - Assemblies will be livestreamed in classrooms as was done previously at NMS
 - The performance dates for the most looked forward to Musical by students of Grades 3 to 8 (Title: A Tale to Tell) will be reviewed accordingly. The title of this musical alludes to the current situation, does it not!

As ever, we at NMS will follow these guidelines with our students' health and wellbeing our leading priority.

Timetables:

The reformatted day-to-day timetables to suit the 4.5 day working week have been uploaded on Phoenix.

Kindly go over the same, so students carry their books accordingly.

Friday Dispersal:

All buses will disperse before 11.45 AM. I have coordinated a staggered dispersal, with the Principals of our neighbouring schools in the Al Khail cluster. We expect a smooth dispersal with the new timings on Friday.

I urge parents who are dropping off their child(ren) to school to arrive by 7.20 AM or before, so we ease the congestion at the school gates, and students are in time for registration at 7.30 AM.

Should you have any concern about School Bus Services, please write to our Customer Care Representative: Sooraj Pillai via sooraj.pillai@sts-group.com

Our **key focus** will continue to be **high quality teaching and learning** in the coming months.

Assessments:

Students will also be administered, ASSET examinations from Grades 3 to 9, to check their competencies across all UAE schools in Mathematics, English and Science.

There are planned assessments (interim/end of unit and End of Year) too. You should have received the revised timetable for the January assessments from your Heads of Sections.

GEMS Parent Survey:

We clocked a record high parents' endorsement **Net Promoter Score, of 41** on the Nov/Dec 2021 survey and we are pumped.

A large percentage of parents have expressed 'high levels' of confidence in overall satisfaction, leadership, students' progress and school communication.

We take that as a huge compliment and assure you of our continued commitment.

We have taken cognizance of every single feedback, disseminated it to different departments.

Where there is appreciation, we will continue those good practices.

Where there have been suggestions for improvement, we will close those gap areas, ASAP.

As a team, we will ensure that every student of NMS makes good or better progress and is prepared to be future ready.

For now, thank-you for the huge endorsement.

COVID-19:

Last but not the least, we request all families to be ensure optimal health conditions, every single morning, before every child sets out to school.

Not to forget if they have been primary contact with someone else tested covid positive.

Please inform the school clinic and the homeroom teacher immediately, so we can contact trace at school as well and curb any spread.

As a mandatory requirement, all our staff will submit a 48 hour PCR report before we resume this Monday.

We urge our parents and the children, if eligible, to take the recommended vaccinations and booster shots against Covid if you have not already done this.

Together, we are responsible for each other.

The term ahead is indeed exciting as we will culminate the current school year and prepare strategically for the new school year, starting April 2022.

Our **millennials** continue to **fuel our purpose**.

And our **parenials**, the **wind beneath our wings**.

God bless NMS.

Kind regards,

Fatima Martin
Principal



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