

17 January 2021

Dear Parents,

I take this opportunity to wish you a happy and healthy 2021 despite the Covid-19 pandemic we are all facing. I am writing to inform you of the arrangements and our preparedness to the opening for the academic year 2021.

As you are aware, we had planned to start our academic year on the 19th of January 2021, expecting that we would be able to resume full contact lessons, "face-to-face", on Tuesday. However, following the pronouncement by the Minister of Basic Education on Friday regarding the opening of both Public and Private Schools due to the surge of Covid-19 infections, we are having to revise our planned opening for full contact lessons.

The National Corona Command Council and the Department of Basic Education has proposed that schooling be deferred to the 15th of February 2021 with the view to go back to online learning for those that are able to do so. As a school we have formed the view that we begin our online learning and teaching to support the national call for a lockdown of schools for face-to-face learning. The decision to return to face-to-face learning remains a fluid one at this stage because the situation changes frequently.

However, we would inform parents of the proposed return to face-to-face learning as and when we have a clearer idea.

Opening of School Term 1.

The plan at this stage is that the learning and teaching will only be via online Google Meet and Google Classroom until the 15th of February.

Our IT Department will register students on Google Classroom according to their grades and class groupings. Registered students must accept the invites to be able to receive academic material and participate in online lessons. We anticipate that by Monday the 18th of January the respective Google Classrooms will be in place ready for the start of term on Tuesday 19th at 7.30a.m. Further communications will be directed to students and parents via the different platforms for the start of the term.

The planned teaching approach for the Pre-Primary phase (grades 00 to 2 classes) will be outlined to parents and students as follows;

1. Reception Classes – Grades 00 and 0.

- The Reception Classes can attend lessons on a face-to-face basis as of Tuesday 19 January 2020. However, for those parents who opt for the online facility this option will still be offered and we kindly ask that you inform the school as soon as possible so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

2. Grades 1 and 2

- Each class will be divided into two groups, Group A and Group B for orientation purposes.
- The students in Group A and their parents and/or guardians are invited to come to the school on Tuesday 19 January between 7.30a.m and 12noon to receive their timetables, workbooks and basic orientation on the use of the Google Meet and Google Classroom platforms.
- The students in Group B and their parents and/or guardians are invited to come to the school on Wednesday 20 January between 7.30a.m. and 12noon to receive their timetables, workbooks and basic orientation on the use of the Google Meet and Google Classroom platforms.
- The groups will be communicated to parents and/or guardians on Monday the 18th of January by the respective teachers.
- Formal lessons for the Grades 1 and 2 classes will commence on Thursday 21 January.
- Our IT personnel will be on standby to help students and parents who might need assistance with their gadgets – laptops, tablets etc, feel free to bring them along.

All the other **new** students in grades 3 to 6 are to come to school on Tuesday 19 January at 7.30a.m. to receive their timetables, workbooks and basic orientation on Google Meet and Google Classroom platforms from their teachers.

The success of the online lessons is dependent on your support from home and students following a fixed routine as outlined by our Timetable.

A sincere apology to all our parents for this late communication as we were trying to put together a solid plan for the start to the year under these difficult circumstances, especially for the little ones and those who have not experienced the online learning platform before.

We thank you once more for your continued support and confidence in our school, teachers, and the curriculum we offer.

“If it’s important to the child, it’s important to us.”

Regards



Phillip Nheera
Deputy Head Primary School