

15 May 2020

School Newsletter

(Newsletter 3)

DEAR MCA FAMILY

Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The battle against the pandemic is not yet won and it has caused a lot of inconvenience, to some at an unprecedented scale. We shall continue to pray for God's wisdom over our leaders and His intervention on all systems that have brought to a halt by the scourge. Let us also pray for our families, our relatives, our children, the entire family of Christians and the world at large during these tough times.

Be blessed with the following verse:

Ephesians 1:10
And this is the plan: At the right time He will bring everything together under the authority of Christ – everything in heaven and on earth (NLT)

REPORT ON ACADEMICS

Term 2 is coming to a close and we are pleased with the amount of work covered through the online school. Teachers will only revise the work when all learners are back at school.

We are working on a compilation of all the work covered during the lockdown for easy reference. These will be posted on our website once we have created the folders and links appropriately. We will advise when these are available to view.

Online school will continue for all classes even beyond the 1st of June until otherwise directed by the school.

URGENT ANNOUNCEMENT!!

Foundation Phase (Grades R, 1, 2 and 3) teachers are preparing workbooks for their learners. These **MUST** be collected from school on **Wednesday, 20 May 2020**. Parents coming to collect the material are requested to bring the first workbook given to their children when we closed in March, so that teachers can start marking and making necessary notes on their findings.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

As per the president's announcement on Wednesday, we are hopeful that we will be on Lockdown Level 3 from the 1st of June.

Phased re-opening of schools, starting with Grades 12 and 7, is still the plan given to all schools to work with. However, since MCA is a combined school and the two grades are in our Senior School, only **Grade 12** will come from the **1st of June**. We will advise if Grade 6 learners (highest grade in our Junior School) have to come as well – we are still waiting for special permission to do this.

I would like to emphasise this: **parents MUST act according to the announcement made by MCA** and not simply listen to the news and announcements directed at public schools. We are an **independent combined** school, so our program may be slightly different from that followed by many other schools.

I pleaded with parents to get at least two (2) washable masks per child as wearing of masks is now mandatory. There is still no clarity on whether these will be supplied by the department to independent schools as well.

Learners must also have hand sanitizers with the correct percentage of alcohol, for personal use.

Just a heads up: parents must start making arrangements with learner transport operators as there will be adjustments made in the number of learners they are allowed to carry. Don't just leave this to them – the safety of your child is of paramount importance.

Lastly, we are aware of the different views about the safety of the children as they return to school, since no one can guarantee that they may not contract the virus as they move about from home to school and back. Parents have a right to choose what happens to their children during this stage. Available options would be:

1. Send your child to school, or
2. Let your child stay at home and continue with online schooling until it is compulsory for them to return to school.

A survey on the parent's position on this will therefore be sent out to parents during the week, so that we know where we stand as a school. We assure parents that no learner will be disadvantaged academically irrespective of the option they choose. More information on this will be sent with the survey.