

Pretoria Preparatory School

Non-Profit Company
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EMIS No 212068 / UMALUSI No 17 SCH01 00280
Company Reg no 1980/002975/08

SPECIALISING IN REMEDIAL EDUCATION

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Dear Parents/Guardians

THE WAY FORWARD FOR PRETORIA PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The staff and I would like to extend our well wishes to you all. We trust you are all staying safe and healthy. You remain in our thoughts each day.

Everyone is feeling unsettled in these strange times. We are being inundated with conflicting information and instructions. We would like to encourage everyone to stay positive, to stay in routine and to be wary of what information to trust and follow.

In order to address the way forward for PPS please note the following:

1. When and how will PPS reopen?

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 soon. Dates for this address have been postponed.

In line with the levels of lockdown set out by the President, we thought we would address the stages in which PPS will manage our reopening.

We are currently in Stage 1 of the lockdown.

HODs, Teachers and Therapists have been preparing and sending home programmes to all our learners on a weekly or daily basis - depending on each class' needs.

HODs will continue to manage the academic needs of our learners in this format until everyone is able to return to school - as long as this may be necessary. The home programmes will continue to receive attention and be improved, and our parents' helpful feedback to the HODs is welcomed.

Stage 2 will be President Ramaphosa giving permission to reopen after lockdown and then the Minister of Basic Education, Ms Motshekga providing schools with clear guidelines as to how to reopen. To date, proposals that have been submitted indicate that this will be done in phases, a few grades at a time. We will only know how the phasing-in of the grades will work once the Minister has given clarity.

Stage 3 will be implemented as per the guidelines communicated by the Minister of Education.

Stage 4 will be PPS reopening for the grades allowed by the Minister of Basic Education.

All restrictions will be addressed as per guidelines received.

The process implemented at PPS will continue and be run concurrently with the phase-in process.

All activities that create crowded conditions will not be allowed in terms of the lockdown restrictions.

Stage 5 will see the remaining grades gradually returning to school. Again this will take place as and when approved by the Minister of Basic Education. PPS home programmes will continue to run concurrently.

All activities that create crowded conditions will not be allowed in terms of the lockdown.

Stage 6 will be implemented only once the pandemic is classified as non-risk and will fall in line with phase 1 ('all-clear') of the President's five phase Coronavirus plan, as announced in his speech on Thursday, 23 April 2020.

At this point all learners will be at school and 'usual' class teaching and activities will take place.

We do realize 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 Principal after consultation with the Board of Directors, and guidance by policies or procedures provided by the President, the Minister of Basic Education and the Minister of Health.

2. Preventative measures to be taken

The following preventative measures will be effective from the first day of any learner returning to school:

Please note that learners with underlying health conditions - e.g. Learners with asthma, diabetes, compromised immune systems should only return on medical advice, some suggestions have been received that they should only be considered at lockdown phase 2. Arrangements will be made with the teachers and HODs to accommodate these learners.

2.1 Standard precautions of Infection control:

- Only PPS learners and staff will be allowed into the gates. Other visitors will be addressed on an appointment basis with the necessary precautions put in place;
- general high standards of cleanliness will be observed at all times, areas used and facilities, as well as desks, to be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis; and
- 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 learners.

2.2 Prevention and control:

- All staff and learners (also visitors with appointments and other stakeholders) will be required to wear protective masks when on the premises. A mask will be deemed a compulsory uniform item for staff and learners when on the school premises. The masks worn must be of an approved standard. PPS parents will be able to purchase masks from the uniform shop for the learners. (We are awaiting the delivery of our order.) The cost of the masks will be R50. We encourage each learner to have at least 2 masks and recommend washing them with soap and water each day after wearing. Emergency disposable masks will also be available for learners who fail to arrive at school with their masks. These will be invoiced to parents. The cost of the disposable masks is R15.

2.3 Body temperature analysis

- Compulsory body temperature analysis will be conducted at the entrance to PPS. 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 the school.

2.4 Sanitizing equipment

- All persons wanting to gain access to the school will be required to sanitize their hands using an alcohol-based liquid as provided by PPS. In addition, learners and staff will be required to sanitize their hands upon entry/exit to all classrooms/venues;
- learners and staff will be discouraged from sharing personal equipment; and
- all shared school venues and equipment are to be sanitized after each use.

2.5 Quarantine periods

- Staff, parents/guardians, learners or any stakeholders who become infected with COVID-19 or who have been in contact with persons infected with COVID-19, will be required to quarantine from PPS for 14 days. During the quarantine period, the staff, learners or any stakeholder member, will not be granted access to PPS. The policy applying to absent learners will be implemented to ensure all work/homework is provided for the learners in quarantine. At this point we would like to stress that if your child exhibits flu-like symptoms we strongly recommend that you keep him/her at home until completely recovered.

2.6 Social distancing

All staff and learners of PPS 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, events and gatherings that create crowded conditions;
- learners' desks to be at least 1,2m apart; and
- keeping at least 1,2m apart from each other at all times.

2.7 Confidentiality

- Staff, parents/guardians, learners or any stakeholders have a legal right to confidentiality regarding their medical details. This confidentiality will not 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, learners or any stakeholders have a right to be treated equally, without prejudice or discrimination.

3. Parent Meetings

Parent meetings will be arranged in phases by the relevant staff members via email, telephone calls or online processes. This will be conveyed to you by the HODs.

Thank you for your support in these difficult times. It is because of the wonderful parents that we have who are standing together with our staff to do the best for our children, that we will get through this time stronger than before.

Look after yourself and your families, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours faithfully

Sherrill Wagenaar

Principal

PRETORIA PREPARATORY SCHOOL

