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## **FACILITATING STUDENTS' HOLISTIC ADJUSTMENT**

Dear Parent,

It has been heartening to see our students return back to school and reclaim the physical learning spaces. As educators, it has been uplifting and invigorating to have face to face interaction with our students, more so with our young learners who have spent the last two years ensconced at homes.

Our pre-primary and primary students are having their first brush with structured learning zones. Though exciting, it may also be fraught with some challenges. Learning to take simple instructions like walking in a line, taking permission while moving out, or simply not speaking out of turn, eating independently, sitting without fidgeting or disturbing others are turning out to be challenging lessons. It has been observed that some students lack appropriate washroom training which puts them in embarrassing situations. They are taking their time to understand the way around the school. Due to limited interaction with peers owing to COVID restrictions, they may demonstrate anxiety, insecurity, agitation, irritability, or aggressive behavior. Its most heart wrenching to see them cry out.

We understand that our youngsters are emerging out of warmth of cocoons of their homes and doting parents and grandparents. We have to work together to make this transition to formal schooling seamless, joyful and help them connect the dots through sensitive handling of their fears, inhibitions, reticence or repugnant behaviour which they may display.

Following strategies may facilitate your wards adjustment:

- 1) Do not confuse toilet training with ability to use a "public "washroom in school. The child may be toilet trained but may not be in the habit of leaving the washroom clean after use. Please sensitize your ward about leaving washroom clean after use for others. Also, please discuss there are separate washrooms for boys and girls and that they need to use the appropriate one. Also, its important to refrain from using pet words for toilet or private parts, to avoid any confusion or miscommunication.
- 2) Make use of role play activities to inculcate sharing and respectful behaviour towards their classmates.

- 3) Make television viewing an "active" activity instead of being a passive one. Discuss with your child how their favourite cartoon characters share things with friends or how they amicably resolve fight with friends without resorting to hitting.
- 4) Its important to sensitize your child about not leaving the classroom without asking the class teacher. Its a matter of not only teaching courtesy but also important for safety and security of your child who should never slip out of class unnoticed.
- 5) We suggest that you should accompany your ward to school in the evening. Let him/ her take pride in showing you around the school which will inculcate a sense of belongingness towards the school which is going to be a second home to them for next decade.

Together as parents and educators, we need to hold our children's hand and steer them towards responsibility, safety, fortitude and resilience. Its essential that we make learning joyful and fun to redeem all the exuberance, memories, gaiety, joy and experiences that they have already missed out on. Parenting was never promised to be easy ,but you have the support of best faculty who have decades of experience to share with your ward . You have entrusted your most precious ward to our school who has always been the torchbearer in providing dedicated staff and personalized attention for student well-being and safety . We have installed CCTV cameras for close monitoring and surveillance, employed greater number of female support staff to look after children . We are committed to provide caregivers for handholding our children as long as required. We look forward to your support, cooperation and prudence in providing a seamless transition from informal to formal mode of learning where each child feels confident and empowered.

Soliciting your support and cooperation for smooth transition of our children. Your patience and boundless love will yield heartwarming results when your children will tug you to come to their class to see them perform confidently and exuberantly.

Lets give ourselves some time and desist from impulsive kneejerk reactions to day to day incidents which are part of " Growth Trajectory " of our children.

Suruchi Gandhi

(Principal)