

Modern English School Cairo



INFORMATION REGARDING THE START OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22

Dear Parents,

We are busily preparing the school and staff for the imminent return of students to campus, and excited to be planning for a start of the school year that looks a little more like the good old days, pre-COVID-19. This letter serves to update you all on our planning and preparations for the start of the new academic year.

Honouring the Ministry of Education's decree, we have delayed the return of students by one week and now cannot wait for Sunday 12 of September 2021, when we intend to welcome ALL STUDENTS back to campus (other than our newest children in FS1, who will start their school year with induction sessions on the Monday/Tuesday and have their first full day at school on Wednesday 15 September 2021).

ALL STUDENTS IN FS2-Y/G/DP12 RETURN TO SCHOOL ON SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2021

We intend to return to a normal school day schedule, with all students on campus from 8.00am until 2.50pm (the FS1 day will conclude at 1.30pm).

	START TIME	FINISH TIME
FS1	8.00am	1.30pm
ALL OTHER STUDENTS (FS2 - Y/G/DP12)	8.00am	2.50pm

Our obvious challenge is to best ensure our children continue to thrive academically, socially and emotionally whilst supporting the good health and wellbeing of all amidst a prevailing pandemic. Established COVID prevention practices will remain in place this new academic year.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

All children must comply with the following requirements in order to attend school:

- Parents must confirm that their child(ren) is free of COVID symptoms and is in good health before they get on a school bus or enter campus via car.
- All students are to be dressed correctly in school uniform.
- All students in Y1-6 and Secondary are to wear a face mask whilst on school transportation and on campus, without exception - these may be purchased independently, or at the school Uniform Shop. During PE lessons and ASAs which are outdoors and where students are able to maintain suitable distance from one another, they may be permitted to remove their mask/shield at the direction of the teacher.
- FS1/FS2 students may wear a mask or a face shield whilst on school transportation and on campus, without exception - these may be purchased independently, or at the school Uniform Shop.
- Students are to follow social distancing guidelines, keeping space between them where possible, and avoiding direct physical contact with one another.
- Parents are obligated to report if their child(ren) tests positive for COVID.
- Parents are obligated to report to the school details of any COVID cases that their child(ren) have been in contact with, and to err on the side of caution, keeping their child(ren) at home if they suspect they may be at risk of passing the virus on to others.
- Attendance, engagement in learning and completion of work set is a requirement.
- Limited canteen facilities will be available during the school day, however parents are encouraged to rely on this service only if absolutely necessary; it is preferable for students to bring their own packed snacks from home.
- All students must have their own supply of stationery and related items. Sharing items, or accessing school-owned resources will be strictly limited. Parents of Primary-aged students will be provided with a stationery list for Term 1 - we will not be collecting a year's supply of items and pooling them in pod areas as we have done in the past.

Additional Notes:

- We will be strictly limiting access to campus by non-essential visitors, including parents. You must have an appointment to enter campus. We will host the majority of parent information sessions and individual meetings virtually for the time being.
- All adults on campus are required to wear a face mask and/or face shield.
- All adults on campus are to be vaccinated and may be asked to provide evidence of this.



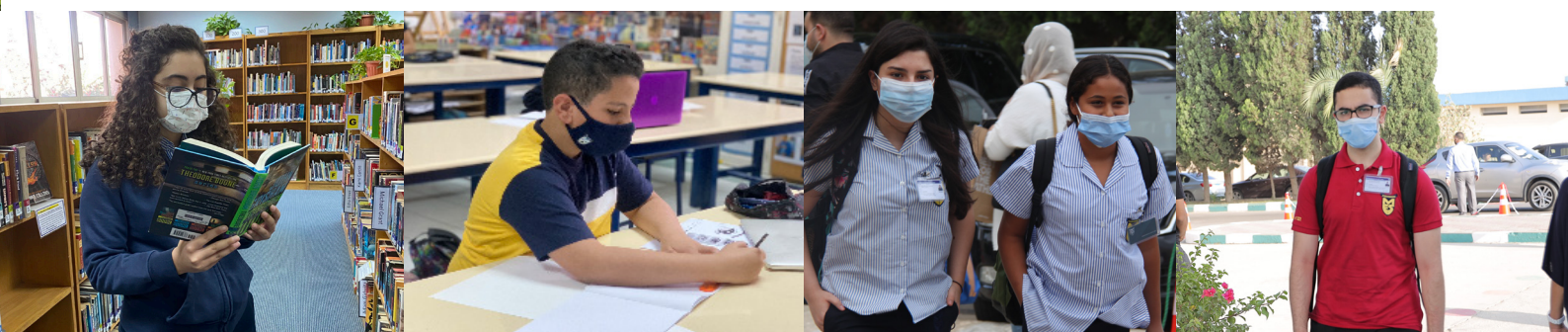
PREPARING FOR RETURN TO SCHOOL

- Share the above expectations/protocols with your child(ren).
- Support the school's decisions in front of your child(ren) so that they feel positive about their return to school, albeit under unusual circumstances.
- Teach your children the importance of maintaining distance between themselves and others; discouraging touching, including hugs and handshakes.
- Teach your children the importance of proper handwashing and frequent use of hand gels and soaps.
- Ensure your child(ren) is familiar with wearing a mask/face shield; teach them how to wear these items properly.
- Get vaccinated and ask extended family members to do the same.

START OF YEAR PROCEDURES

- You are now able to make all necessary preparations for the start of the school year, including uniform purchase, fee payment, transportation requests etc.
- Parents/adults completing Start of Year procedures are asked to arrive at the Gate 4/Cargate entrance to school. All visitors entering campus must wear a mask/face shield; personal temperature will be monitored at point of entry.
- Our Uniform Shop is set up in the Parent waiting room to the right of the Gate 4 entrance. You will hand your completed Uniform Purchase Order Form (attached) to staff at the window there if you have not already ordered via the Family Portal. Please note that it will not be possible to try uniform items on so check measurements carefully prior to purchasing.
- Proceed to the MPH (now until 2 September 2021) or the school gymnasium (from 4 September 2021 until 11 September 2021) where you will find booths for fee payment and transportation. You will be issued student ID cards for the first day of school.
- FS1/FS2/Y1 children will be issued two ID cards: one is to be worn by each student on the first days of attending school, the other is to be presented each day throughout the year by the adult collecting the child from school if they are not taking a school bus.
- Upon completion of matters in the MPH or gymnasium your uniform items will be ready for collection.
- Lost Property from 2020-2021 academic year will be available for you to review whilst waiting for uniform.

The Start of Year facilities will remain open until Saturday 11 September 2021, Saturday through Thursday, from 9.00am-2.00pm. We strongly advise parents to visit early.



FIRST DAY ARRANGEMENTS

The following notes do not apply to children joining FS1 – specific information will be shared in due course with FS1 Parents about their first day/week at school.

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST DAY

- On Sunday 12 September 2021 all students will attend school.
- FS2 children enter campus through Gate 3 and all other students are to enter through Gate 4, arriving via private vehicle (no morning bus service will operate on the first day).
- Temperatures will be checked, and all will wear a suitable mask (FS children may wear a shield instead).
- All students must wear correct uniform and have their student ID on a lanyard or pinned to the front of their school shirt/dress
- If your child is unwell, please DO NOT send them to school. Phone the Administrative Officer to report their absence.
- Students will assemble in the following locations:

	LOCATION
FS2	FS2 Yard – entering through Gate 3
Y1-2	Primary Yard
Y3-4	Field (area close to Primary Yard)
Y5-6	Field (area close to Primary Yard)
Secondary	Field (area parallel to bus chute)

- Parents who are dropping children off are to wear masks and must leave the Gate 4 area as quickly as possible to reduce congestion.

AT THE END OF THE DAY

- Students registered for school transportation will depart at around 3.00pm from the bus chute – no changes to transportation will be accepted during the first week as drivers need to establish routes.
- Students going home by private vehicle will exit from the following departure points:

	LOCATION
FS1 (at 1.30pm)	Gate 2
FS2/Y1	Gate 2
Y2/Y3	Gate 3
Y4/Y5/Y6	Gate 4
Secondary	Gate 4





STAYING SAFE ...together

What has changed?



**All students
return to campus**



**Full school day:
8.00am - 2.50pm
(1.30pm finish for FS1)**



**All on campus who are
over 18 years old are
to be vaccinated**



**Many
ASAs/trips/special
events will return**

What is the same?



**Masks must be worn
(FS may wear a
shield instead)**



**Temperature
monitoring and
health checks**



**Social distancing to be
maintained as much
as possible**



**Personal sanitising
and deep cleaning
continue**



**Stay home if feeling
unwell and report
absence**



**Parent meetings and
presentations will
occur virtually**



**Campus remains
closed to non-
essential visitors**