

CIRCULAR FOR PARENTS

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Date- 17.09.2019

To: All Parents (Class 3 and Class 4)

From: The Head - Academics

Subject: Roll-back of decision regarding pre-announcement of Unit-end Assessment Dates

Dear Parents,

At Redbricks, we have believed in designing an education system which is age appropriate and balanced in nature. We want to make children resilient and hard working, but at the same time we do not want to put unnecessary pressure on them which is counter-productive for effective learning and development.

Keeping this in mind, since the inception, the school had decided to keep the Unit end assessment dates unannounced in Class 3 and Class 4. These are formative years of students' lives and they are introduced to paper-pencil marks based assessment for the first time. It is important that students develop an internal motivation to learn and excel, rather than get de-motivated to learn through undue pressure. Students are expected to study regularly, understand concepts deeply, and therefore the unannounced nature of tests should not hamper their performance. It is a known fact that students perform better under low stakes testing rather than high stakes testing situations – all the more so for younger children who are still developing their socio-emotional and coping skills.

This system worked well academically, however we found that students who were absent on UEA dates lost out an opportunity. Hence, from this academic year we decided to release the UEA dates in advance, so that parents can ensure that their child does not miss school on that day. We felt that parents would align with the school's philosophy and not create pressure on students if dates were known.

However, this has created a problem which is against the school's beliefs regarding student development. Parents are getting anxious about these tests and it is being passed on to students. There is also a pressure on teachers to 'teach to the test' rather than 'teach for understanding.' All of this has an adverse effect on students and is working against the education approach of the school.

In lieu of this problem, the school has decided to roll back the decision of announcing UEA dates in advance for Class 3,4. The exams will be conducted during the regular school days in an unannounced manner, same as last year.

In case of a well planned leave for an important and genuine reason, parents may request to know dates in advance through a written application to Head -Academics with a commitment that they will not share the date with any other student/parent. In case of any medical reason, ML will be marked in the report card upon submission of medical certificate within 48 hours of the conduct of the examination, which will not affect the student's grade. **Please note that no re-test will be conducted for any casual leave/ Medical leave taken by the student.**

We look forward to your support and co-operation.

Thanking You

Dr. Ankita Sharma

Head- Academics

Redbricks School - Primary (Class 1 to Class 6)