



Dear Parents,

***FROM THE HEADMASTER***

Well done to all on surviving the first week of online learning. We are all working in a paradigm of learn-as-you-go, particularly when it comes to the challenges of time, bandwidth and devices that come with a whole family in lockdown, or children working from home while parents perform essential service work away from home. For this reason, I would like to stress our offer for support during online learning. Please feel free to contact our academic, pastoral and IT teams in areas where they may be able to assist. Should you also find that you need support with online learning devices please let either Scott Hauptfleisch (SP) or Kenda Melvill-Smith (JP) know. I am also happy to answer or redirect queries or requests for help to the correct team if they are sent directly to me. The email address for this type of communication is [kmelvillsmith@stpeters.co.za](mailto:kmelvillsmith@stpeters.co.za)

The school is also mindful of the fact that there are families who are experiencing severe financial pressure at this time. You will be aware of the measures we have taken to alleviate pressure in this regard from the Rector's bulletins, but please feel free to communicate directly with either Kenda Melvill-Smith or myself if you would like to address specific challenges and requests. While all requests will be forwarded to the Finance Committee through the Business Manager, it sometimes helps to have someone to bounce ideas off before official submissions are made.

The school is currently following the guidelines and procedures for reopening the campus that have been submitted by the Minister of Education for ratification and gazetting. As such, our Ops Team is meeting to finalise the logistics around the safe return of staff and pupils to the campus as soon as possible. We are consulting widely regarding health and safety protocols and will make sure that these are shared with you as soon as they have been finalised. I am also aware that there is a large number of families who may prefer to keep children at home despite the official reopening of campus. For this reason, the online curriculum continues to be developed and will be in place for the foreseeable future. Unfortunately, we will have to postpone our 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee community celebrations that were scheduled for 19 and 20 June. We will, however, ensure that we get together for some form of celebration as soon as we are able to. There will, in time, be much to celebrate...

I must take time to express a particular vote of thanks to our teachers at this time. They are preparing and delivering the online lessons with great professionalism and care. I am sure that many of our parents will empathise with the fact that, for many of them, this means that teachers' children are having to learn great independence and be resilient in their own learning. Mom or dad can't be teaching the class online and their own child at the same time. On the positive side, however, this means that they can fully understand parents' frustrations when it comes to balancing work/home demands during lockdown. Please remember that, during these difficult times we all need to be flexible regarding deadlines and, as I often say in staff meetings to "...share the love..." with all. It is a privilege to belong to such a caring and resilient community and I thank all of you; parents, teachers and boys for upholding the St Peter's values at all times.

Stay safe and stay positive

**Rob Macaulay**

***FROM THE JUNIOR PREP***

***7 STRATEGIES TO SURVIVE ON-LINE LEARNING***

By **PHILIPPA FABBRI**

IT TAKES A VILLAGE...

**Home-schooling vs On-Line Learning**

Literally overnight, parents have had to become like teachers, along with everything else they are attempting to squeeze into already overfilled schedules. What's happening here during Covid19, is not home-schooling, it's on-line learning. Home-schooling is an academic process that parents choose for the education of their children after much consideration

and investigation. On-line learning is unlike anything we have had to do before. Suddenly children are at home all the time. On-line learning has opened a range of dilemmas which parents and teachers are now facing. If ever there was a time that parents and teachers needed to work as a team to support our children it is now.

### **Parenting vs teaching**

Let's start with what we can control. Parents, you know how to love and care for your children and you understand them better than anyone else. Don't be overly concerned with how much they are learning. The world is a stressful place right now and anxiety is contagious. Children need to feel supported and comforted. Do what feels right for your family. Try not to compare what you are doing to others posting about their experience on social media or Whatsapp groups. Likewise, teachers have had to reinvent their curriculum, produce new resources and be brave enough to film themselves. As a result, teachers are working long hours to produce on-line learning that is both relevant and appealing for younger children (some with limited IT understanding). They are also struggling with compassion fatigue as they worry about how the children in their class are coping as well as trying to balance the young child's mental health with academics. Human beings are incredibly resilient, children especially so. We'll all adapt and one day soon, normal life will resume – with a much greater appreciation for the things we took for granted before. Sometimes the path of least resistance is the right path so remember to be reasonable and kind to yourself, your family and your teachers. The goal should be to stay sane and stay safe.

## **HERE ARE 7 STRATEGIES TO HELP YOU MANAGE ON-LINE LEARNING**

### ***1 Keep routines in place***

Setting and sticking to a regular schedule is key. Consistency and structure are calming during times of stress. Plan to work alongside your child where possible. You'll do some of your stuff while they are doing theirs. Plus, you'll be there to help them stay on task or answer any possible questions; unfortunately, the younger the child the more parental support and input they will require. Once the routine is established it should get easier. Block out realistic work periods that can last anything between 5 to 20 minutes for primary school children and for upper primary and high school students, it varies between 15 and 45 minutes.

### ***2 Include other activities and exercise***

Incorporate new activities into your routine, like doing a puzzle or having family game time in the evening. Build in activities that help everyone get some exercise. Game-ify mundane things. Prioritise social time but at the same time, stay home and avoid playdates.

Nurture your child's interests and cultivate those non-school activities that no one ever seems to have enough time to pursue. Know that down time is healthy: Everybody needs and wants time to do whatever they want. Save some screen time allocations, but do not allow this to rule the day.

### ***3 Schedule in time for your own work***

Budget quiet time into the schedule so that if you are working from home, you can decide when you want privacy and allow your children to have some of their screen time then. This keeps them occupied when you need to work. Take shifts, if possible, so that if you have a partner or a family member who lives with you, try to tag team your work and child coverage. Plan on relieving each other and make arrangements to check in with each other when your children are asleep. Whatever routines you create during this unusual time will need tweaking as you go; the key is to be flexible and adaptable and not to plan more than a week at a time.

### ***4 Manage your own anxiety***

It's completely understandable to be anxious right now (how could we not be?) but how we manage that anxiety has a big impact on our children. It is also a good idea to limit consumption of news and social media that has the potential to feed your anxiety, and that of your children. Turn the TV off and mute or unfollow friends or co-workers who are prone to sharing panic-inducing posts and try to avoid talking about your concerns within earshot of children.

At the same time have discussions with your children at the appropriate level about health issues and safety measures during this pandemic. We also need to let our young children get used to wearing masks and even going out with you to the shops. They need lots of reassurance as well as time to express their own concerns or worries with either mom or dad.

**5 Stay in touch virtually**

Keep your support network strong, even when you're only able to call or text friends and family. Socialising plays an important role in regulating your mood and helping you stay grounded, and the same is true for your children. Connect with friends and family via Hangouts, Zoom or Skype. Communication can help children feel less alone and mitigate some of the stress that comes from being away from friends. Initially your child may need some help or direction to feel comfortable with communication via technology.

**6 Make plans and keep it positive**

In the face of events that are scary and largely out of our control, it's important to be proactive about what you can control. Making plans helps you visualize the near future. Plan to just postpone celebrations like birthdays and graduations instead of cancelling or arrange to hold them online. Seeing you problem-solve in response to this crisis can be instructive and reassuring for children.

If children are excited about being at home with you, let them know that you're glad they're excited, but make sure they understand that though it may feel like they are on holiday, things will be different this time.

**7 Make time to check in**

The most important person in this whole situation, is yourself. If you aren't OK, how are you going to look after the other people in your life? There is no right or wrong here, just what's right for you. Keep a check on your own mental and physical well-being and don't hesitate to ask for support.

Plan to check in with younger children periodically and give them the chance to process any worries they may be having. Children who are tantruming more than usual, being defiant or acting out may actually be feeling anxious. Pick a calm, undistracted time and gently ask how they're feeling and make sure to respond to outbursts in a calm, consistent, comforting way.

Older children may express themselves differently or may internalize a lot of what they are feeling. As long as they know that you are there and available for a chat, they will feel more secure.

**Conclusion**

My granny always used to say when I was having a crisis or a tough time at school, "This too shall pass" and she was right. It always did. We know that life after Covid19 will never be the same again and we therefore need to take all the good that has happened and the lessons that we have learnt and strive to live simpler, better and cleaner lives. Isn't it about time we did?

References:

<https://childmind.org/article/supporting-children-during-the-covid-19-crisis/>

[https://www.additudemag.com/daily-schedule-coronavirus-home-school/?src=embed\\_link](https://www.additudemag.com/daily-schedule-coronavirus-home-school/?src=embed_link)

<https://ethics.org.au/this-isnt-home-schooling-its-crisis-schooling/>

*Adaptions – Kenda Melvill-Smith*



Wishing all our Mothers a very blessed day on Sunday – never forget how special you are to your families and more particularly your little boys. We know the last number of weeks under lock down has provided an opportunity to bring families closer together and appreciate the time we have with each other. You are loved!

### COMMUNITY NEWS

I would like to welcome Claire Fietze back to St Peter's and hope she is feeling rested and rejuvenated. Thank you to Jaya Govender for all the hard work, love and happiness she put into teaching our little Grade 0 boys in the first term. Jaya will be missed at St Peter's and we wish her lots of joy in her new ventures.

Lesego Ndlovu gave birth to a healthy little boy, Amonge Landelihle Mholi, on 15 April. We wish this new family much happiness and love in the years to come. While Lesego is on Maternity Leave, Nikki Dickson has stepped into her shoes. Welcome Nikki, I hope you have a very happy term at St Peter's – Nikki has taught at St Peter's in the past and is mother to three little boys.

Cole Hall's (Grade 0F) little brother arrived during the holidays. Megan Hall gave birth to a beautiful healthy little boy, Liam Samuel. They are all doing well and Cole is a very proud big brother!

### LEARNING PLATFORMS

The teachers have worked hard to adapt the on-line learning platforms during the holidays to meet the feedback we received from the parent surveys. As with all adaptations we do need to tweak some areas once they have been tried.

#### **SeeSaw – Grade 0**

SeeSaw has added a new dimension to their offering called SeeSaw Class, currently our Grade 0 boys are using SeeSaw Family. On **Friday, 08 May** you will receive a letter and a new code for SeeSaw Class with your weekly timetable. Please could you install this app over the weekend for use on Monday. SeeSaw Class is more interactive and the posting of work is easier to manage. We believe this platform will be a better choice as on-line learning continues.

#### **Google Classroom – Grade 1 and 2**

The posting of on-line work has been difficult with the whole grade being grouped together on Google Classroom. As a result, we are moving boys into their own class so that only their class teachers receive the work that they are posting. On **Friday, 08 May** you will receive a letter and new code to allow you to make this change for your son, as of Monday all work is to be accessed via the teacher's class and submitted to their class teacher.

Once work has been submitted the teacher will mark it and write comments on the right hand side of the page. The work will then be returned so that you and your son can see how he is managing. There is no need to submit the work again unless your teacher has asked for the activity to be corrected or completed.

### On-Line Communication

#### **Zoom**

Please could I ask that the boys watch the video that has been posted before the start of their Zoom session. These videos are teaching them new concepts or skills which will then be expanded on during a Zoom session with their teacher.

On Friday our specialist teachers will be hosting class socials giving boys some time to interact as a class and providing a fun structured activity for them to enjoy their time together.

All Zoom sessions will be recorded if you need a copy of the recording because your son was unable to attend his session, if you want clarification of the concept being taught or if your son is struggling with communication via Zoom. Please let your class teacher know and they will forward the recording to you.

#### **Weekly Whatsapp call**

Class teachers, supported by specialist teachers, will be calling your son via Whatsapp once a week. This is an opportunity for your son to read to his teacher, complete an activity with his teacher and to touch base with her, so that she can gauge how he is doing. As tempting as it is, please don't assist your son at this time as the teacher will be using these opportunities to understand how best to support him, both on-line and when returning to school. As there are a number of children that need to be contacted on a day please could I ask that parents do not use this time to communicate extensively with your son's teacher. If you need an opportunity to touch base, please set an alternative time that is mutually convenient or send an email.

#### **Parent Consults**

As we were unable to host parent consults at the end of last term the class teachers will be setting these up as an on-line consultation after **18 May**. They will give you feedback with regards to what was observed during the first school term and ask questions around your on-line experience. Details will follow closer to the time.

**READING DURING COVID-19**

Together with other Junior Prep Heads we have been investigating various on-line reading programmes. The difficulties we are experiencing is that there are very set levels which correlate with either the USA or UK education systems. Until we find something suitable we will continue to use Reading Eggs; as it is a most appropriate programme that allows boys to read at their level.

**Reading Eggs****Grade 0**

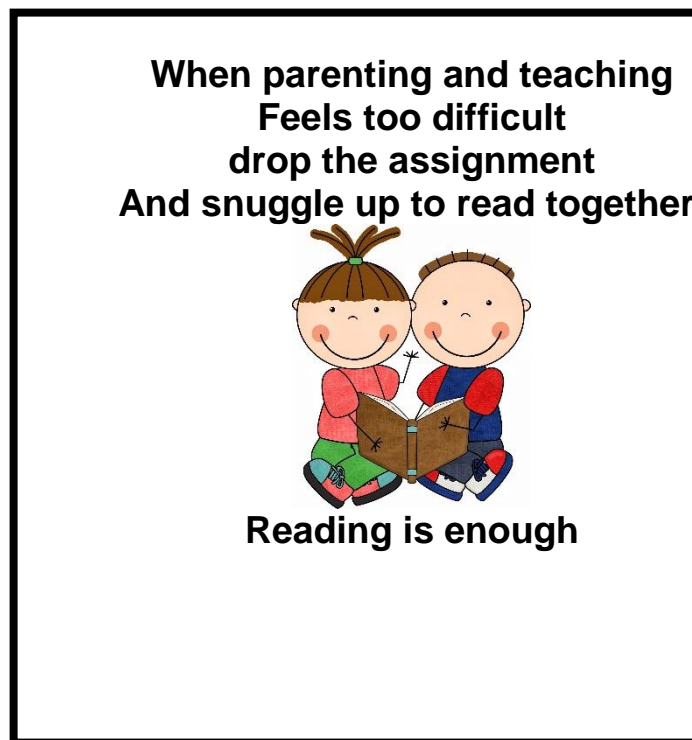
As of Monday Grade 0 boys will be able to access their own Reading Eggs. Your class teacher will assign an access code to you which you will need to use together with the app. The use of this app is voluntary for Grade 0 boys – please do, however, only access the appropriate age level. This will include auditory and visual perceptual activities, initial sounds and coding of three letter. Our Grade 0 boys are perceptually not yet ready to read, and any reading will be rote learning rather than the application of true reading skills.

**Grade 1 and 2**

It is essential that all Grade 1 and 2 boys log onto Reading Eggs – if you have forgotten your code you will find it under resources on your Google Classroom. Before commencing your son needs to complete an assessment which will determine the level on which he will be placed. He can use passages from “My Programme” as readers and then books under “Library” for extra and extension reading.

**Parental Reading**

The foundation for reading is laid when parents read to their children. Please make time in your schedule to read to your child during the week, or even go on-line to find Read Aloud Stories he can listen to. The rhythm and expression when listening to stories allows your child to understand punctuation and to experience reading for pleasure. By asking questions about the story his comprehension skills will be enhanced.



Wishing you a happy week.

Warm regards,

**Kenda Melvill-Smith**

**COVID 19 OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES**

St Peter's is known for the warmth and compassion we demonstrate within our communities. We also understand that many of our families are not in a position to give at this moment. As we are in lock down and the school is not allowed to open, here are some suggestions, should you be looking for ways to give:

St Peter's is supporting the Gift of the Givers and we are donating R10 000 to them to use at this vulnerable time because it is part of our Christian Ethos.

Should others wish to give financially, we suggest they donate directly to the Gift of the Givers. Banking Details as follows:

Account name - Gift of the Givers

Bank - Standard Bank

Branch code – 051001

Account number – 052137228

Reference - Covid-19.

Should you wish to donate food, there is an organisation, SAHarvest, who with Fidelity are delivering food parcels to the needy. They have a drive-thru drop-off at the Lonehill Vet on the corner of Lonehill Boulevard and Crestwood Drive. Boxes will be placed in their car park on these specific days and times. All you need to do is drive in, deposit your food donation in the box and drive off.

Saturdays 09:00 – 12:00

Sundays 09:00 – 10:00


Mondays 09:00 – 13:00

Should you wish to donate clothing, please hold on to it for delivery to Reception at St Peter's when pupils return to school. Our Heads of Pastoral Care will distribute it.

Finally, should you be needing a food parcel at this time because of your circumstances, please don't be too proud to ask, just drop me an email at [fatherrichard@stpeters.co.za](mailto:fatherrichard@stpeters.co.za) and this will be dealt with in absolute confidentiality. You are our family and at times like this we need to support each other.

Love and blessings

**Fr Richard**



**70<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATIONS**




During the 90's, the exiled King of Albania, entrusted the education of his heir to St Peter's. Prince Leka or 'Lekkie', as he was known, was a lanky fellow with a diffident and retiring manner. His name on all documents, as well as his signature on work were identical:  
*HRH Leka of Albania.*

While at school, Lekkie was always accompanied by two bodyguards, ex special forces soldiers wearing holstered 9mm pistols. During the day they read countless novels and willingly assisted at functions, no doubt to relieve the boredom. A romantic liaison even developed with a single teacher.

When his mother, Queen Susan, would visit me, one of the bodyguards would first search my study, even checking behind the curtains before he announced her and ushered her in. Fortunately, no small boys with ill-intent were ever encountered.

Lekkie went on to Sandhurst and was married a year or two back in a glittering ceremony attended by various European royal families.

**Greg Royce**



**NEWS ARTICLE ABOUT ALL OF US!**

St Peter's Prep Schools has an article in the Waterfall Magazine, pages 22 to 25: [Waterfall Issue 5](#)

**FROM THE PRE-PREP**

Applications for St Peter's Pre-Prep

At the beginning of this year, St Peter's opened up a Pre-Prep catering for Grade 00 and Grade 000 children. For Grade 00 children are 4 turning 5 in the year that they start and for Grade 000, the children are 3 turning 4 in the year that they start.

We are in the process of contacting parents whose children have been accepted for the start of the 2021 year. If you currently have a child in

either the Boys or Girls Prep and would like to take up the opportunity for a younger sibling to attend the Pre-Prep, please contact our Admissions Officer, Nonhlanhla Majokane via email: [nmajokane@stpeters.co.za](mailto:nmajokane@stpeters.co.za)

**COMMUNITY SHARING FOR BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

Please note that the google form link is open again. Please complete your details if you HAVE NOT done so before. An updated contact list will be shared Mid May.

The link and original letter explaining the objective can be found on the Communicator under Resources: BOYS/GIRLS: General Information.

Here is the link to the form: <https://forms.gle/j92Bn5mSd4HQSUp67>

## SIMPLE STEPS FOR IT SUPPORT

ITHELPDESK@STPETERS.CO.ZA

- 1 LOG A SUPPORT TICKET**

Email: [IThelpdesk@stpeters.co.za](mailto:IThelpdesk@stpeters.co.za)  
Please include a clear description of your problem and your telephone contact details. A Ticket number will be sent to you by return email.
- 2 YOUR TICKET WILL BE ASSIGNED**

Your request will be reviewed and assigned to one of the IT Staff. You will receive this information automatically via return email. Please keep this email.
- 3 UPDATING YOUR TICKET**

All communications need to be done by replying to the automated email. Please, do not change the subject or remove the Ticket Number as these help us.
- 4 IT WILL CONTACT YOU**

IT will contact you, either via the Support Desk email or telephonically. Telephonic conversations will be added to the Support Ticket.
- 5 CLOSING YOUR TICKET**

When your issue is resolved, your Ticket will be closed by the Support Desk and you will be notified via email. If you are unhappy with the solution or if your matter has not been resolved, please respond to this email and your ticket will be re-opened and escalated.
- 6 ESCALATION**

Unresolved and re-opened Tickets will be escalated to a Senior IT person.
- 7 UNABLE TO LOG A TICKET**

Please contact the following IT members, telephonically or via WhatsApp  
Dieter Gloss +27 72 625 9163  
Connor Fraser +27 72 626 9517

WE ARE UNABLE TO SUPPORT ISSUES RELATING TO SLOW OR FAULTY FIBRE/ADSL (INCLUDING MOBILE 3G/4G/LTE). PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SERVICE PROVIDER DIRECTLY.