

# Welcome back to



## THE NEW 2020-21 ACADEMIC YEAR AWAITS YOU!

## **Our Dear and Valued ABQ Parents**

The time has come to talk about tomorrow, today. Many of you have questions about the future and we aim to provide a comprehensive vision moving forward. And though we at ABQ aspire to provide you with the most informed and up-to-date information regarding the new academic year, we find ourselves constrained by the constantly changing information and situation globally and in Oman.

In addition, like all educational institutions throughout the Sultanate, we take guidance from and abide by decisions issued by the Supreme Committee and the Ministry of Education (MOE).

Having said that, we at ABQ would still like to outline a vision for you so that all of our stakeholders can best prepare for the 2020/21 academic year. In short, we have prepared three options that can potentially be implemented. These include:

1. Face-to-Face Learning
2. Live Online Learning
3. Hybrid Learning

Our core message and plan is that the education of children will continue irrespective of the mode of delivery. We will have one comprehensive timetable that will be followed, even if circumstances force us to move from one mode of delivery to another. That change will be instantaneous and seamless.

I hope this information goes some way in answering some of your concerns for the new academic year. We will always keep you informed with the latest news and developments and appreciate any queries that you may have for us. We look forward to welcoming you back soon.

Yours sincerely,

**Humayun Kabir**  
CEO  
ABQ Education Group

# Table of Contents

-  **4 STEPS TO SUCCESS**
-  **5 EDUCATIONAL PLATFORMS**
-  **9 YOUR HEALTH & SAFETY**
-  **12 A TEAM EFFORT**
-  **13 PROPOSED CHANGES AT ABQ**



# STEPS TO SUCCESS

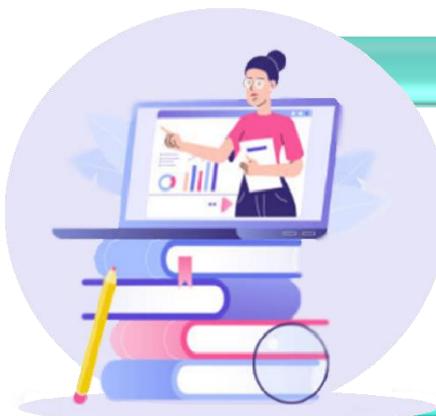
## What factors will ABQ focus on to make this school year a success?

In order to prepare for the 2020-21 school year, ABQ has continued to research and apply best global practices to ensure you and your children receive the best learning experience possible.



### YOUR HEALTH, YOUR SAFETY

Your health and safety is our number one priority. We shall do our utmost best each and every day to ensure the most effective hygiene and sanitization measures are implemented for you, your children, our staff and the community.



### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

ABQ's curriculum and syllabus will be delivered to the highest standards possible. Whether at school, online or hybrid, your child's educational learning experience will be professional, interactive and highly rewarding!



### FLEXIBILITY

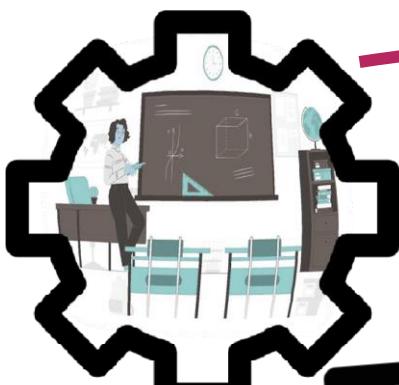
Working in conjunction with government authorities, ABQ will comply with all directives issued throughout the year. In addition, we will adapt to changing circumstances based on realistic forecast models so you can best prepare for any challenge that may lie ahead.



# EDUCATIONAL PLATFORMS

## What learning options are available?

In anticipation of government directives due to COVID-19, ABQ has developed three learning options that will not only ensure your children's safety but also deliver the best educational experience possible.



### FACE-TO-FACE LEARNING

Students attend school as normal



### LIVE ONLINE LEARNING

Students attend school through live online classes



### HYBRID LEARNING

50% of student population in class and 50% attend same live class online. Students rotate between physical class and online

## Key Features:

- One unified timetable irrespective of delivery model
- Seamless movement from one model to another, based on directives
- Hybrid model can possibly be used for students at higher risk - even if schools open physically



# EDUCATIONAL PLATFORMS

## » LEARNING AT SCHOOL

ABQ is preparing for in school learning and school operations for August 2020. Our community will follow strict health and safety practices, in line with local regulations and international best practices.

We expect to reopen the campus gradually, to limit risk and to safely learn to live by our new procedures and practices.



### What will happen to Art, Music and PE classes?

We plan to run these classes as part of the timetable as they are vital to the overall development of our students. Whether physically at school or online, our educators have developed some really creative ways of delivering these vital programmes.

### How will you monitor entry and exit at the gates to ensure proper tracing should anyone be infected with covid-19?

We have developed detailed safety plans in this area. We are procuring reliable thermal scanners and other tools. Physical distancing protocols, using separate entrances, one-way traffic zones etc. will be used to limit contact between individuals.

### How can you make sure younger students adhere to physical distancing rules?

The ABQ faculty and staff will be trained and prepared to ensure that physical distancing expectations are clear and reinforced with all of our students. Our students' health and well-being are our top concern. We will use the MOH recommended mask policy and will make this part of the students' routine and teach them to follow it rigorously.

### How many students will be in one classroom for KG, Primary and Secondary?

We will use the minimum 2-metre distancing guideline to develop capacity limits for all indoor spaces and rooms. Capacity numbers will be posted on the door to every indoor space. Decisions made will be in accordance with the MOH and MOE guidelines.



# EDUCATIONAL PLATFORMS

## » LEARNING ONLINE

ABQ Virtual Learning will follow schedules that will provide academic rigor balanced with wellbeing.

We are applying lessons learnt from our experience in the Second Semester of the 2019/20 Academic Year.

We have further upgraded student online resources and tools, computer devices for every educator, our Wi-Fi and internet infrastructure.

Our staff are being trained to further upgrade their live online teaching skills. We are introducing a very unique and creative KG live online learning programme. In addition, the online timetable for 2020/21 will have PE, Art and ICT classes.



## IMPORTANT GUIDELINES

- Establish routines** - We encourage parents to set regular hours for their children's school work. Keep normal bedtime routines for younger children and expect the same from your Secondary School children, too.
- Define the learning space for your child** - The space that you usually use for homework may need adjustments if it will host your child's learning for a long time.
- Monitor communications** - Teachers will communicate with parents through the Mograsys Portal. The designated PCO's will also keep updating parents regularly as and when necessary.
- The importance of attending on-line lessons** - Students are encouraged to logon for all their online lessons. Parents are encouraged to ask their children what they have learned through the day? What are their learning targets or goals? What resources do they require?
- Take an active role in helping your child learning** - Your child will mostly miss social interaction during the time the school is closed. While some of these social interactions will be re-created on virtual platforms, others will not.
- Encourage physical activity** - Make sure your children remember to move and exercise. This is vitally important to their health, wellbeing, and to their learning. Think also about how your children can contribute more around the house with chores or other responsibilities.



# EDUCATIONAL PLATFORMS

## » HYBRID LEARNING

The Hybrid Learning school is open with some students in school and some learning from home. Students at home will basically attend the same live class but via our Webex platform.

To enable this mode of delivery, we are investing in the infrastructure by installing or upgrading the cameras, screens and sound systems in every classroom in our schools.

Who is at school and who is not? Most likely, we will have 50% of students in class and 50% at home. The actual percentages will depend on directives from the MOE and MOH and may change over time.

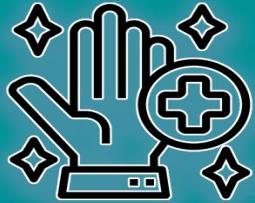
The Hybrid option may also work for students who are at higher risk and, as a result, it is not safe or suitable for them to attend physical classes. We will explore this option further with the MOE, if the need arises.

To reiterate, the Hybrid option may be best of both worlds in case it is not safe to have full attendance at the schools. You can be assured that we are fully prepared for this scenario with the requisite infrastructure and safety measures in place.



### Take Note

- Your child will have scheduled learning sessions at school and online at home*
- Your child will continue to work on a number of different activities with small group instruction, peer-to-peer activities, pencil and paper assignments, as well as individual work on a computer or tablet*
- All lessons will be held and streamed live throughout a 5-day scheduled learning week*

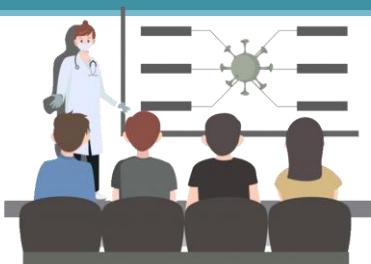


# YOUR HEALTH & SAFETY

## » Returning to your ABQ Campus

ABQ is working hard to ensure your children's health and safety with a raft of new measures. Once schools are reopened, we will be ready to deliver the best educational experience while abiding by and enforcing strict guidelines to protect your children on campus.

### STAFF TRAINING



- 1 A health and safety designated staff has been identified in each school and assigned to handle any emergency situation, follow up and monitor the implementation of health and safety procedures, and conduct all necessary trainings for students and staff. This person is also responsible for the designated isolation room within the school premises.
- 2 We will ensure that sufficient and accessible training and communication channels are utilized to keep all staff, parents and children informed of new settings, practices and hygiene approaches for the start of the academic year.
- 3 Adequate training will be provided to the health and safety in-charge, and the attending nurse to ensure proper handling of any potential cases.

### ENTRY, PICKUP & SCHOOL VISIT PROCEDURES



- 1 Modes of thermal screening will be present at the entrance of the school. Children who are taking the bus, will be scanned for their temperature before getting onto the bus. Anyone with a fever  $\geq 37.50^{\circ}\text{C}$  will not be allowed entry.
- 2 Only one family member or a guardian is allowed to drop off/ pick up his/her child. This person can only leave once he/she has been given official confirmation the child has been admitted to school for the day.
- 3 People with compromised medical conditions, including the elderly, should not come for drop off and pick up.
- 4 The school will implement a staggered entry and exit procedure to eliminate overcrowding and to maintain 2 meters physical distancing in high traffic areas.



# YOUR HEALTH & SAFETY

## HYGIENE

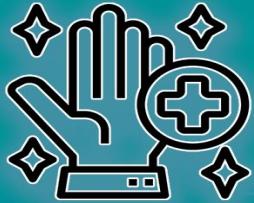
- 1 Common areas in the school (i.e. toilets, pantry, waiting areas, etc.) will be cleaned and disinfected at regular intervals throughout the day. This also applies to frequently used areas/ surfaces such as door handles, dining tables, seat rests, elevator keys, etc. In addition, anyone entering the premises will be checked for wearing a mask and will be asked to use the hand sanitizer available at the entrance.
- 2 All staff and children will:
  - o Frequently wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly. Review the guidance on hand cleaning.
  - o Clean their hands upon arrival at the setting, before and after eating, and after sneezing or coughing.
  - o Be encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose.
- 3 Awareness/educational posters describing handwashing steps will be placed near sinks. Additional guiding hygiene communication material will be shared with parent prior to opening of school and will be placed across the premises (i.e. respiratory hygiene, distancing, etc.)



## SET-UP / PHYSICAL DISTANCING ARRANGEMENTS

- 1 We will ensure the 2 metres distancing measure is maintained in all common areas, service desks, etc. where different groups of students, staff and visitors are mixing.
- 2 Classroom area will support sufficient room for groups to maintain physical distancing of at least 2 metres per child in each classroom. Mask wearing policy will be as per MOE and MOH directives.
- 3 Use of outside space will be encouraged:
  - o for exercise and breaks
  - o for outdoor education, where possible, as this can limit transmission and more easily allow for distance between children and staff
- 4 We will stagger the use of staff rooms and offices, their entry and exit, and the use of their pantry, to limit occupancy.
- 5 We will dedicate an isolation room (separate from the nurse room), and will have set procedures to handle COVID-19 suspected cases as well as the disinfection procedures as per MOH guidelines.





# YOUR HEALTH & SAFETY

## FOOD & BEVERAGE



- 1 The cafeteria will provide pre-packaged food, while following MOH guidelines related to catering services. Our catering provider, Socat, will follow best in class guidelines for food safety.
- 2 We will implement staggered meal breaks. Food will be served in the classroom to avoid exposure to shared cafeteria facilities.
- 3 As water dispensers are not allowed, we will offer sanitized water bottles.

## TRANSPORTATION



- 1 We aim to use our buses at half capacity and to place marks on chairs for seating guidance.
- 2 Anyone entering the bus will undergo temperature screening. Anyone with a temperature  $\geq 37.50^{\circ}\text{C}$  will not be allowed on the bus.
- 3 Bus hygiene will be maintained by following appropriate sanitization and physical distancing standards. For example, seat belts, arm rests, handles, rails, etc. will be sanitized after each use, in accordance with relevant guidelines for public transportation.
- 4 Adequate signage will be added inside the bus to guide children towards hygiene practices (i.e. respiratory hygiene, waste management, etc.).



# A TEAM EFFORT

With your support, trust and cooperation, we can work together to ensure each child receives the best educational and learning experience he or she deserves for the new 2020-21 school year. We are all responsible – and accountable – for our actions, and therefore realise that by working as a team we can make the new academic year a highly interactive, satisfying and rewarding one. Our roles moving forward:

## STUDENTS

Keep your head up and know that education is a learning process whether you attend classes on campus or at home online. By working together as an invaluable team member with your teachers and parents, you will build a path to achievement and success. Remember, you are the architect of your future.



## PARENTS

Whether at home or at school, support your children by following government and school guidelines. In addition, be your child's mentor as we progress throughout these uncertain times and provide them with the guidance and assurance they need to grow and develop to the best of their abilities.



We will continue to strive and be steadfast in our commitment to deliver the most robust, interactive and streamlined educational system in Oman. ABQ prides itself on producing the best academic outcomes while providing a strong platform for the learning and development of essential 21<sup>st</sup> century skills for a future that is both uncertain and exciting!



# PROPOSED CHANGES AT ABQ

The following represent some of the planned changes at ABQ schools as we prepare for the new 2020-21 school year.

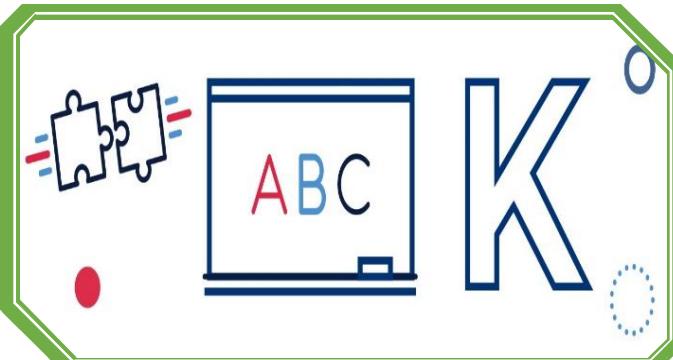
## Proposed KG Online Learning Plan



Virtual home visits prior to the start of term. This means each student who signs up for online learning will be assigned to a homeroom teacher, as if they were physically in school.



Heads of KG to have weekly/bi-weekly 1-to-1 sessions with each parent to discuss their child's progress and to ensure a good line of communication.



Learning Packs will be sent to both KG1 and KG2 students, ideally every 4 weeks. Initial pack may be sent for 2 weeks and then monthly after that. The pack will include a set of learning materials (numbers, letters, shapes, colours etc.) that will be covered during the online lessons, according to the long-term plan.



*Reading Eggs* and *Mathseeds* to be used in conjunction with online lessons.



# PROPOSED CHANGES AT ABQ

## Proposed COVID-19 Protective Items to be used at ABQ

Sanitisers –  
Touch-free Dispensers



Thermal Hand Held  
Temperature Scanners



Face Masks

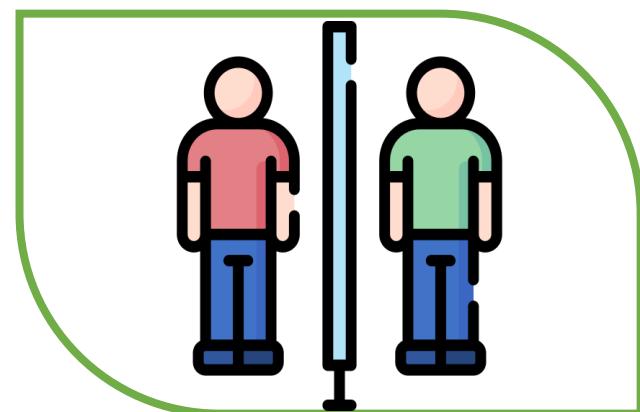




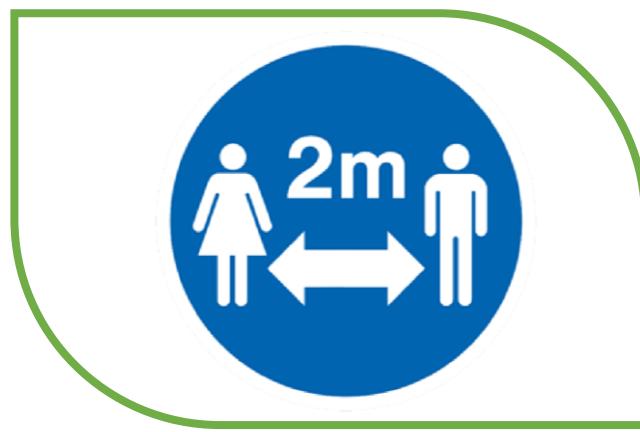
# PROPOSED CHANGES AT ABQ

## Proposed COVID-19 Protective Items to be used at ABQ

Barriers



Floor Distancing Signage



ULV Fogger



# WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU BACK SOON!



مدرسة عزان بن قيس العالمية  
Azzan Bin Qais International School



مدرسة السيب العالمية  
Seeb International School



مدرسة صفار العالمية  
Sohar International School

