

Fr. AGNEL SCHOOL NEW DELHI

April 8, 2020

Dear Parents and My Dear Students,

We are in the 3rd week of the lock down that took all of us by surprise, but we are more than aware and grateful that our Government took the bold step at the right time. Anything that radically upsets our life, becomes difficult to face, but the severity of the problem makes us perceive the reality differently. This crisis is unprecedented, unimaginable and its consequences unpredictable. But for most of us the pain and the anxieties are negligible compared to daily wagers, self-employed, migrants, all of whom make our city live and breathe each day. Their plight that most of us have seen for many days on the TV screens was pathetic, sad and even put us to shame, that some people whose life and work allows us to live comfortably, happen to be treated far less kindly, or even cruelly by circumstances beyond our control.

The reality of how fragile and vulnerable we are, hits us each day, and we realize how our power, technology, connections are worth nothing. And be it as it may, we turn to the Power above us, the God we each worship our own way, to come to our help. It is time to understand and state our dependence on God, the Lord of our life.

The other aspect that is equally evident, is our dependence on each other. One man's folly can cause untold misery to others, and therefore all of us take due care for the good of each other; others risk their life for the sake of the rest of us, particularly the frontline medical staff, the maintenance staff, who we often take for granted. The third, is what I have made reference to above, whose lives have turned into a casualty, having to leave their places, hungry, helpless and walking hundreds of kilometers to what they call home, knowing not what expects them there. There is need to feel for them and learn lessons of being grateful and kind to them, which often we find difficult to do.

We have done our bit to bring relief to those we could reach. We bought rations of (5 kg atta, 2 kg of rice and sugar, 1 litre of oil, 1 kg of daal and some tea leaves) for 370 people, costing about Rs. 600 each. If each ration packet lasts for 6 days for a family of 5, we would have provided about 22,000 meals, at the rate of 2 meals per day. This is nothing to tom-tom about, but is a token of our solidarity with those who suffer, and sharing something that we have freely received from God's hands.

ABOUT SCHOOL.

The lock down would easily last longer than we think. Fr. Roy- our Principal, Ma'am Sreeja, Ma'am Charu, Ma'am Kishnani and Ma'am Simi and several of the Teachers have been working back to back so that this unexpected absence from School, does not cause any drastic damage to our kids. Fortunately for us, we have some of the world's best Lecture Capturing Equipment installed in our Classrooms so that the Middle and Senior School have had their regular classes beamed for them, which they can attend in real time and even interact with the teachers.

This was done to a less extent initially for the Primary school, but they too have been over enthusiastic, and everyone has been super active. I think all our teachers deserve a pat of encouragement and gratitude.

More detailed Time Table schedules are being sent with designated live sessions on the Impartus and Microsoft Teams. On these, students can also interact with the Teachers. The Teachers have enthusiastically mastered the online platform 'Microsoft Teams' and are now raring to go. The novelty of the online classes, will fade soon, but we have to make sure that the students are engaged.

And unfortunately, engaging does not mean that they have to be listening to the teacher online, which any way, is far less effective than real classroom teaching. Students will have to be engaged, even if they do not want to. From the coming week we will present multidisciplinary projects that will keep the students engaged in multiple topics, whilst doing any one subject with practical connections where parents may come as experts, and Bingo, you are there!

SCHOOL FEES

We had already announced a marginal raise of fess, as per approved format, but given the distress that many people will be in, specially to businesses, etc. we have decided that for the quarters of April-June, and July-Sept. fees will remain the same as earlier (no new fees). We will re-examine in the third quarter, i.e October 2020. So, for these two quarters, the last year's fees will prevail. If however some one pays the increased fees, there will be no refund.

You are therefore kindly reminded to keep in touch with the school's portal and follow it. A very good part of this lock down, is that all of you have a premium time with your kids and it is time to optimize this time with your kids, specially the teenagers who sometimes would like to feel that they are in their own space once they reach 12. Life has shown us, how fragile life is, and only the bonds of love and relationship will be the most precious treasure.

Hope all of you are safe, and taking care of yourselves. This a premium time you have, to consolidate the family bond.

With warm personal regards and keep safe.

(FR. JOSE ALARICO CARVALHO)
DIRECTOR