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ST GEORGE'S
PREPARATORY

4 May 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Letter 7: School re-opening and Survey request

Dear Parents



After the announcement of the past week there is clearly still some uncertainty as to when and how schools may begin to re-open. We have been in communication with the ISASA policy unit as well as several meetings with leaders and heads of schools across the country to assist us in the decision making as to when we should re-open. It seems like all decisions at the moment are that of a multi-tiered approach and that one schools current reality may be substantially different to another's despite that they may seem obviously similar.

At this stage the following summary from the Minister of Basic Education's announcement seems to be the most accurate and concise with regards to education and the re-opening of government schools, a more detailed article can be found [here](#):

NOTES FROM BRIEFING BY MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION – Angie Motshekga

- Exams for May/June will be merged with the November exams
- New timetable for merged exams will be communicated as soon as possible
- School fees are payable and parents are requested to continue to pay so that schools can pay their teachers. If you cannot, please make arrangements with the school.
- Each Province, district and school must have comprehensive plans and talk to the localized risk profile.
- Standard Operating procedures have been developed for the containment and management of COVID-19
- Classes to be sanitized every day before classes start
- Hands to be sanitized before class
- No desk clusters, no hugging, cloth masks at all times
- Working with Transport Dept.
- Provision of water and proper sanitization being worked on. We have ordered sanitization packages.
- These items will all determine the phasing in process/times
- Learners and teachers to be screened on a daily basis and referred to Health Dept if needed.
- All plans to be verified by Dept of Health.
- We have been looking at curriculum recovery framework
- SCHOOL CALENDAR:

- 15th Jan – 4th Dec is the legal calendar that has previously been gazetted
- New calendar will need to be gazetted and this is the proposed calendar we are discussing.

This is the suggestion:

4th May – sector opens – does not mean school starts but officials go in to prepare – order sanitizers, order more desks, train teachers etc.

- *18th May – teachers will need to come into prepare*
- *Phased grades will then come back with the Grade 12s and 7s starting 1st June.*
- *Other grades will only be phased in when we are ready and prepared and would be in two week gaps.*

This is a very basic summary of the minister's address and still to date this has not been passed by cabinet. As a school we need to carefully consider a number of variables and scenarios in order to make the correct decision as to when we open and what that would look like. In order for us to consider the various options and scenarios we would appreciate the input of all our families in order to assist us with the decision making going forward. Please may we ask that you honestly and carefully complete the relevant surveys (links below) in order to assist us? All responses will be dealt with the appropriate confidentiality required.

Pre-Prep: <https://bit.ly/PPSurveyCOVID-19>

Junior Prep: <https://bit.ly/JPSurveyCOVID-19>

Senior Prep: <https://bit.ly/SPSurvey2020Covid-19>

As an independent school, as far as we can understand currently, we do have our own rights and responsibilities with certain decisions, but the basic SOP's (Standard Operating Procedures) given by the Departments of Health and Basic Education need to be adhered to. This still needs to be made public.

We thank you for your wonderful support during these challenging times and trust all our families continue to remain safe and have managed to adjust to some degree to the challenges of school at home as well as all the many responsibilities we carry as parents.

Our Admin Staff will continue to work remotely from home this week and we will continue to communicate clear information as to when the offices and schools will be opening. Please do not hesitate to contact us on prep@stgeorges.co.za or pre-prep@stgeorges.co.za if you require any assistance.

Yours sincerely



Alex Hall
Headmaster



Peter Pitsiladi
Chairman of the Governing Council