



LAERSKOOL

*Durbanville*

PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Circular 3/2021

11 February 2021

Dear Parents

Welcome to all our parents and learners, especially our new Durbies. We are excited about your time at Durbanville Primary School and what the future will hold for you.

As already communicated, Durbanville Primary School's unique return model, where all learners may attend school simultaneously, was approved by Mr Brian Schreuder, the Head of Education in the Western Cape.

Thorough planning and preparation has been completed over the past few weeks.

- Our support staff, led by Mr Stephen Nolan, have been preparing the school since 11 January. We thank them for their dedication and pride.
- Classrooms are equipped to maintain the recommended 1m by 1m social distance.
- The school will be thoroughly disinfected on Friday, 12 February 2021. We thank *Hygiene and Bugs* who thoroughly disinfects our school (free of charge) every two weeks.
- The health of all role players is respected throughout. There will be no exception to this rule.
- Quality teaching, by means of a holistic approach, remains our focus on setting high academic standards. Effective teaching can therefore commence from day 1. Thank you to all the teachers for their thorough preparation.

There are still many variables, thus trying to assure and guarantee you that planning will not change, would be irresponsible from our side. Thank you for trusting us as we adapt and change as new matters arise.

We are still awaiting the latest directives from the WCED. Therefore, we cannot communicate with certainty about the following:

- Examination dates
- Co-curricular program (sports and cultural activities). The current regulations stipulate that we may not offer any activities on the grounds of the WCED.
- Club and other after-school activities.

We realise that you would like to do your own personal planning in this regard and we understand your frustrations. We undertake to communicate directives to you immediately we have received them.

Consider the school as your most reliable source of information and communication. Social media is a wonderful resource, but 2020 has shown us that it can be misleading and inaccurate.



**Leendert Hols Snr | 082 650 1848**

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It may be that you are not familiar with the difference between **homeschooling** and **distance education**, here is a brief explanation:

### **Homeschooling**

A very clear WCED process must be followed. This means, among other things, that you must deregister your child from Durbanville Primary School and register with an approved institution for homeschooling. Applications must be submitted to the WCED for approval as the South African Schools Act stipulates that schooling is compulsory for all children. If you do consider this route (to our regret), we advise you to do thorough research before making such a decision.

### **Distance learning and support**

A very clear and prescriptive WCED process must be followed. Learners who are unable to attend school due to comorbidities (underlying illnesses) will need to submit a complete doctor's report (not a sick letter) to the school. The report must indicate the severity of the condition and whether the learner will be able to attend school if he / she wears a mask, washes hands and maintains social distancing and other precautions, OR whether the medical practitioner recommends that the learner should stay at HOME. The report should also indicate how long the practitioner has been treating his / her patient's illness.

If you want to register your child as a comorbidity learner, you must notify us before 12:00 on Friday, 12 February. We will then communicate further regarding the process ahead. **Please use the following email address: [office@durbieland.com](mailto:office@durbieland.com).**

We rely on your dedicated and honest communication.

Please note that if your child was already registered last year, you do not have to repeat the process again.

The following is very important, and you must interpret it correctly. We do everything in our power to make and keep the school a risk-free zone. However, should you decide to keep your child at home when school opens, your child's academics becomes your full responsibility.

#### **1. Access to the school**

- The school must maintain strict opening and closing times concerning learners. **Learners may only enter the school grounds from 07:00 in the morning.** In the past, we noticed that some learners were waiting outside in the dark from 06:30. This is a safety risk and your child remains your responsibility. Normal school hours will be applicable, in other words from 07:50 until 14:10.
- Learners may only gain access to the school grounds through the pedestrian gate at the main entrance (Weyers Avenue) as well as the subway from Van der Byl Avenue. From there they report to the test station. Please note that **these gates will only be open from 7:00 in the morning.**
- Learners must wear the prescribed material face masks before they may enter the school grounds. No learner will be able to access the school grounds without wearing such a face mask.
- Visitors (including parents) may only enter the school grounds if prior arrangement has been made with the school.
- When you make use of the intercom button at the main gate, Mrs Amanda Jooste (receptionist) will first determine the reason for your visit and then grant you entrance to the school grounds.
- **Very important:** All visitors must first report to reception and will have to undergo the prescribed testing procedures. If tests indicate that a visitor poses any possible risk, they will be requested to leave the school grounds immediately. Visitors are obligated to wear face masks before entering the school.

## 2. School uniform and meals

- You are not required to purchase masks at school. A limited number of masks are currently available at the clothing store at cost price (R40). Learners may wear their own masks as long as they comply with the general prescriptions and respect the school's ethos.
- In 2020, masks were provided by the WCED and will be given to each grade 4 learner as well as new learners.
- Each learner must at all times have 2 masks as well as a **special bag/container** that is clearly labelled with the learner's name and class. As soon as a mask is removed, e.g. to eat, it must be placed in the container and the new / clean mask must be worn thereafter.
- As in the past, learners are encouraged to keep their own **hand sanitiser and handkerchiefs/tissues** on hand.
- Learners must bring their **own food** to school.
- The tuck shop will provide a service under very strict conditions. More information will follow shortly.

## 3. Testing of learners

- Parents must determine before the school day whether their child is showing any symptoms of seasonal or other illnesses. Sick learners should not attend school under any circumstances. This applies to any underlying illness that the child might have.
- When learners enter the school grounds, they move to one of the two test stations. 1.) Main entrance or 2.) Subway. At the test stations, their hands will be sanitised and their temperature measured.
- A fever or high temperature is still considered to be the primary filter during screening.
- Learners with a temperature of 38°C or higher will be isolated discretely and after 5 minutes will undergo a further temperature test. If a learner's fever is still at 38°C or higher, the learner must return home.
- To prevent anxiety and stress in your child, we ask you to communicate and explain to your child the above arrangement. Any other underlying illnesses, e.g. tonsillitis can also lead to an elevated temperature.
- An equipped isolation room (room 117 behind the clothing shop) will be used for isolation purposes if the learner has to wait for a parent.
- Parents fetching these learners must first report to reception. From there they will be accompanied to the isolation room and will complete the necessary documentation.
- Additional testing of learners (especially regarding the temperature of learners) could be applied again during the day at the discretion of the school.

## 4. Learners who become sick during the school day

- If a learner falls ill during the school day (e.g. earache, toothache), parents will be contacted to collect their child.
- The learner will leave the class and go to the waiting room (room 100) until his / her parents arrive.
- Parents must report to reception to sign out their child before the learner may leave the school grounds.
- If a learner develops a fever during the day, he / she will be taken to the isolation room. Hereafter, the same procedure will apply as with a learner who had a high temperature before school.

## 5. Class rotation and procedures:

- Learners will be assigned to one specific seat / desk.
- We strive to keep the movement of learners to a minimum, therefore teachers will move between classes.

- Classes will be cleaned and disinfected after the school day. Learners will cooperate by disinfecting his / her own seat. Each learner must please bring their own cloth for this purpose.
- Apart from the mounted hand sanitiser applicator, disinfectants for desks and other surfaces are also available in all classes.

## 6. Breaks

- All grades will have break simultaneously.
- The play areas for grades have been expanded to ensure that social distance is maintained.
- Specific grades will be assigned to specific play areas to ensure adequate space.
- Social distancing between learners must be maintained during breaks.
- Strict and expanded staff supervision will be maintained throughout the playground.
- Ball games and physical games will not be allowed.

## 7. Discipline

We work with children and must accept that their judgement does not always meet the requirements of adults. Let us also learn about respect, one of our core values, in this process. We trust that you will take our hand by orientating your child on a daily basis regarding the following:

- Apply strict self-control and discipline to maintain social distancing at all times.
- Focus on wearing and handling masks correctly.
- Movement, socialisation and classroom behaviour will adhere to the school's code of conduct.

Please understand that we will have to monitor the above-mentioned procedures strictly and therefore cannot make any exceptions. Should your child be found guilty of regular violations, misconduct, or deliberately challenging the rules, your child will be temporarily isolated until we have communicated directly with you.

## 8. Dismissal times

To ensure that learners do not all try to leave the school grounds at the same time and to limit congestion, the following information is important:

- Learners will be able to leave the school via the main gate, subway as well as the aftercare gate.
- **Grade 4 and 6 learners will be dismissed at 14:00.**
- **Grade 5 and 7 learners will be dismissed at 14:10.**
- **All learners must leave the school grounds by 14:30.**

## 9. Aftercare

The following will apply to aftercare:

- After the school day, aftercare learners will move to the aftercare area where the screening process will be repeated (hand sanitising and measuring of temperatures).
- In order to maintain social distancing, learners will be divided to ensure there are fewer learners per room.
- Food will still be served at aftercare with the necessary prescriptive protocol and hygienic guidelines taken into account.

- If an aftercare learner is or becomes ill, he / she will move to a suitable waiting area and parents will be requested to collect the learner immediately.
- Please ensure that the pick-up time for learners is strictly adhered to (17:30).

To our entire Durbie family, let us strive together to develop our learners holistically in a climate of love and security. Let's be excited, optimistic and enthusiastic of what we can accomplish in 2021!

Durbie greetings



(Mrs) L. Jacobs  
**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL (ACTING)**



(Mr) T. Kriel  
**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL**



P. du Toit  
**PRINCIPAL**

***DURBIES FOREVER***