

Dear Parents and Students,

The feedback I receive from the teachers, parents and students made me understand that all of you have well-adjusted to the new platform of online teaching and learning. Apart from the occasional hiccups of connection errors, everything else has fallen into place. I would *reiterate* that online classes should be treated like real classrooms. The strong value system which you have imbibed from your school and home should not be forgotten in the digital classes. You should interact with your classmates and teachers *in a considerate and respectful way*.

Be respectful

While it is easier to say hurtful or disrespectful things without standing face-to-face with someone, it is important to remember that your classmates and teachers are *real people who are affected by the words you say and write*. It is essential to keep in mind the feelings and opinions of others, even if they differ from your own. *If you wouldn't say it to someone's face, don't say it online either*.

Cyberbullying

As a rule of thumb, *cyberbullying* of any kind, should not happen in our online classrooms. Posting derogatory, or hurtful remarks, sarcastic comments, humiliating rumours or comments, defaming classmates and teachers, triggering quarrel among classmates, behaving rudely etc., are few instances of cyberbullying. Avoid posting or sharing negative and offensive comments, posts, messages, photos and inappropriate material. Instead, *be polite and respectful* to your teachers, parents and classmates. *Encourage one another* to achieve positive academic goals.

Don't abuse the chat box

Chat boxes should be used *as a learning tool*, to give answers to the queries of the teacher and ask questions related to the topic taught. It should not be used by students to communicate among themselves and *cause distractions* in the digital classroom. Always remember, what you share in an online classroom is part of a *permanent digital record*.

Practise Good Netiquette

“Good netiquette means conducting yourself in an online class with the *same respect, politeness and professionalism* that you would exhibit in a real-life classroom.” Always post like the *well-mannered student* you are!

Be considerate towards your ward's teacher.

Teachers should be able to take the classes *without any distraction* from your side. If they see people peeping at them or moving in the background or enjoying food looking at the screen, their morale will go down. *Be considerate to the teachers* who have ventured into the new arena of online teaching.

Home Environment

Parents kindly help the students to be seated for the online classes *without any distractions and disturbances*. The students need to organise a study space and environment for *focused learning at home*.

If you follow the above simple steps, it helps to eliminate stress, create a safe teaching-learning environment and prevent problems. We at Assisi, envision a pleasant classroom with joyful and cooperative students.

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