



ST PETER'S
BOYS PREP SCHOOL
SERVING THE FAITH
FOR 70 YEARS

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE #951

DATE: 28 May 2020

SENIOR PREP &
JUNIOR PREP

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON BACK TO SCHOOL IN THIS NEWSLETTER
FOR ALL CHILDREN GRADES 0 TO 7**

FROM THE PREP SCHOOLS HEADMASTERS

This week we'd thought it would be useful to send out a combined Boys and Girls Keyhole, following Greg's COVID update, to ensure all our parents are on the same page with regards to re-opening St Peter's Prep Schools.

School Reopening Dates

As you are now aware, we will reopen with Grade 7s on 1 June.

We are hoping to follow this with a phased reopening – one grade per phase over the next three weeks, but are still waiting for permission from the Departments of Education. The proposed dates would be:

- 8 June: Grades 6, 4, 2
- 17 June: Grades 5, 3, 1, 0 (remember that the weekend up to 16 June is a long weekend)

Sanitation Areas

Each Grade, across both schools, will be taught in a sanitation area throughout the day. Screening, temperature testing and sanitising will take place at the entrance to the area. Classes will be divided within the area to ensure social distancing protocols and toilet facilities will be specific to each area. Staff members will also be allocated to a specific Grade to prevent any cross-pollination of the virus on school property. The areas are:

Girls

Grade 7: Art Room, new Library and Mrs Gordon's old class
Grade 6: New Flexi-Space and Grade 6 Classrooms
Grade 5: Science Lab and Grade 5 Classrooms
Grade 4: Own classes and Music Room
Grade 3: Own classes and Old Art room
Grade 2: Own classes and playground
Grade 1: Own classes and playground
Grade 0: Own classes and playground

Boys

Grade 7: Dodson Hall, Dining Hall and Big Group teaching room
Grade 6: Napier Quad
Grade 5: Library, IT classrooms and Dance Studio
Grade 4: Grade 5 Block, Science Lab and I&D Room
Grade 3: Middle School Quad
Grade 2: Classrooms and Designated overflow areas in JP (Downstairs)
Grade 1: Classrooms and Designated overflow areas in JP (Downstairs)
Grade 0: Upstairs classrooms and facilities in JP



While parents are being asked to adopt a "drop and go" process, should there be a specific need, a parent may bring the child to the sanitation station, but may not enter sanitised zones.

Mask Etiquette

- Masks must be worn in all common indoor areas such as classrooms, walkways and bathrooms.
- Boys and Girls must bring spare masks to school in the likelihood that a mask falls on the floor.
- Phase heads will allow for “brain breaks” and “snack breaks” at regular intervals through the day. During these times clusters of children will be taken to an area where appropriate social distancing of not less than 4m can be monitored. Children will be allowed to remove masks, jump around and eat a snack.
- The Sports Department will facilitate at least one PE lesson per class/cluster on the fields each day. The appropriate social distancing for mask-free activities will be adhered to during these exercise times.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Specific drop-off points have been designated to the different Grades and we will try to stagger drop-off times to alleviate traffic congestion where possible. The following general rules will apply:

- Parents are to please to remain in their cars and adopt a drop and go procedure.
- Should there be a need to park the vehicle for any reason all occupants must remain in the car and only the child may leave the vehicle to go directly to the appropriate sanitation zone.
- In the lower Grades, pick-up could be done through a parent communicating their arrival to the teacher. The child will then be allowed to sanitise, leave the zone and proceed directly to the car.
- Masks must be worn throughout these procedures and social distancing must be maintained.
- Government regulations stipulate that all children must be collected at the end of the school day.

Preparing to come back to School

- The week before a grade is scheduled to come back, the school will send home a video that will show exactly what to expect when coming back to school.
- We are also considering inviting parents and children to have a test walk-through of the sanitation area to experience the process and procedures. This will most likely take place on the Thursday before the grade is due to start.

What are the Benefits of Returning to School?

While the online content will be the same material as is offered in face-to-face teaching, the opportunity to discuss learning material with both teachers and other boys throughout the day will enhance learning and promote both collaboration and creativity. The negative effects of social isolation during lockdown have been well-documented and the opportunity to enjoy group learning and physical activities and well as face-to-face contact with friends and teachers cannot be underestimated. The structure that will be in place during the school day will allow children to complete work during the academic morning and to enjoy their family exercise and social time once they return home.

Parents, are however requested to let the school know in advance, if children are going to miss school for any reason, as it may affect staffing deployment.

Useful Information

- Uniforms: Boys and Girls do not need to wear school uniform. This is not only to reduce costs for parents but also because clothes need to be washed every day.
- Bags: All bags brought to school must be washed every day or disposed.
(No school bags allowed)
- Hair: There are no expectations to adhere to school policy in this regard, until the barbers or hair salons are opened. Girls hair must be tied up.
- Food: Children should bring a packed lunch to school in a washable or disposable bag. The kitchen may be able to provide snacks at a later stage.

Have a wonderful weekend ahead. We look forward to seeing our Grade 7s on Monday

Rob Macaulay and Darrel Webb

Please click on the below links as both Headmasters and a few teachers provide a demonstration of what the Grade 7 Boys and Girls can expect on Monday morning:

Girls Prep: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ULQ2iOn5CHE>

Boys Prep: <https://youtu.be/OuHD0kNrJ0w>

FROM HEAD OF THE JP

How to best support your child going back to school

With the announcement of Grade 7S and matrics going back to school on 1 June, St Peter's has been working hard to prepare the environment to which the boys will be returning. On Monday, 8 June, the Grade 2 boys will resume school and on Wednesday, 17 June the Grade 0 and 1 classes will return. More details on how this will look will be communicated via video and written communication the week prior to your son returning.

The Grade 2 boys will therefore not have their week of FLP (project work) and Parents Zoom Consultations will be postponed for a few weeks. Grade 0 and 1 will continue with their FLP week from 8 – 12 June and Parents Consultations will take place during that week as planned. Grade 0 and 1 teachers will contact you to set up a mutually convenient time for this.

In order to prepare them for the transition back to school, it is important that we support them not only emotionally but also prepare them practically for a school environment which will look very different to the one which they left last term. Naomi Holdt, an educational psychologist, gave some suggestions on how parents can assist with the transition.

Parents play a significant role in this preparation. Children have been at home during the last few months and they feel safest with you. It is important to communicate the changes as honestly and age appropriately as possible. They need to start hearing about it now, before school starts. Regular conversations about how things will be done and how they will look once they return to school should be initiated. The following issues can to be addressed:

- **Masks**

The boys will be required to wear them during the morning at school and these can be uncomfortable, especially if they have not had many opportunities to wear them. A suggestion would be to try different masks while they are still at home to see which ones are most comfortable for your child in order to alleviate touching and pulling at the mask. Practise wearing masks so your son becomes accustomed to wearing it. The virus is going to be with us for a long time so it is something to which they will eventually have to become accustomed.

The boys will initially pull and fiddle with their masks. It is important not to chastise them as this will build up a negative association towards masks and going back to school wearing masks. Rather use a code word or action (clap hands, click fingers etc.) which will serve as a reminder to keep their hands off their face and mask.

Teachers will look different and children will not see their smiles. Show them how eyes look when smiling so they know what to look out for when they see their teachers.

- **Washing hands**

Although this is a discussion we have had with the boys continuously before school closed, coming back to school will require frequent washing during the school morning. It is critical that reminders of the 20 second rule and a thorough soapy wash is reinforced.

- **Break Time**

Breaks will look very different. There will be no climbing or playing on the equipment and these will be taped up and out of bounds. There will be no rough and tumble or physical contact with friends and boys will need to keep a certain distance apart when they eat lunches and move about. It might feel quite militant at times and the boys will need reassurance that teachers are doing it for their own safety and well-being. They will be able to chat and laugh together while keeping their distance.

- **Class Structure**

These will look very different to the class they left behind. Tables and desks will be placed at about 2 metres apart and the children will work within a small area around their table. Only about 16 children will be in each class so there is a possibility that they might be in a mixed group with one of the other grade teachers. The boys have become very familiar with all the teachers in their grade during the on-line learning and we will ensure that they are comfortable in their group.

- **Interaction**

It will be important to emphasise that there will be no hugs, high fives or touching on their return to school. Talk about different ways to greet each other – a thumbs up or virtual high five.

Teachers will not be able to hug the boys (something they are going to find exceptionally hard). Hugs will be done in sign language and the boys will need to know that.

- **Stationery and Equipment**

Unfortunately, no sharing of equipment will be permissible and it is important to stress the importance of this with your boys.

- **Kindness and Tolerance**

Conversations around kindness during these challenging times needs to be encouraged. Please explain to your son that if someone sneezes or coughs, it does not mean they have the Corona Virus. St Peter's emphasises compassion and respect so teasing or bullying in this regard will not be tolerated.

- **Communication**

Please ensure you communicate with your son's teacher or myself if you have any concerns regarding your son and his reintroduction to school.

Please start these conversations with your son well before his class reopens. Repetition of all the above mentioned issues are essential for his adjustment to this transition. Your response and preparation in this regard will determine how your child will cope with the changes which lie ahead and his long-term emotional well-being. We are all in this together and will be guiding and supporting your son once he is back at school.

From all of us in the Boys Junior Prep, we wish you well for the times ahead and so look forward to having your sons back with us again.

Nginithanda nonke.

Kenda Melvill-Smith

PREPS: COVID-19 PROTOCOL

The school has taken the necessary precautions to ensure a safe environment for your child’s return to the campus. Please read through the below Covid-19 protocol. It is important that both Parents and Pupils follow this protocol and always remember the St Peter’s Covid-19 mantra: “I protect you, You protect me”

For more information, please visit the Prep Schools dedicated Covid-19 page:

<https://www.stpeters.co.za/boys-prep/content/page/boys-and-girls-covid-19-protocols>

ST PETER'S PREP SCHOOLS Covid-19 PROTOCOL

- 1** Pupils and Parents to enter school wearing face masks
 Be Honourable
 Keep face masks on at ALL times
- Temperature screening will be done as pupil arrives
 Be Collaborative
 Parent remains in the car at ALL times
- Social distancing protocols will be observed
 Be Respectful
 Keep 2 metres away from another person
- Hygiene control and regular hand-washing will be encouraged
 Be Responsible
- No shared lunches, books, drinks and/or stationery will be permitted
 Be Resilient

Be Compassionate – We are in this Together

ST PETER'S PREP SCHOOLS Covid-19 VALUES

- Be Respectful
Keep your distance (2m)
- Be Honourable
Wear a face mask
- Be Responsible
Wash your hands
- Be Resilient
No sharing allowed
- Be Collaborative
I protect you, You protect me
- Be Compassionate
We are in this together

FROM THE FOUNDATION

'If our hopes of uilding a better and safer world are to become more than wishful thinking, we will need the engagement of volunteers more than ever' Kofi Annan

A huge thank you to our special St Peter's community for rising to the challenge! We have collected R22 100, this generosity is humbling – 35 families can be fed for a month during these difficult times, our sincerest appreciation!

Reminder of how to get involved:

We are **collecting** the following items for the remainder of this term:

- 12.5kg mielie meal
- Cans of mixed vegetables
- Cans of bully beef
- Cans of sardines/pilchards
- 2kg sugar
- Cloth face masks
- Clothes and shoes

It costs R600 to feed a family of four for a month, and if you prefer to make a **contribution of any amount**, please deposit into:

St Peter's Foundation

Standard Bank

Acc: 422 057 533

(Section A18 tax certificates can be issued).

Father Richard and Monica Sloane



COLLECTION BINS ARE OUTSIDE THE CHAPEL