

New Academic Year Highlights 2020-2021

Monday, August 24, 2020

Issue No. 2

1. School Timings

School hours for the academic year 2020/2021 are as follows:

SCHOOL TIMINGS

KG1 + KG2

Face to Face (F2F)	
Day	Time
Sunday + Monday	7:30 am - 12:30 pm
Tuesday	7:30 am - 12:00 pm
Wednesday + Thursday	7:30 am - 12:30 pm

KG1 + KG2

Distance Learning (DL)	
Day	Time
Sunday + Monday	12:30 pm - 4:00 pm
Tuesday	12:00 pm - 2:45 pm
Wednesday + Thursday	12:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Grades 1-3

Face to Face (F2F) + Distance Learning (DL)	
Day	Time
Sunday + Monday	7:30 am - 2:35 pm
Tuesday	7:30 am - 1:45 pm
Wednesday + Thursday	7:30 am - 2:35 pm

Grades 4-12

Face to Face (F2F) + Distance Learning (DL)	
Day	Time
Sunday + Monday	7:30 am - 2:45 pm
Tuesday	7:30 am - 1:55 pm
Wednesday + Thursday	7:30 am - 2:45 pm



Arrival and Registration Time (F2F)

KG1 and KG2:

Arrival and registration : 7:30 am—8:30 am.
Lesson 1 starts at 8:30 am.

Grades 1-12:

Arrival and registration : 7:30 am—8:15 am.
Lesson 1 starts at 8:15 am.

Gates will open at 7:15 am.

The school will commence gradually according to the below schedule :

Date / Learning Model	Blended model Face to Face (F2F)	Distance Learning (DL)
Tuesday 01.09.2020	1-3 only	4-12
Wednesday 02.09.2020	1-3 + 4-5	6-12
Thursday 03.09.2020	1-5 + 6-8	9-12
Sunday 06.09.2020	1-8 + 9-12	According to the grouping

Notes:

- * The above **does not apply** to students who have opt for 100% Distance Learning.
- * **23%** have opt for 100% Distance Learning.
- * Those who have opt for F2F (Blended Learning) will be divided into two groups A and B as communicated in the previous newsletter (issue No.1). You will receive the special schedule for your child/children this week.

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2. School Gates

Following the health and safety guidelines, kindly abide by using the assigned gates for entering and leaving the school premises :

Gate	Group
Gate 1 (Admin Area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades (6-12) / Boys Only • Parents /Visitors • Bus Students
Gate 2	Closed
Gate 3	Medical Cases Only (Parents who have received a call from the clinic and need to pick up their child/ren are requested to use this gate and park in the vacant guest parking slot and enter from the main reception).
Gate 7	KG and Elementary Grades (K-5)
Gate 9	Grades (6-12) / Girls Only

Notes:

- Gates will open at 7:15 am.
- No students are allowed to enter the building before 7:15 am.
- Students are requested to go to their classes directly.
- Students are not allowed to wait in the reception areas at all times.

3. School Uniform

Due to Covid-19 social distancing guidelines, it is important to manage and control the number of parents visiting Threads store every hour.



In order to ensure the same, Threads introduced a Pre-booking facility on Threads' website. It is now mandatory for every parent to pre-book their visit to a date and time convenient to them prior to visiting the store.

Pre-Book Now Your Visit to Threads Stores <https://www.threadsme.com/>

Below are all details for the store location assigned for AKNS is in Bur Dubai :

Tel. : +971 - 43411577 / [800THREADS \(8473237\)](tel:800THREADS) for all inquiries.

Bahwan centre , Next to London Crown Hotel opposite to RAK Bank , Burjuman, Dubai , UAE

Email: support@threadsme.com

Location Map : [Click Here](#)

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Notes:

- Kindly note that the school is giving the option for students to use the old uniform (if they have it already) during this academic year ONLY. **The new uniform is mandatory for all students as of next academic year 2021-2022.**
- Students who will be attending the school remotely (DL) are still requested to **wear the uniform** during the school day and every day.
- Grade 12 students should get the senior jacket from Threads.**

4. Devices / BYOD

AKNS strives to ensure that our students meet the requirements of the new generation. Technology in AKNS is an integral part of our curricula. That's why it is significant to equip students with their devices on a daily basis during school hours.



Kindly note that it is important for students of **grades (5-12)** to bring their own devices of your choice every day to school as part of our BYOD policy to avoid missing any online assignments or assessments.

The school will lend grades K-4 students devices (they will borrow the devices from the school).

Below are minimum system requirements for the devices that students can bring to school (BYOD):

Device	Operating System
Windows® PC*	Windows 7, 8.1, or 10
Macintosh®	MacOS® 10.12 minimum (10.13 suggested)
iPad (not iPad mini)	iOS 9 minimum (12 or 13 suggested)
Chromebook	Google Chrome OS™ 65 minimum (78+ suggested) *Touch screens are not supported, and Chromebook™ tablets are only supported with an external keyboard

Headphones:

K-12 students are expected to bring **their own** headphones to school. We will not provide the students with shared headphones for hygiene reasons. Please label your child's headphone clearly with their full name and grade.

Please take the below features into consideration when providing a headphone to you child:

- Over the ear, not buds.
- Noise cancellation.
- Boom microphone on the end of a stiff arm that extends in front of the child's mouth, rather than attached to the headphone cord.
- USB connection for better sound quality.

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5. Instructions from the school clinic

Our students' safety emotional and physical well-being is our priority at reopening of the school during the COVID 19. For this reason, we ask you strictly to follow below guidelines:

- It is mandatory for every student to wear the mask on the school campus.
- The student should carry an extra pair of masks (3 disposable) in their bag to replace it after meal or if it gets spoiled.
- Students can carry their own hand sanitizer or wet wipes to avoid using the toilet frequently or moving out of their seats even though we have hand sanitizers in all classrooms and all around the school premises.
- Students must maintain basic hygiene which includes brushing of teeth, shower, trimming nails, hair done neatly, clean uniform and regular hair checking to be done by the parents to prevent the spread of head lice.
- Students with any kind of illness, must not be sent to school until they recover and provide the medical report on joining. No medicines should be sent in the school bag.
- Strictly follow the policy “Stay at Home if Unwell”.
- Encourage your child on the importance of hand hygiene and Cough Etiquette and social distance for the prevention of spread of any illness.
- Always keep spare clothes in your child's bag (KG — Grade 1). If the student is found to be sick on the campus or has got any injury the parent are strictly advised to collect their child within 30 minutes, this is to avoid keeping child safe from contacting any illness.
- Always keep us informed of any important changes in your child's health or any special medical requirements.
- Please review the **Undertaking Letter sent by GEMS Education** to your registered emails and acknowledge acceptance of the information and guidance within.



For further information, please contact the School Clinic on the following numbers:

* 04-2173828 (Girls and Elementary)

* 04-2173808 (Boys).

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6. Communication Channels

AKNS will ensure that we remain in constant communication with our families during our re-opening and throughout the academic year. **Our communication channels will include:**

Emails – Our Parent Relations Executive (PRE), will continue to send circulars and newsletters when new information is ready to be shared with the school community.

Seesaw – Once the school year starts, our teachers will be setting up their class Seesaw pages which will be used to communicate between teacher, student and parents throughout the year.

Parent Meetings – meetings between parents and teachers/leaders are to take place virtually where possible, or can take place face-to-face if the need is critical and has been arranged by appointment only. **No walk-in parent meetings can take place.**

Phoenix Classroom Students and teachers will be using it to share lessons, send quizzes, assignments and monitor attendance and behavior.

Phoenix will be our system for report cards, attendance, making payments and many other features. Parents will be receiving notifications to monitor their children's learning and school life.

GEMS Connect with the **GEMS Connect App**, parents can now access student information, track bus location, pay fees, view circulars, newsletters, timetable, assessment reports and track attendance, submit leave requests and do much more in one place.



We look forward to seeing you all,

Stay Safe!

Ghadeer Abu-Shamat
Superintendent/CEO

