



6 January 2021

Dear 345 Vorna Valley Parents

### **COVID-19 ADJUSTED LEVEL 3 INTERIM COMMUNICATION**

I hope this letter finds you all well, rested and ready for 2021.

I would like to welcome you all back and in particular, extend a warm welcome to our new families that have joined us this year. I am looking forward to meeting you all and getting to know your children. I wish you all the very best for the year.

Last year was a challenging one for all of us, but the collaboration, resilience and support witnessed in our school and within our community enabled us to navigate those difficult times. We know that the same spirit of co-operation and support will be displayed through 2021.

With President Ramaphosa moving our country to an adjusted Level 3 lockdown as well as some announcements made in the media by educational bodies, such as ISASA, we felt it necessary to communicate our plans for the re-opening of our school in 2021.

Our staff are very excited to welcome our pupils back to school!

Last year, we had the opportunity to develop and refine our COVID-19 safety protocols, as well as the capability of our school to manage a safe learning environment for our pupils and staff. This next wave of COVID-19 will undoubtedly further challenge us; however, we are confident that we are able to continue to keep our pupils and staff safe, based on a solid and proven approach.

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## What does Adjusted Level 3 mean for the opening of our school?

### 1. Academic Calendar:

The teachers will be returning to school on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 as per our original schedule.

**However, the first school day for all pupils has been moved from Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

School will start as normal on the 18<sup>th</sup> January and children may start arriving from 6:45am. They will go through their screening at the main gate.

The school day will run as normal and will end at 2:00pm.

Half day children are to be collected by 2:00pm. Full day children must be collected by 5:00pm.

### \*Orientation Morning - New Children\*

Our new children and their parents will be able to pop in to school on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January** to meet their child's new teacher and see their classroom. Specific time slots will be allocated so there is no more than one family at a time at school.

The key reasons for delaying the start of the year are due to the following considerations:

- Giving holiday makers and families returning to Gauteng an opportunity to isolate ahead of the school year.
- We are expecting President Ramaphosa to give an update regarding the Level 3 lockdown on, if not before, the 15th January 2021. This announcement could further change the schooling landscape.

The 3 days lost will be made up during the year.

### 2. Mode of academic delivery

We would like all children to return to school for face-to-face schooling.

However, we do appreciate that there may be situations where:

- There may be COVID-19 positive pupils or households (Please inform me of this)
- Those in isolation may not be able to attend school yet (A letter from the parent will be required)
- There are members in your household that have comorbidities that place them at higher risk.

**For children in these circumstances, we will commence our Online Learning Programme from the 18<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Please ensure your requests are sent in by the end of business on Tuesday 12 January** via Administration or the Head of Department (listed below), should your child not be able to attend school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January . Please provide an explanation of your circumstance. We will then be able to implement the necessary support.

Admin - Kate Rowles - [adminvornavalley@345.co.za](mailto:adminvornavalley@345.co.za)

Head of Department - 345: Chrisna Kock - [chrisna@345.co.za](mailto:chrisna@345.co.za)

**Further details regarding the Online Learning Programme will be sent out early next week.**

### **3. Food Programme**

The food programme will commence on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> January.

### **4. Safety first!**

All Covid-19 protocols are still in place and will be strictly managed. We ask that you assist us by reinforcing the following protocols at home:

- **Masks or Hat Shields** are mandatory to gain access to our property. Pupils and staff are reminded to wear masks correctly over the nose and mouth.
- Our new 0000 children will be given a Hat Shield
- **Screening and sanitising** will take place upon arrival. Pupils and staff who display any symptoms will not be allowed access to the school.
- **Social distancing** will be enforced during the school day, at all times.
- **Doors and windows** will be kept open in all venues to ensure ventilation. All venues will be sanitised during the course of the day.

### **5. Transparency**

Parents, I must once again ask you for absolute transparency and honesty regarding your circumstances at home. Should you or anyone in your home come into direct contact with a COVID-19 positive person, or any member in your direct household be diagnosed with COVID-19, I must be informed immediately.

Given the international and local situation, there is no certainty about what the rest of this year will hold. Safety will remain our first priority, however, we also maintain our responsibility to our pupils **not to sacrifice any aspect of their education**. Thus, we will work collaboratively with

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you and as a community we will succeed in achieving the best possible outcome for this academic year, as we did last year.

We will continue to communicate with you as the situation in the country changes and we will update and adjust our programme as necessary.

Thank you for your continued support and for trusting us with the education, safety and well-being of your child.

**Please use the next 11 days to stay home and isolate where possible.**

Take care and as always.... Keep calm, and carry on.

Kind regards

Stewart Tagg  
Headmaster

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