

MARYVALE COLLEGE

Independent Catholic Day School
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Pre-Primary and Primary School

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NEWSLETTER: 22nd May 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian, and learners

First, let us say we hope you and your family are safe and healthy as you read this newsletter. Thank you so much for your patience and understanding as we have been adjusting, like you, to the drastic changes in life during the last few months. We are extremely appreciative of our learners, parents, teachers, and staff for their positivity, flexibility and resilience during these trying times. A huge debt of gratitude also goes to all of our doctors, nurses, hospital employees, first responders, and our state leaders for all they are doing to keep us safe and healthy.

As you know, we are able to communicate with most of our learners and provide them with learning material together with online lessons to ensure that we continue with the syllabi for 2020. The Department of Basic Education has categorically stated that the 2020 academic year needs to be saved. We agree, as long as the lives of our children are not compromised. Our goal is to provide continuous support and practice for students while schools are closed but also to eliminate as much stress as feasibly possible for learners, parents, and teachers. While it is our responsibility to continue to educate our children, we also want to compassionately take into consideration the variety of difficulties that our families and employees are enduring during this time.

It is with this in mind that the College is in the process of preparing for the return of our matric and Grade 7 learners, who are scheduled to continue with their academic programme on Monday, 01 June 2020, as approved by cabinet.

We trust that the following information will provide some answers:

HIGH AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

- Please see the Maryvale College Policy for Infectious and Communicable Diseases attached. This will explain in detail, how the school will manage Covid-19 going forward.
- There will be sanitizing of equipment in every classroom and toilet, and the children will be advised on how and when to sanitize appropriately (see above policy).
- Sanitizer is available in every classroom and bathroom of the school.
- Wet wipes and paper towels will be made available. Children are to use them responsibly and avoid wastage. They must also dispose of them correctly and safely.
- All learners will stay in one classroom; teachers will move between classrooms.
- Lessons will provisionally be from 08h00 to 15h00 and any changes will be communicated, if they arise.



- Children will have to observe the social distancing rules during line-up, in the classroom, and at break time. We are aware that this is going to be challenging for our children so please, let's try prepare them as best we can. This includes the prevention of hugging, shaking hands, and all other physical contact.
- The Department has stated that both parents and children are not allowed to gather in groups at any time or place within or outside the perimeters of the school. Social distancing must apply at all times.
- PAYMENT OF FEES: As stated by the Minister in her 1 May address to the nation: *"The CEM took note of the concern, regarding the issues of school fees. We indicated from the start, that school fees are payable, where the children attend fee-paying schools. We received reports that in some schools parents did not pay fees; and this has affected the salaries of SGB-appointed teachers. It was agreed that provinces would look into the matter, to find an amicable but implementable solution. In the meantime, we urge all parents to continue paying school fees, if you cannot pay, because your circumstances have changed as a result of the COVID-19 please approach the school and communicate your challenges with them."*

Note that if income has been affected by the lockdown (i.e. since the end of March 2020), please let us have proof of either a letter from your employer (on an official letterhead), or if self-employed an official affidavit commissioned at a police station. Each parent's case will then be evaluated individually by the finance committee.

- School Fees: During this sensitive time, no cash payments will be accepted at either school. Cash is to be deposited at the bank and the proof of payment is to be scanned and emailed to the school.
Our banking details are: MARYVALE COLLEGE, STANDARD BANK, ACCOUNT NUMBER 001800531. Please remember to use your account number as the reference.
- Transport: no more than 7 children are allowed in a taxi, if more than 7 are in the taxi the child will not be allowed into the school and the parent will be notified of the infringement by the taxi. This is not being done out of spite, so please ensure that the drivers you use are responsible. Your child's safety comes first.
- No extra-mural activities will take place until further notice.
- No aftercare facility will be available.
- We have been instructed by the Department that all playground equipment and sports fields are to be cordoned off. No contact or ball sports are to be permitted on school grounds.
- For additional safety, the respective tuckshops will not be open. Learners are to bring their own food. Please ensure this is nutritionally sufficient for the day.
- As the virus can remain on clothing for some time, please ensure that school uniforms are washed frequently. Masks are to be washed daily.
- All communication with the school is to happen via email or telephone; no-one (other than teachers, staff and children) will be allowed on the premises. Please comply with this strictly.
- Parents will be asked to complete a healthcare screening questionnaire regarding the risk being taken in sending your child to school, prior to them returning.
- Due to the phasing in of grades, remote teaching as well as physical teaching is going to be taking place. This means, all the staff will return on 01 June 2020. The College will use Google Classroom or Zoom to deliver online lessons to the grades who have not yet returned to school. Should parents not have the ability to access online lessons, packs of work will be available each Monday, to be collected from the school, at the gate. Please



indicate if you require a pack of work, so that the correct amount of packs are printed. We will need the child's name and grade.

- No staff member or child is to be present at school for whatever reason, if they are ill. Please screen your child at home before school and keep him/her at home if the COVID-19 symptoms (see Policy) are prevalent.
- If you drop your child off at school, please wait for his/her temperature to be taken before leaving. If his/her temperature is above 37.5 degrees, he/she will not be allowed to enter the premises.

HIGH SCHOOL ONLY

- Matrics to return to school on 01 June 2020
- Please read the information for Primary School Only below: most applies to us as well.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ONLY

- Grade 7s to return to school on 01 June 2020.
- Every child is to wear a mask **to** and **at** school. 2 coloured, material masks will be provided to each learner. PLEASE NOTE THAT MASKS ARE COMPULSORY FOR BOTH STAFF AND PUPILS.
- To assist with washing of the uniforms, we will alternate uniforms to be worn. Meaning on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, a full winter uniform is required; Tuesday and Thursday, a school tracksuit will be worn.
- Parents may park on the bottom field, children are to exit the main, bottom gate and line up outside the school property, observing the social distancing markers on the pavement. Parents are asked to please remain in their cars. If we need to communicate to parents, both parties are permitted to wear masks.
- Children's temperature will be screened using an Infra-red handheld thermometer.
- If your child's temperature is below 38°C he/she will be allowed to enter the property and will wait on the basketball court, observing social distancing until school starts. Teachers will supervise the children during this period.
- If the child's temperature exceeds 38°C, parents will be asked to take the child home and to have their child assessed for any medical conditions. The school has been instructed to keep a register of all persons whose temperature exceeds 38°C.
- Pupils who arrive in transport/taxis will be screened using the same procedure, should one of these children's temperatures be higher than 38°C, the child will be isolated in the therapy centre and the parent will be contacted to come and fetch their child. **(PLEASE SEE THE PROCEDURE CONCERNING TRANSPORT/TAXIS NOT ADHERING TO THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF PASSENGERS ALLOWED IN A VEHICLE IN THE GENERAL LETTER ABOVE.)**
- The bell will ring at 7.55a.m.
- The Library and Computer Centre are not allowed to be opened, as per Departmental Guidelines.
- Each child has been designated a work station which is labelled and clearly marked.
- Children are to please limit the amount of books and equipment they bring to school.
- All items are to be clearly marked, ALL STATIONERY, SCHOOL BAG, LUNCH BAG, WATER /JUICE BOTTLES.



- Children's belongings will be stored under their chair.
- If possible children are to have stationery that can remain at school and a bag of stationery for home use.
- There will be no sharing or swapping of books and stationery.
- If books need to be marked, teachers will be using disposable gloves.
- Breaks will be staggered for different grades.
- Movement throughout the school will be limited and, at all times, supervised by a teacher.
- From 14h45 onwards, classes will be dismissed at intervals of 5 minutes, when all classes are back at school, to ensure social distancing. Proper details will be provided closer to the time.
- Please see the Addendum below for the Gr 7 parents and learners of procedures to be followed on the return to school.

In closing, a 'growth mindset' unlocks our ability to learn and grow especially during this difficult time. Because of this, we believe we all will be stronger when we come out on the other side of the COVID-19 Pandemic! History is being written! We hold the pen! Together, we will write the BEST story for our children!

Stay strong! Stay healthy!

Q H Davids and K Smith

Principals, High and Primary School



ADDENDUM TO NEWSLETTER

GRADE 7s RETURN

As we prepare for the return of the Grade 7s the following procedures need to be followed:

- The Gr 7s have been split into 2 groups. As their register class is the Rhino, the classes will be named White Rhino & Black Rhino. There will be 12 pupils in each class. Mrs Johnson & Ms Rose's classrooms will be used for their lessons. The children will be led to their classrooms by a teacher.
- White Rhino will have first break at 09h30 – 10h00 on the junior playground and second break 11h30 – 12h00.
- Black Rhino will have first break from 10h00 to 10h30 on the junior playground and second break at 12h00 – 12h30.
- From 14h00 – 15h00, there will be a special session per class. This session will be supervised by a teacher and it will be an opportunity for children to do their homework and/or engage in one-on-one lessons for work that was provided during the lockdown that they may need assistance with.
- In the first week, teachers will focus on English and Mathematics (as these are crucial subjects). Subjects will then be phased in according to National Revised Teaching Plans.
- Counselling will be available for the children to assist them with any challenges they have faced or will face going forward, due to the pandemic and lockdown.
- Each child has been designated a work station which is labelled and clearly marked.
- The reintroduction of all grades will be determined by the Department of Education and we await their feedback and guidance. As soon as we are aware of any developments, we will keep you posted.

PARENT FULL NAME: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

CHILD NAME: _____ GRADE: _____

CHILD SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

In signing this 5-page newsletter, parents have understood and agreed to the information contained herein.

