

SUNLANDS PRIMARY NEWSFLASH RETURNING TO SCHOOL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Dear Parents

With this communication, I would like to address some of the frequently asked questions that we have received via email messages/zoom meetings. Please also note all the information shared in previous newsletters, which are available on the school's website. The processes and procedures to be followed to keep everyone safe at school are documented in these newsletters.

Please also be informed that Sunlands currently does not have any staff or children that have tested positive for Covid-19.

Questions:

1. Do I have a choice whether to keep my child at home or not?

- We want all children to attend school as it will assist to revise, consolidate and close learning gaps that may have occurred during Lockdown so that we can continue with the new work that must be covered before children proceed to the next grade.
- There is currently a concession for children WITH comorbidities to learn from home for a period as determined by the WCED (the end date of this period is still unknown). Forms and supporting documents must be submitted to the school. **PLEASE remember to complete a form for each child if there is more than one child in a family in Sunlands that you are keeping at home.**
- Please note that you WON'T be informed that you have permission to keep your child/ren at home. At this stage you are only notifying us and giving us the necessary evidence for the WCED should they require reasons for children not attending school.
- Healthy children, who are living with adults and siblings with comorbidities, will also be allowed to learn from home for this period of time and the same supporting documents as above will be required.
- For any other reasons, we are encouraging families to send children to school. Families are legally responsible for sending children to school until the age of 15. If you don't

want to send your child to Sunlands any longer, please deregister him/her so that we can offer the space to the many applicants on our waiting list.

If you wish to HOME SCHOOL your child, you will have to make application to the WCED. Please note the Home Schooling isn't the same as the method that we have provided during Lockdown and will continue to provide to families *with comorbidities*.

- If your child has a comorbidity and you have submitted all the necessary documents, you are still welcome to send your child to school at any stage when you feel more comfortable to do so.

2. How will children with comorbidities receive work?

- Work will be sent home in exactly the same format as during Lockdown. Completed work must be sent to the teacher or delivered at school.
- No streamed or video lessons will be available as we do not have the necessary resources and teachers will be required to deliver the curriculum to three groups which requires a lot more time.
- Should these families have any queries or would like to interact with the class teacher for clarification, etc. please contact them via ClassDojo.

3. How will assessments work for the children with comorbidities?

- To ensure the validity of formal assessments, these children will be required to come to school to write the assessments. They will write assessments in the afternoons in isolation in sanitized areas, when other children have been dismissed.

4. Will my child be deregistered if he/she is learning from home?

If you have applied and submitted all the documentation (re: comorbidities), you are working with the child, submitting work to teachers and you continue paying school fees, your child will not be deregistered during the period as determined by the WCED.

5. If I withdraw my child from school can he/she repeat the year?

- If you withdraw your child from school his/her place will be given to someone else and there will be no guarantee of a space at the school afterwards.
- Once children are in the official schooling system Gr R – 7, a decision to repeat a child can only be based on the outcomes of formal assessments.

6. Will children be allowed to wear a shield without a mask when sitting at their desk?

- We are all legally required to wear a mask. Children can wear both a mask and a shield.
- Children, who struggle with breathing while wearing a mask, will be encouraged to pull the mask below their nose, whilst also using a shield.
- Masks with fewer layers will also assist children with breathing.

7. How will breaks work?

- Newsletters covered this topic.
- TWO grades (half classes) will be out at break at a time. Class teachers or interns will supervise children so that there is an adult for every class.
- Children will have their lunch or snack in the classroom while their masks are off.

- Children will be required to stay on the dots painted on the grass, whilst they have conversations with their friends.
- We hope that in due course we will be able to come up with activities that will allow them to 'play' but also adhere to the physical distance required between them.
- Mr Moolman, our sport skills teacher, will teach children some of these games and teachers will facilitate it during break.

8. Will my child be able to wear Civvies on some days?

- Civvies will only be allowed in the week of children's birthdays.
- Wearing a school uniform is very important for children returning to school after Lockdown. It creates a sense of belonging, which is socially and emotionally very important after a long isolation period such as this and it is one of the few things that will remain the same.
- Children will, therefore, still be required to wear the correct school uniform and adhere to the code of conduct regarding hairstyles and accessories. School beanies, scarves and blankets are available at the Finance Department to add warmth to the uniform. For this period ONLY I've also allowed children to wear an extra warm jacket (navy blue preferably).
- If children have two sets of school uniform, it should be sufficient, as they are only attending school on two or three days per week and they will be allowed to wear their school tracksuit on the days of their sport skills lessons. I believe there will be sufficient time for the clothing to dry, should the child have more than one set of clothing.
- The blazer can be spray sanitized instead of washed every day. A good wash over the weekend will refresh it completely.

9. Does the school have sufficient staff to sanitize the building regularly?

- We are currently using our estate staff and the majority of the Aftercare staff to assist us with the regular sanitizing of the building.

10. Will there be consequences for children ignoring or breaking the Covid-19 rules at school?

- A generally more serious attitude towards school will be required as children return. Our academic time is very limited because of Lockdown and the rotational model of school attendance.
- Children will have to strictly adhere to the school code of conduct. We will not be able to tolerate the kinds of behaviours from certain children that we had to deal with prior to lockdown. **Parents will be requested to collect children from school, who disrupt lessons and are non-compliant as they will have a negative impact on the teacher's ability to deliver the curriculum successfully and children's right to education.** A conversation with your children to prevent this will be greatly appreciated.
- Breaking any rules regarding the special procedures to be followed during the Covid-19 Pandemic, will be viewed in a very serious light. Warnings for seniors (Gr 4 – 7) will not be considered in this regard, but we will proceed directly to disciplinary action which may ultimately lead to expulsion. People's lives are at risk and children must now become serious about how their careless actions can impact others.

- As part of the orientation period for the Foundation Phase, we will spend some time with the younger learners, to ensure that they understand the rules pertaining to social distancing, wearing masks, not sharing personal belongings etc.

11. General

- Parents whose children use lift clubs, will be responsible for checking that the child's temperature is normal before getting into the vehicle, that the vehicle is sanitized, social distancing is practiced and all passengers and driver are wearing masks.
- Unfortunately, we will not be able to accommodate days and times of high schools as it will be a logistical nightmare for the school.
- The CARE Team (psychologist, social worker and OT) of the school will be available to our children every day and will be interacting with them to ensure their wellbeing.
- Anything to do with Finances, please contact marche@sunlands.co.za

RETURNING TO SCHOOL

MOTORISTS: ARRIVAL OF LEARNERS – VERY IMPORTANT

Parents and lift clubs who are responsible for dropping off children in the mornings must please note the following:

- **Drop off MUST be done on the RIGHT-HAND side of the road. PLEASE adhere strictly to this rule.**
- **The left-hand side of the road must be left open for neighbours to exit their property and for motorists, who will be dropping children off on the opposite side of the school!**
- **Motorist MUST wait until teachers give them the 'thumbs up' before they can drive off.**
- **Children MAY NOT be left standing on the pavement, unsupervised by an adult, waiting for the school gates to open at 07:40.**

Mrs A van Heerden
2020-06-30