



CARLSWALD HOUSE
PREPARATORY

16 March 2020

Re: Presidential Directive - COVID-19

Dear Parents

I hope this finds you well.

We were all rather shaken by the presidential address last night regarding how South Africa will be tackling the Corona outbreak. It was very comforting to see the firm and decisive stand that government has taken and as a school, we fully support the decisions made to curb the spread of this virus. That said, one of the directives was that all schools will close by the 18th March and 345 and CHP will be doing just that.

CHP will be taking the “April Holidays” early. Instead of closing on the 9th of April as per the school calendar, we will be **closing tomorrow, 17th March**. Tomorrow will be the last day of school. We will close at 1:30pm and aftercare will continue as usual tomorrow.

There will be no school from Wednesday the 18th March. We will reopen both schools on Monday 20th April. During this time of closure there will be NO holiday Care on either campus. Both campuses will be totally closed.

With us ending the first term early, we will not be releasing our “Home Learning Programme” as this time away from school will be considered our holiday period. **HOWEVER, should government extend the school closure period beyond the 15th April, we will then release the programme and children will be able to start working at home.** We will watch this situation very carefully and maintain our communication with you all as things unfold.

With the adjustment of the holiday dates, I do understand that some of you may have had holidays planned (hopefully internal) for April. If this is the case and you are unable to change your holiday dates, please let me know.

Regarding your school fee billing for April, we will not be billing for Aftercare, Food or Swimming for the month of April. Once we return to school in April we will add or adjust these services on your May school fee statement. Please be patient with the Finance Department as this is a very unusual situation for us.

Just another reminder that the CHP concert has been postponed to 30th May, but we will monitor the situation and confirm this date when we return to school in April.



Parents, this is a new situation for every one of us. However, our Government has done the right thing and I would encourage you all to support whatever decisions are made so that, as a country we are able to get through this situation with minimal impact.

Our first priority is and has always been the safety and health of our children and staff. We are equally concerned about the children's education and we will do whatever we need to, to ensure that the work that needs to be completed this year is done.

The Grade R - 3 teachers will be sending an "SOS Pack" home tomorrow which will contain at least 3 weeks of work that can be done IF we are not able to open on the 20th April. This work is not to be done before the school directly informs you to commence.

Please ensure that your internet connection at home is working and is adequate as we will need to rely on online work more heavily in April, should we remain closed for a longer period. This will apply to Grade 4 - 7.

If we are directed to remain closed beyond the 20th April, we may then have to adjust the school calendar for the rest of the year to ensure that we do not lose too much teaching time, however, I will communicate with you on this **IF** we need to.

Parents, we will come through this and we will be stronger for it. Let's ensure that we are working together, keeping our heads up and our conversations positive. Remember, your children look to you for safety at home so let's try and protect them from as much of the worry as we can.

Although the school will be closed until mid-April, I will continue to communicate with you as things develop and change and we will continue to remain ahead of the curve. I have also received many mails of support from parents and I would like to thank you all for your continued support. We are a family and that is how a family works. We will come through this!

Have a wonderful day and as always.... Keep Calm.... And Carry On!

Kind Regards

Stewart Tagg

Headmaster





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