

8 Park Drive,
Port Elizabeth, 6001

E-mail: prep@stgeorges.co.za
Tel: +27(0) 41 585 4825
Fax: +27(0) 41 585 1638

Campus Head Mr Alex Hall
(B Prim Ed, UPE)
www.stgeorges.co.za



ST GEORGE'S
PREPARATORY

16 March 2020

Dear Parents

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Closure notification

After much deliberation and consultation with a number of stakeholders, the school's Governing Council has taken the decision to close St George's Preparatory and Pre-Preparatory as of close of school today, Monday 16th March 2020 after extra-curricular activities have finished this afternoon. This is due to the growing numbers of Coronavirus (COVID-19) that have been confirmed in South Africa over the past weekend and since my previous correspondence on Friday, 13th March 2020. We are confident that this is the right decision to make at this time given the information we have at our disposal and it was confirmed by the Presidential address to the nation last night.

As we would have been breaking up for the Easter holidays on Wednesday, 25th of March, we felt it prudent to take the decision to close sooner rather than later as we believe this to be in the best interests of the health and well-being of our community. We understand this has a high impact on all our families and will create much inconvenience, however we do feel this disruption will certainly be for the benefit of all our pupils, staff and families.

We acknowledge that this situation will create further anxiety and we will continue to communicate with regular updates to keep you informed on when school will reopen. As mentioned in our previous correspondence, we will be looking at "distant learning platforms" should the closure be for a longer period than expected for the Senior Prep pupils. We are fortunate that we have both invested and trained to a sufficient degree in our Google Apps for Education (GAFE) over the past three years that our staff are well equipped for this change in thinking and our Google Classrooms are already well established. We will also be implementing alternative learning plans for our Junior Prep pupils. This, however, is more challenging as self-directed learning for our younger pupils is obviously far from ideal. We will prepare learning packs for our Junior Prep in the event of a prolonged closure and remain in contact as to how and when we would be able to distribute these. At this stage we will place all learning on hold for the remainder of term and allow families to establish their routines and the new norms that will be taking place. We, as a staff, will take this time to prepare and plan accordingly for when we hopefully open on Wednesday 15th of April after the Easter weekend.

We understand that this is very short notice, in particular for working parents, but given the circumstances, we have and will continue to communicate as quickly and effectively as possible. All school events will be cancelled as of Monday 16:30 16 March at this stage and we will reopen as of 15 April as per our Calendar unless otherwise communicated. Parent meetings will be postponed until re-opening and further details will be communicated. All scheduled school activities, including sports festivals/tours, parent interviews etc. will be cancelled until further notice.

We would like to wish all our community the very best during this time and thank you for your continued support particularly the families who were prepared to self-isolate in the interests of the greater community. It is at times like

this when a community realises that they really are only as strong as their weakest member. May you all take great care and look after yourselves and we trust this time may be used to further bond our families and to surround us with love and hope.

Please do not hesitate to contact us, preferably by email, if you require any further information. Let us all bear in mind our school motto, *Virtute et Prece* – With courage and prayer, as this certainly does ring true presently!

Yours sincerely



Alex Hall
Campus Head