



# AL SALAM COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Dear parents,

We pray that you and your families are well and that God protects you from any form of hardship in health and wealth during this unprecedented period.

This is a difficult and uncertain time for all of us and we wish to emphasise the need for community support and the fostering of a deep sense of togetherness. Al Salam has always been dedicated to promoting sustainable family life in Dubai and we have endured many types of hardships and challenges in our 30+ years of operation where our partnerships with parents have been strengthened through a combined struggle.

As a school and as a family we have always remained committed to having affordable fees because we believe that high quality education should be affordable. However this also gives us as a school an extremely limited ability to sustain the impact of further reduced fees before we find ourselves in a position where we are unable to cope.

We would like to be explicit with parents in saying that nobody will emerge from this situation as winners or in a situation of financial security. We are all in the same position of trying to manage our losses in a way that allows us to continue living and operating here for the future. We regret to say that we have not yet received any indication of support or relief from our third party commitments and we are fighting for this in order to pass on any form of benefit to parents who are facing hardship at this time. We will be sending a separate communication regarding the Term 3 bus fees already collected in this regard.

We are seeking at this stage to restructure our resources in order to support families who have been severely impacted specifically due to the circumstances created by COVID-19. We want to assure parents that Al Salam is working to provide equitable relief where it is needed most and the forms attached below will collect feedback in relation to this.

Unfortunately, a blanket discount is simply not something we can cope with and our intended support will come in the form of payment plans, deferral of fees and fee adjustments for parents who have been severely impacted through job loss, salary cuts or unpaid leave arrangements.

We understand that not all families are in the same position and for those families who are capable of paying the fees as due, we urge you to do so in order for the required support to be provided. We understand that many are also in a position to benefit from facilities which have been made available by the government and banks to support parents in their tuition fee payments. At this moment, as a school, we are also relying on bank facilities to support us in our salary payments to staff who have been working hard to deliver quality distance learning to the children.

For parents who are in a more stable position and able to complete the fee payments, we have taken the decision to announce that the school will cover the cost of after school activities for a full term next



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year. This is being done as a gesture of equity to recognise their support for the school and for their fellow parents who are in more difficult circumstances.

While everyone is seeking to minimise losses, some losses are more destructive than others and if we work together as a community we believe this can be mitigated to the greatest degree possible.

We would also like to reassure parents who have expressed concerns of their children's learning being cut off due to non-payment of fees based on the recent communication from the KHDA permitting such action. We would like to confirm to all of our parents, that under no circumstances will Al Salam resort to such action and we are committed to undisrupted and high quality learning for all of our children during these extraordinary circumstances.

We ask parents to take note of the following:

1. For parents who have been impacted, we request that you complete the form [attached here](#) to provide us with the information required to structure the support. This is specifically for parents who have been affected in the ways described above, we request that you complete the questionnaire in full and include all relevant details and supporting documentation.
2. We would also like to collect parent feedback in relation to having the necessary technology (Devices/chromebooks) to support the distance learning programme. Where parents do not have sufficient devices to cope with the requirements of their children during this time, please [complete this form](#). As a school, we will be trying to arrange a limited number of standby units which can cover the needs for this period.
3. For other suggestions on what Al Salam or the community as a whole can do to support the situation of our families who are under distress, please provide your suggestions [here](#).

We cannot do this alone and we are limited in the ideas and solutions which meet the needs of the current situation. As always our partnerships with parents are essential for bringing solutions which make a difference.

We look forward to your support, and to providing whatever support necessary to overcome this together through a shared sense of care and responsibility.

Sincerely,

**Taher Gharib**

Director