



Acorns International School

Plot 400, Gisozi, Next to ULK University,
Tel: +250786514715
Email: acornsrwanda@gmail.com

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Newsletter for the Academic year 2020-2021

Dear Parents and Guardian,

A new academic year, new chapters, new circumstances. There are many uncertainties, but what we can say with certainty is that we are starting a new academic year on September 14, 2020. In keeping with government directives, our campus will remain closed, but we will continue to execute our online programme – new and improved. The pandemic is closer to our reality than before, and today, more than ever, we need to prove our mettle, and uphold the resilience we have displayed, as individuals and as a school community. We are in this together!

At the beginning of every new school year, we are given the golden opportunity to start afresh. This year is no different. Despite the short break, AIS proud of our team who have turned up, ready to embark on this journey with your child and you!

Format of Newsletter

In the spirit of starting afresh, we present our newsletter, with a twist! We hope this newsletter answers most of the questions you may have. If not, please feel free to contact the relevant people.

Fee Discount:

Let us start with a topic that has been a talking point, not just for AIS, but for schools regionally and globally. This was also a point that kept coming up in the feedback received from the parents. We are happy to share that, we have not hiked the tuition fee this year, instead, we are offering you a discount.

However, before we discuss the discount, we would like to thank all the parents who had faith in us and our programmes and invested in it. We have always maintained that a school is so much more than just the four walls, it is also about the quality of the curriculum and programme. And the pandemic has given us a chance to prove it. We have always had a list of non-negotiables, and we still stand by it, be it the delivery of our International Programmes, our International accreditations for Cambridge, staff salaries, Building Rents, Taxes, providing our teachers and students with resources, be it in class or with personalized laptop and internet at home during lockdown.

On that note, we acknowledge all the feedback and numerous meetings, and are happy to share that the Directors have decided to offer a discount of 20% for each student on one term's fees (there will not any additional discounts be added, which you may have previously received). You will receive invoices this week. Fees are due on or before **September 07, 2020**.

For further information, kindly contact finance office.

Professional Development:

As mentioned above, our teaching staff is back to work and preparing very hard to welcome you and ensure a rich teaching-learning experience. Also, these staff, other than teaching students, will be engaged in learning themselves. They will have weekly professional development sessions proving they are lifelong learners. They have also found themselves thrown into the deep end, to teach in new ways, but they are all set to learn those ways and then make this process of teaching and learning rich and engaging.

Learning Platform:

At AIS, we will continue with Google Classroom (GC) as our Learning Management Platform. All Learning Engagements will be conducted through GC, where students will receive set tasks according to the guidelines set. Detailed information and guidelines about the learning platform will be communicated soon.

What Term 1 would look like?

Early Childhood:

Per your class timetable, you will have a number of live sessions throughout the week. Live sessions will be 40mins long. Attendance for these lessons will be taken. Class timetables will be shared shortly.

Primary:

Based on your feedback, we have increased the number of online sessions in a day. All primary students will have 3-4 sessions in a day. The Class timetables will detail how it will work. Live sessions will be 40mins long. Attendance for these lessons will be taken.

Secondary:

We have decided to add more live sessions to the Time table for all students. This is the decision that we have made to ensure that all students will be able to cover the content i.e. needed across all subjects. During term 1, we will be doing 4-5 sessions per day.

Specialities:

In ECDC, standalone teachers will continue to post pre-recorded lessons and will be having small assignment to complete and upload.

In primary and secondary, the following standalones will now teach a full 40 min lesson every week; Arts, physical education, Kinyarwanda and ICT. At the same time the following standalones will now teach two full 40mins lesson every week for French.

Please note that due to popular demand, the following standalones will not be posting assignments or homework for students on google classrooms; Art and Physical Education. French, Kinyarwanda and ICT will continue to post assignments as usual on google classrooms for students to complete and submit.

Learning Packs:

In other good news, we will now be sending home learning packs. These pack will contain all sort of materials to help our learners study better at home.

We shall provide learning packs from ECDC to Grade 6 every 15 days and secondary will have a starter learning packs.

Open Day:

Normally, this is just for new students and parents but this year it will be for all students and parents. This will be done by each homeroom teacher on **Thursday, September 10, 2020**. We exhort all parent to attend the AIS open day and meet your child's teacher. The teachers will share with you the new timetables and the expectation for the new class.

This will be a great opportunity for your child to interact will your teachers, and for you to clear any doubts that you may have.

Upcoming Events:

AIS is committed to leaving no stone unturned. All calendared events such as **Literacy week, Children's day** will be held (of course, virtually) and we will keep parents updated.

Calendar is attached.

Please let us be mindful and remember that these are temporary times, these are temporary solutions and temporary hardships. We will see better times, where we will be on campus and learn together as we did last year this time. Let's be more hopeful, more forgiving, little kinder, more helpful and we will defeat this situation and smile back at life.

Warms regards,

AIS Management