

St Patrick's CBC

170 Du Toitspan Road, Belgravia, Kimberley 8301
P.O. Box 10281, Beaconsfield 8315, South Africa
Telephone +27 (53) 831-1558/9
Facsimile +27 (53) 831-1669
E-mail: info@stpatricks.co.za



...where more than 120 years of
history embraces the future

26 April 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Three areas/subjects will be covered in this letter which informs of some practical matters:

1. When St Patrick's CBC will **reopen** and the way forward
2. **Preventative measures** to be taken
3. Online **parent meetings** - Monday, 27 April to Thursday, 30 April 2020



1. When will St Patrick's CBC reopen?

In line with the levels of lockdown set out by the President, I thought it is easier to explain our school's reopening in phases as well. For this purpose, we have identified eight stages. The stages will follow on one another and will be communicated to parents as we enter each stage.

We will communicate the return of the boarders directly with the boarder parents once the President has approved the opening of boarding facilities and the opening of our country's borders.

Stage 1

- We are currently in Stage 1. We launched our online learning programme on 15 April 2020 and, as previously communicated, we will **continue offering an online learning alternative** until the end of August 2020 (and longer if needed).

We are currently waiting for President Ramaphosa to give schools permission to reopen. The Minister of Basic Education, Ms Motshekga is scheduled to address the nation in this regard tomorrow, 27 April 2020.

Stage 2

- President Ramaphosa gives schools permission to reopen after lockdown.

Stage 3

- The Minister of Basic Education, Ms Motshekga will provide schools with clear guidance as to how to reopen when the President gives permission to do so.

One thing we know when Ms Motshekga addresses the nation on Monday, 27 April is that we will only be allowed to phase in schooling, starting with a couple of grades in the beginning and gradually introducing the other grades. We will only know how the phasing-in of the grades will work once the Minister has given clarity.

- I attended online meetings with the South African Independent Schools Association (ISASA) this past week of which St Patrick's CBC is a member. They are currently in discussion with the Minister of Education to determine whether independent schools will be allowed to follow a different strategy/approach than government schools because of our smaller class sizes. This aspect makes spacial distancing easier to manage. ISASA will provide us with feedback once their discussions are finalised with Minister Motshekga and her team.

Stage 4

- Once we have more clarity on the way forward, we will communicate to you the exact day on which we will start, which grades will be allowed to return to school first, and how we will gradually phase in the other grades.

Stage 5

- St Patrick's CBC will reopen its doors for learning for the grades allowed by the Minister of Basic Education and as advised by ISASA.
- Online learning will run concurrently with live classroom teaching. As mentioned before, online learning will continue until at least the end of August 2020.
- All sporting and cultural events and other gatherings that create crowded conditions will not be allowed in terms of lockdown restrictions.
- Assemblies will be done online.
- Aftercare will reopen for the relevant grades.
- For the grades who are back at school, Physical Education will start with a programme that supports spacial distancing. The Physical Education lessons for home-based learners will still be published electronically.

Stage 6

- The remaining grades will gradually return to school. Again, this will take place as and when approved by the Minister of Basic Education and as advised by ISASA.
- Online learning and face-to-face classes will continue to run concurrently.
- All sporting and cultural events and other gatherings that create crowded conditions will not be allowed.

Stage 7

- This stage will only apply once the epidemic is classified as non-risk and will fall in line with Phase 1 (an 'all-clear') of the President's 5 Phase-Coronavirus plan, as announced in his speech on Thursday, 23 April 2020.
- At this point, St Patrick's CBC will end online teaching.
- Sporting/cultural events and other gatherings that are deemed safe by the Executive Head and in line with the President's orders will once again be allowed at school.

Stage 8

- This stage will apply once we know that the epidemic is officially over.

All sporting, cultural and other gatherings that were not safe to commence at Stage 7 will now be allowed.

We do realise that there may be unique circumstances with regard to having someone to assist with home learning if you are required to return to work earlier but unfortunately, we are strictly governed by the President and therefore cannot entertain special requests in terms of the phasing-in of grades.

* The stages as explained above may be realigned by the Executive Head after consultation with the Board of Governors and guidance by policies or procedures provided by the President, the Minister of Basic Education, the Minister of Health and ISASA.

2. Preventative measures to be taken

The following preventative measures will be effective from day 1 of any pupil returning to school:

- **Standard precautions of infection control**

General high standards of cleanliness will be observed at all times, dust kept to a minimum and used areas and facilities as well as desks thoroughly cleaned and sanitised on a regular basis.

Hand hygiene is widely acknowledged to be one of the most effective ways of limiting the spreading of disease. Staff will continually emphasize the importance of hand hygiene to pupils.

Hand washing facilities are provided for all pupils and staff. Liquid soap dispensers and hand drying facilities (of a disposable nature) are provided in all toilets, kitchens and other food preparation areas. Closed bins, for the disposal of any paper towels are provided in all toilets, kitchens and other food preparation areas.

- **Prevention and control**

All staff, parents/guardians, pupils or any stakeholder of St Patrick's CBC will be required to wear protective masks when on campus. A mask with the CBC logo will be deemed a compulsory uniform item for staff and pupils when on the school campus. Failing to wear the correct mask, as authorized by St Patrick's CBC, will lead to disciplinary action in accordance with the relevant Code of Conduct.

St Patrick's CBC will be selling 3-layer, washable masks with our school logo printed on it, at a cost of R30.00 each.



The school will supply all pupils with one mask free of charge. Parents are welcome to purchase masks for themselves and also additional masks for their children. We encourage each pupil to have two (or more) masks and recommend washing with soap and hot water each day after wearing. These masks will be available at the Uniform Shop.

- **Body temperature analysis**

Compulsory body temperature analysis will be conducted at all entry points to facilities at St Patrick's CBC. Body temperature analysis will be conducted using non-contact thermometers which may include tympanic thermometers, infrared thermometers and/or thermal scanners. Persons with a body temperature of 38°C or above will not be granted access to any facility of St Patrick's CBC. This will be confirmed once we have received more clarity from ISASA.

- **Sanitising equipment**

All persons wanting to gain access to any facility of St Patrick's CBC will be required to sanitize their hands using an alcohol-based liquid as provided by St Patrick's CBC. In addition, pupils and staff may be required to sanitize their hands upon entry/exit of all classrooms/venues.

- **Quarantine periods**

Staff, parents/guardians, pupils or any stakeholder who contract COVID-19 or who come into contact with persons infected with COVID-19 are required to inform the Executive Head of such so that appropriate action can be taken to address the needs of the pupil and to ensure the safety and welfare of all other members of the school community.

Staff, parents/guardians, pupils or any stakeholder who become infected with COVID-19 or who have been in contact with persons infected with COVID-19, will be required to quarantine from St Patrick's CBC for 14 days. During the quarantine period, the staff, parents/guardians, pupils or any stakeholder member will not be granted access to any St Patrick's CBC facility. The policy applying to absent pupils will be implemented to ensure all work/homework is provided for the pupil in quarantine.

At this point I would also like to stress that if your child exhibits flu-like symptoms we strongly recommend that you keep him/her at home until completely better.

- **Social distancing**

All Staff, parents/guardians, pupils or any stakeholder of St Patrick's CBC will be required to observe social distancing which may include, but is not limited to:

- Staggering the beginning and end of the school day;
- Cancellation of assemblies, sporting/cultural events and other gatherings that create crowded conditions;
- Pupils' desks are to be at least one metre apart;
- Keeping at least one to two metres apart from each other at all times.

- **Confidentiality**

Staff, parents/guardians, pupils or any stakeholder have a legal right to confidentiality regarding their medical details. This confidentiality will never be breached by school personnel, except to healthcare professionals on a "need to know" basis. School staff will be aware that if they implement standard precautions at all times there should be no need to routinely disclose to them confidential information or sensitive diagnoses. Staff, parents/guardians, pupils or any stakeholder have a right to be treated equally, without prejudice or discrimination.

3. **Online Parent Meetings**

We will be hosting online Phase-specific **Parent meetings** next week. I would like you to join the relevant meeting/s. You are required to register for these meetings. After registering, you will immediately receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Each meeting has its own unique link. Please click on the link below to register for the relevant meeting.

- Please register for St Patrick's CBC - Parent Evening: ECD on Apr 27, 2020 7:00 PM:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/651763411615332878>
- Please register for St Patrick's CBC - Parent Evening: Grade R - 3 on Apr 28, 2020 7:00 PM:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5916281160500041998>
- Please register for St Patrick's CBC - Parent Evening: Grade 4 - 7 on Apr 29, 2020 7:00 PM:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1027266423710385422>
- Please register for St Patrick's CBC - Parent Evening Grade 8 - 12 on Apr 30, 2020 7:00 PM:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4343358308710733326>

If you have a specific topic you would like me to discuss, you will have until 15h00 on the day of the meeting to email it to me (jtredoux@stpatricks.co.za), i.e. topics that you would like me to address on Monday night at the ECD online meeting must be submitted by Monday at 15h00.

Remember: We are in this together, and we will get through this together.

Yours sincerely



Jacques Tredoux
EXECUTIVE HEAD