

St Patrick's CBC

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4 August 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

CLOSURE OF ST PATRICK'S CBC

As the COVID-19 virus expands its footprint in the Northern Cape and also having had two confirmed cases in three days at St Patrick's CBC, we have made the very difficult decision to close the school for one week.

I say difficult decision, because we have never been in a similar situation before. We have no historic information to fall back on. The playing field changes hourly and there are so many facts and factors to consider. According to research available, fewer than 2% of COVID-19 infections occur in children under the age of 19. However, we also have 180 staff members of various ages coming to school every day. Since this weekend, there are also increased levels of anxiety amongst our school family, both parents and staff, which is not conducive to a positive learning experience for our pupils.

The school will therefore close at the end of today, 4 August 2020, and reopen on Tuesday, 11 August 2020. This date will be reassessed on Monday, 10 August 2020 (the public holiday). This time will also be used to do a thorough deep clean and decontamination of all school facilities. There will still be Aftercare and Waiting Class today.

Pupils should please continue with the daily online learning programme, as to not miss out on any academic time. Scheduled assessments will continue during this period, including Zoom assessments.

I would like to also make use of this opportunity to explain the communication process if one of our school family members have tested positive for COVID-19. This should clarify any perceived delays:

1. The relevant Head of School and Grade Head are informed.
2. The parents of that specific class is informed and briefed telephonically, as they are most likely to be affected.
3. A class-specific letter is sent out to the affected class, and a letter to the general school family is sent out simultaneously.

The boarders' return to campus will be postponed to Saturday, 15 August 2020. A separate letter will be sent out to our boarder parents.

Even though we are closed for the next couple of days, please continue to inform me if you or your child are awaiting test results or have tested positive for COVID-19. This helps us to make informed and responsible decisions.

Please rest assured that we have your family's best interests at heart and are here to assist you every step of the way. We are in this together, and we will get through this together.

Yours sincerely

Jacques Tredoux
EXECUTIVE HEAD