

16<sup>th</sup> August

Dear Parent/Guardian,

### School reopening

As we continue to receive updates to policy and procedure from ADEK, I would like to share with you the key points and changes that will occur in the new academic year, as things will be different and over time, may change.

Please take time to read this carefully as there is quite a lot of information to absorb.

**Important: A universal phased reopening has been mandated. For all schools, only KGI – 5 may resume face-to-face classes for the first 4 weeks.**

### School Timings and Entering & Exiting the School:

In order to meet the social distancing requirements which are in place for the safety of our students, break times will be shortened and no full assemblies will occur. To support our children during this time, lessons will run from 8:00am. Students who come by car should be dropped off between 7:15am – 7:40am with bus students arriving between 7:40am and 7:50am. This will allow us to minimize unnecessary contact

The school gates will open from 7:15; if you need to bring your child earlier, please reach out to us and we will make arrangements for you to do so. KG will finish at 12:15pm and the rest of the school at 1:30pm; a staggered exit will take place with bus students leaving first. Children can be picked up from 1:30pm – 1:45pm and will remain in their classroom with their teacher until they are collected. To comply with ADEK, there will be no ECAs so it is important that students are picked up at the given time. Details of the student collection system will follow shortly.

There will be a separate entrance and exit for KG students, their parent which siblings can also use and a separate entrance and exit point for Grades 1 - 5.

Students	Gate	Entry Time	Exit Time
All bus students	Bus gate	7:40 – 7:50am	
KG bus students	Bus gate		12:15 pm
Grade 1 – 8 bus students			1:30 pm
KG	Gate 4	7:15 – 7:40am	12:15pm
Grade 1 - 8	Main entrance	7:15 – 7:40am	1:30 – 1:45pm

There will be temperature screening for all who enter the school grounds and anyone with a temperature above 37 degrees, will be immediately isolated and will be sent home. Likewise, anyone exhibiting any Covid- 19 symptoms must not come to school and seek medical advice. Students will be screened at the entrance and their registration will also be checked. Students that have not registered or who exhibit signs of illness or a temperature will be isolated and sent home immediately.

All students from the age of 6 years old must wear a face mask to enter the school and must bring a second face mask to change into after lunchtime, and a spare mask in case one is lost or broken. Gloves are not necessary. Masks will remain on at all times except for lunch.

Every classroom is equipped with a hand sanitizer dispenser and covered waste bin for the disposal of masks.

A one way system is marked throughout the school, and posters and stickers have been used to remind everyone of the safety rules and how to follow them.

**To comply with ADEK policy, only school children and staff will be allowed into school.**

**In the first 2 weeks, there will be a staggered return. More details to follow.**

### Bags and Equipment

Please note that there are additional new rules from ADEK regarding school bags. Please refer to the following table and weigh your child's bag before they enter the school:

Grade	Max Backpack (KG)
KG1	2.2
KG2	2.4
Gr1	2.6
Gr2	3.0
Gr3	3.4
Gr4	3.8
Gr5	4.1
Gr6	4.5
Gr7	5.0
Gr8	5.8



All parents have received an essential stationary list. This equipment should be brought into school on the first day and must remain in school during the Covid period

### **KG pupils**

Due to the young age of the children in the lower school, these pupils will be taught in groups of 10 (“bubbles”). Each bubble will be separate and will not interact physically with a different bubble during the day. To comply with ADEK guidelines, no material will be given to take home.

**Parents of these children will be allowed onto the school grounds to drop off and collect their children, but to comply with the regulations, only one parent wearing a mask may enter for a maximum of 10 minutes.**

### **Grades 1 - 5:**

These children will be taught in groups of approximately 15 in a class, and will predominantly remain in their class all day. Some classes may be bigger or smaller depending on the size of the classroom, but all students will be spaced a minimum of 1.5 meters apart. Like all year groups, arrangements for break and lunch time will be put in place to ensure minimal interaction with students outside their class. No materials will be sent home.

### **Grades 6 - 8:**

Once it is permitted for them to return, like the Elementary students, Middle School students will be taught in one classroom as much as possible. All their lessons will be taught in static groups with the exception of the MOE subjects. For specialist subjects like Science for example, the students will need to move to these classrooms.

### **The Curriculum:**

All subjects will continue to be offered with the exception of PE and Food Technology. PE is not permitted in schools at this time but there will be videos made by the PE staff for the children to access at home. We encourage that these are followed to ensure the good health of the children. In the first week, some of the focus will be on teaching students the processes on how to maintain safe practice and understand the new practices and procedures, as well as students’ emotional health and well-being.

### **Distance Learning and Blended Model:**

**For all students who will attend the school campus, a blended learning model will be in place during the staggered start in the first 2 weeks**

At this time, parents may opt for their children to remain at home and continue with distance learning for some or all of the week; we thank parents for submitting their preferences for this in the recent survey. In most cases, the lessons will be live via Zoom with resources through Google Classroom and Class Dojo.

Distance learning continues for students whose parents have opted for a distance learning programme instead of an in-class provision. Please be assured if you have opted for distance learning your child will receive the same lesson input and support as the students who are in school. Our focus and commitment will be on those learning at home as much as those in school. The lesson delivered in school will be streamed live to your child.

Work for children at home will both be set and returned for marking through Google Classroom and Class Dojo

Teachers will teach children that attend school physically, in front of a camera; all materials will be accessible on Google Classroom and Class Dojo. Students that remain at home will be able to join in these lessons as they take place. Students that opt for distance learning who then wish to return to school full time, will only be able to do so if space is available in the class at this time.

Attendance at all sessions is mandatory and will be recorded as per the usual school system.

### **Break and Lunch times:**

**The canteen will be closed for the first 2 weeks of term. After this time, students will be able to order pre-packaged food in advance. More details will follow once the school year has resumed.**

All students will eat their lunch in their homeroom classrooms.

Break times and lunch times will be taken in allocated areas. No ball games will be allowed and supervision will be in place to ensure social distancing of the children.

As the canteen will not be in service in weeks 1 and 2, we ask that all students are provided with a packed lunch each day. Please note that nuts of any kind are not permitted in the school to safeguard children with nut allergies.

**Please note that all of the content in this letter is subject to change and any changes will be announced accordingly.**

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Rania Fahmy – Head of Admin

Email: [headadmin@lism.ae](mailto:headadmin@lism.ae)

Mobile: 0503780443

Please also check our website, as we will be making virtual 'walk through' videos to assist parents and students alike on what to expect on this first day. Later this month, we will also arrange some virtual meetings via Zoom for parents who prefer this.

I would like to thank you for your continued support for our school as we work to ensure that your child is both safe and happy in the new Academic Year. Clearly, changes will be made as we lead up to the start of term and as the term progresses. As a school, we have planned the most flexible model we can and commit to clear and timely communication with you as we move forward.

Yours faithfully,

Margaret Haynes  
Principal