

Dear Junior School Parents

Only a few more sleeps before we welcome the Grade 6s and 7s back to school. The School has been a hive of activity this week as we prepare for the girls' return. Protocols have been rehearsed and refined and we have met with the Health and Safety company, United Safety Services, advising us on our return procedures and protocols. Their input has been invaluable as we interpret, understand and implement the guidelines from the Department of Basic Education.

The following information is applicable to all our Grade 6 and 7 girls returning on 1 and 2 June respectively.

What to expect on your first day back at school?

- ◇ Mrs Jennings, Mrs van der Merwe, Sr Annika/Sr Lizl and the form teachers for the grades returning will be waiting at the Pedestrian Gate from 07:00 to welcome you back and to guide you through the **screening process** that will happen every day when you arrive at school.
- ◇ Due to the strict screening protocols that we need to follow, we are unable to welcome a girl into the school before **07:00**.
- ◇ **Parents should not exit cars.** Visitor access to the school will be strictly controlled. The safety of your daughters and the staff is our priority.
- ◇ Girls will stand along the three paths leading into the Junior School, on the **physical distancing** markers to guide their position as they wait to enter the school.
- ◇ Girls must please come to school wearing their own **mask** and on arrival they will be issued with two school masks.
- ◇ The process to be followed daily as part of the screening protocol is as follows:
 - ⇒ Your daughter will sanitise her hands.
 - ⇒ One of three people on duty each morning will take her temperature with an infrared thermometer.
 - ⇒ Another teacher will hand her a small slip of paper with her temperature recorded which she must take to her form teacher.
 - ⇒ Her form teacher will ask her if she has any of the following symptoms:
Sore throat, fever/chills, cough, shortness of breath, body aches, redness of the eyes, loss of taste/smell, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, fatigue/weakness.
 - ⇒ If her temperature is 38°C or above, she will be asked to sit under the gazebo for a second test to be taken after 10 minutes. False readings are possible if the girls have travelled to school in a heated car.
 - ⇒ If a girl has a high temperature or any of the symptoms listed, you will be contacted to collect her from school and to seek medical attention.
- ◇ After completing the screening process, all girls will move to the big tree next to the chapel. Cones will be placed the correct distance apart from each other. Girls are to stand at a cone until the whole grade has arrived. A teacher will be on duty in this area and girls are encouraged to connect with their peers while they wait.
- ◇ Physical distancing must always be practiced, and masks must always be worn, except when eating.
- ◇ Once all the girls coming to school that day have arrived, the teachers will allocate the girls to their classrooms. Each class will be split across two classrooms to accommodate the physical distancing requirements.

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- ◇ Assembly, Form Time and Chapel will be broadcast or shared with the girls in these venues until such time as we can host these services in our Chapel.
- ◇ The girls will follow the Distance Learning timetables during the day and any girl who has chosen not to return to school will follow the same timetable and lessons at home. We are working on the technology that will allow us to broadcast lessons to girls who are unable to return to school.
- ◇ Girls will remain in the same classroom for the day and teachers will move venues.
- ◇ Girls and teachers are required to sanitise their hands at the start of each new lesson and when they enter and exit the bathrooms.
- ◇ All girls at school will have a supervised break from 10:00 to 10:30 and a second break from 12:00 to 12:30. This coming week the Grade 6s and 7s will sit on their picnic blankets on the Astro at the jungle gyms.
- ◇ The Grade 6 and 7 girls must be collected at **13:15**. No aftercare or extramurals will be offered in this initial phase of reintegration. Due to the strict protocols that we need to follow, we are unable to look after girls in the afternoon. The girls will be escorted to the area near the pedestrian gate by their teachers. Cones will be positioned in this area for girls to stand and wait for their parents/guardians to collect them. Your daughters will come out to you in the carpark as soon as they are aware that you have arrived. A teacher will be on duty in this area until 13:45. Please alert the School if you will be running late or if someone other than you will be collecting your daughter on that day.

What should the Grade 6s and 7s bring to school when they return?

- ◆ **Devices:** If you are able to bring your device to school, please do, as your lessons will continue to be a blend of online and practical in class activities. Unless an activity is not suited to online submission, most tasks will be submitted online. We are trying to minimise the sharing of items as much as possible, so having your own iPad / laptop at school will assist us greatly. If you are unable to bring your device to school, we will provide you with a school iPad for the day. All devices will be locked in the classroom during breaks. All devices will be connected to the school Wi-Fi and the Technicians will be onsite on the first day back for each grade to ensure that the onboarding process runs as smoothly as possible.
- ◆ **Picnic blanket:** Please bring a picnic blanket in a plastic bag to sit on during break when you eat your snack / lunch. The blanket will assist us in seating you at the required distance away from each other while you enjoy break in the company of your friends. These blankets can either travel home with you daily or they can be placed in your locker for safekeeping for your next contact day at school.
- ◆ **Stationery:** No items are allowed to be shared. So please make sure you come to school with your own full set of stationery.
- ◆ **Books:** We do not encourage the moving of books between home and school as all books create a potential risk of cross contamination. Refer to your timetables and only bring the essential books to school that you require for that day and you are the only person who may use your books. If your teachers take your books in for marking special care will be taken to ensure that sanitisation measures are in place.
- ◆ **Class readers:** Class readers will not be sent home for the immediate future for the same reason.
- ◆ **Packed lunch:** Your packed lunch is for you only and again is not to be shared with anyone. Please make sure that all containers and bags are cleaned thoroughly every day.

Update on the school uniform

- ◇ Girls, you can wear your winter uniform or tracksuit on the days you come to school.
- ◇ All uniform must be washed daily.
- ◇ No blazers and ties will be worn with the winter uniform as both these items cannot be washed often enough.
- ◇ We know you love to wear your gloves in winter, but gloves pose a high risk for the transmission of the virus and so no gloves may be worn.
- ◇ If you choose to wear your school scarf, please note that it must be washed with the rest of the school uniform when you return from school each day.
- ◇ School rules regarding hair, make-up and nail polish will apply when you return to school. Please ensure that you are ready for school on the day that you are scheduled to return.

Returning to school in phases:

Please understand that at this stage we can confirm the first week's arrangements and will communicate weekly as information is made available to the School regarding the status of the pandemic.

<p>Mon 1 June Gr 6 to return to school. All other grades to continue with the Distance Learning programme at home.</p>	<p>Tues 2 June Gr 7 to return to school. All other grades, including Grade 6, to continue with the Distance Learning programme at home.</p>	<p>Wed 3 June Gr 6 to return to school. All other grades, including Grade 7, to continue with the Distance Learning programme at home.</p>	<p>Thurs 4 June Gr 7 to return to school. All other grades, including Grade 6 to continue with the Distance Learning programme at home.</p>	<p>Fri 5 June All grades to continue with the Distance Learning programme at home.</p>
<p>Mon 8 June Gr 6 and Gr 3 to return to school. All other grades to continue with the Distance Learning programme at home.</p>	<p>Tues 9 June Gr 7 and Gr 2 to return to school. All other grades to continue with the Distance Learning programme at home.</p>	<p>Wed 10 June Gr 6 and Gr 3 to return to school. All other grades to continue with the Distance Learning programme at home.</p>	<p>Thurs 11 June Gr 7 and Gr 2 to return to school. All other grades to continue with the Distance Learning programme at home.</p>	<p>Fri 12 June All grades to continue with the Distance Learning programme at home.</p>
<p>Mon 15 June Gr 6, Gr 3 and Gr 4 to return to school. All other grades to continue with the Distance Learning programme at home.</p>	<p>Tues 16 June YOUTH DAY</p>	<p>Wed 17 June Gr 6, Gr 3 and Gr 4 to return to school. All other grades to continue with the Distance Learning programme at home.</p>	<p>Thurs 18 June Gr 7, Gr 2 and Gr 5 to return to school. All other grades to continue with the Distance Learning programme at home.</p>	<p>Fri 19 June Gr 7, Gr 2 and Gr 5 to return to school. All other grades to continue with the Distance Learning programme at home.</p>
<p>Mon 22 June Gr 6, Gr 3, Gr 4 and Gr 0 to return to school. All other grades to continue with the Distance Learning</p>	<p>Tues 23 June Gr 7, Gr 2, Gr 5 and Gr 1 to return to school. All other grades to continue with the Distance Learning</p>	<p>Wed 24 June Gr 6, Gr 3, Gr 4 and Gr 0 to return to school. All other grades to continue with the Distance Learning</p>	<p>Thurs 25 June Gr 7, Gr 2, Gr 5 and Gr 1 to return to school. All other grades to continue with the Distance Learning</p>	<p>Fri 26 June All grades to continue with the Distance Learning programme at home.</p>

Tuck shop

The Junior School is still finalising the logistics of utilizing the services of the school tuckshop. For this coming week please can parents ensure that the girls come to school with enough food and water for the school day. WATER COOLERS HAVE BEEN DISABLED FOR THE DURATION OF THE PANDEMIC.



Distance Learning Portal

The timetables and weekly schedules are available on the Distance Learning Portal on the school website or directly via this URL:

<http://www.stmarys.pta.school.za/distancelearning>.

The schedules are loaded weekly on a Friday afternoon and should be referenced in conjunction with the grade's timetable.



PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING CHANGES THIS WEEK

ALL Grade timetables have been changed to accommodate the rephasing of students back to school. All the timetables are interlinked due to staffing allocations, so everyone starts with a new timetable this coming week. The NEW timetables and weekly schedules are available on the Distance Learning Portal.

Communication sent this week

- ◇ Important communication to Boarding Parents
- ◇ Amended School Shop Hours

Tips for Parents to help their kids with going back to school:

Please click on link: [Tip for Back to School](#)

Grade 7 virtual outing to Inscape Education Group ~ Mrs Boipelo Sikhosana, Art Educator

The grade 7 girls attended a virtual presentation by Inscape Education Group. This learning opportunity was a great support in encouraging learners to explore other categories within Design which are: Built Environment; Fashion Design; Audio Visual Design and Marketing Communication Design. I believe that after this presentation our learners were sparked with curiosity and creativity towards the learning outcomes of Term 2, as well as enhanced and unleashed their creative abilities.

The inscape presentation was very interesting and insightful in all aspects of design and was well rounded in information and creativity. The presentation was full of many different types of design, as well as fixing problems to design using inspiration of many degrees. The piece of the presentation on biomimicry design was very inspiring by including ways in which biologists and designers fix common problems by using human materials and altering them based on natural occurrences to better designs. The presentation also included different types of design such as architectural and interior design and how it is used to better the quality of living, as well as the cost of the architecture. The presentation also showed ways to include all learners and their styles in the lesson and had introduced ways to include learners in the lesson. The presentation was resourceful in content and a window of opportunity for young designers of all types.

~ Isabel Coetzee Gr 7

I really enjoyed the presentation it was really informative as I really want to take up art when I grow up. I learned all the different types of design and I think my favourite ones were interior design, digital and biomimicry. I absolutely love to learn art and the virtual presentation was a great opportunity for me.

~ Renee Oloo Gr 7

PARENT FEEDBACK ON WELLNESS WINDOW ACTIVITIES ~ The Counselling Centre

Dear Parents

In this week's Wellness Window, we provided practical tips to support the girls in learning from home. Traditional schooling tends to offer structure and routine, as well as scaffolding of organisational skills as part of the 'hidden curriculum.' However, in the case of distance learning, these aspects become the responsibility of the learner. This can be a difficult adjustment and, in the case where the basic unseen 'building blocks' of learning are not implemented effectively, this can have a negative effect on learning. As we have come to the end of our fourth week of term 2 distance learning, we aimed, in our Wellness Window, to familiarise the girls with these foundational elements, as they are beneficial both in distance learning and beyond, into the journey of independent adulthood.

In order to do so, we covered aspects including healthy lifestyle choices, organising oneself, planning one's day, spending time away from the screen, and caring for oneself. You can support your daughter in these areas by considering the implementation of the following points:



- ◇ Set a consistent bedtime and wakeup time for your child, which remains similar over weekends.
- ◇ Ensure that devices are put away an hour to two hours before bedtime.
- ◇ Your daughter should wake up with enough time to wash, dress and eat breakfast, before logging in to form time, chapel or assembly at 7:30am as scheduled. This provides structure and regularity to the school day.
- ◇ Implement set mealtimes with balanced, wholesome meals, with as many sit-down family meals as possible.
- ◇ Encourage daily exercise and/or stretching, as well as outdoor time, where possible.
- ◇ Ensure she knows where to find her weekly timetable and daily schedules, as well as how to access the various apps.
- ◇ Suggest preparing for the next day by setting out clothes and examining the day's schedule to gather the necessary books and materials.
- ◇ Both the weekly timetable and the daily schedules can be used to help your daughter plan her day and keep on top of which activities she has completed and which she had queries for.
- ◇ Recommend regular 5 minute 'brain breaks' during the day to get up and stretch or drink some water and monitor to ensure that she takes her midmorning and lunch breaks.
- ◇ Encourage your child to ask the teacher if she does not understand something and to make use of the scheduled support sessions.
- ◇ Wherever possible, when she has completed her schoolwork, suggest that the family spend time away

Kind regards

Alison Jennings
ALISON JENNINGS (MRS)
PRINCIPAL: JUNIOR SCHOOL

Stay connected via the School's Social Media platforms:

Facebook - <http://www.stmarys.pta.school.za/>

Instagram - @stmarysdsdgpta