

17 January 2021

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year once again and welcome to the beginning of a new year.

Let me take this opportunity to welcome all new parents into this beautiful family of the International School of South Africa affectionately known as ISSA.

2021 brings with it interesting challenges but nothing that we are unfamiliar with having successfully completed 2020.

The further delay in the reopening of schools has no doubt created some disappointment for both parents and students and I can assure you, we are equally disappointed. However, we are ready to receive our students for online learning from the 19th January 2020.

I am sure that most of you would have received detailed communication from the offices of the Deputy Principal's in the High School by now informing you of our plans going forward, following the pronouncement made by Dr. Reginah Mhaule, the Deputy Minister of Education at a media briefing on Friday.

As an affiliate of the Independent Schools of South Africa (ISASA), all independent member schools were requested to support the call for the delayed opening of schools and for schools only to admit students back on campus for "contact" from 15 February 2021.

The National Alliance of Independent Schools Association (NAISA) of which we are an affiliate has put forward the following recommendations for Schools:

- Schools should consider making use of online resources and drive-throughs to get teaching resources and materials to our students and to make sure if drive-throughs or delivery systems are used, all Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) are strictly adhered to.
- Online learning programmes by independent students may commence whenever schools are ready to do so.
- Immediate communication to the parent community how you intend to provide learning during the closed period.
- Schools should find a way to address the need for parents to continue paying fees during the lockdown as this would help to keep the school running its programmes for their children.
- Schools that have already opened face-face to close and re-open on the 15 February.
- Schools that need to complete registration and induction formalities, are to do so in small groups at staggered times between the 19-20 January.

It is against this background that the International School of South Africa has decided to support this call, to support the national call but more importantly to ensure that the health and safety of our children are protected.

We have also received confirmation through ISASA in consultation with Department of Social Services that our ECD Centers can remain open. Should parents opt for online learning in this space, this will be provided.

More information with regards to the Primary School will follow shortly once a few technical aspects have been confirmed with the Primary School teachers.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

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"If it's important to the child, it's important to us."

SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Today we are also excited to receive our international and local boarders. They will also remain online from their residence under strict supervision by our resident staff. Some Boarder parents have confirmed arrival of their children at later times in consultation with House Parents.

Local boarding students that do not return with COVID -19 clearance certificates (these are not mandatory for local students), will be kept in a separate residence from international students for a period of 5 days for a "soft isolation" to check for symptoms under the watchful eye of our school nursing sister. Thereafter they will be integrated into the main residence on day six if they display no symptoms. They will also have access to online learning during this period.

We are confident that the COVID -19 protocols that we have put into place will serve us well as we stand in solidarity with the rest of the country in supporting our President to bring the Second Wave under control.

I again look forward to working with all of you in 2021 as we did in 2020. If you wish to seek any clarity, do not hesitate to call me, drop me a line or contact my PA Jenna to set up a virtual meeting.

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." **Henry Ford.**

Please Stay Safe.

Yours sincerely

Bruce Wells
CEO/Headmaster
International School of South Africa

