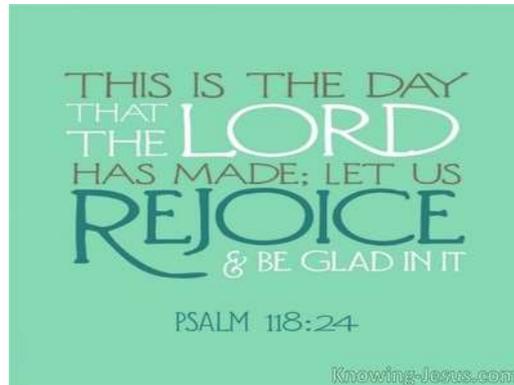


From the Desk of the Executive Head...

23-1-2021

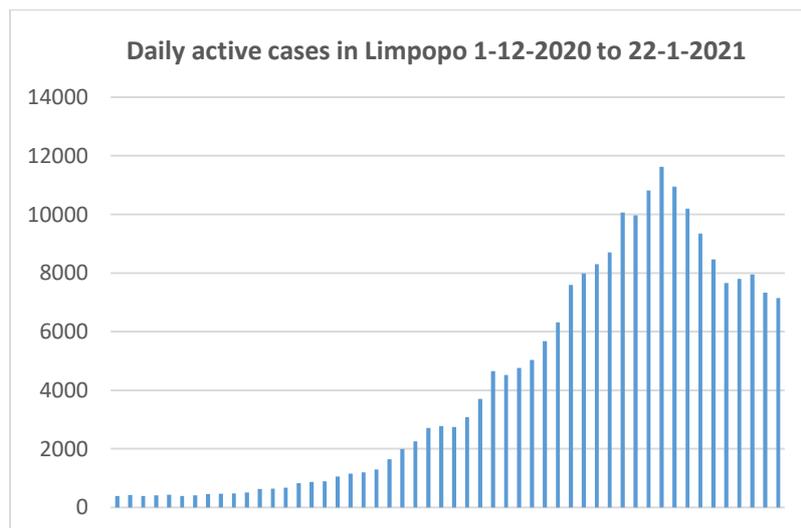
Dear PEPPS families



The Government Gazette that we have been waiting for was published late yesterday afternoon. PEPPS management and staff rejoice in the news that we will be permitted to **start with on-campus teaching from Grade 1-12 from 1-2-2021 and for ECD from 27-1-2021.** As we have stressed previously, education is most effective on-campus and face-to-face.

The team of Heads met today and carefully considered a path forward that does not irresponsibly endanger the health of the families in our community. **We have considered the science around the virus and the importance of pupils coming to school to receive an optimum education** in what we intend to do, going forward.

The below graph shows the daily active cases in Limpopo from 1-12-2020 until yesterday. I pray that these **decreasing numbers** reflect that the worst of the second wave has past and we can start resuming with a more normalised lifestyle. We shall continue to keep a conscientious eye on these numbers and adjust our strategy should it become necessary.



The World Health Organisation along with the reputable scientific magazines of *Nature* and *National Geographic* all conclude that **schools are not significant spreaders of Coronavirus** on condition that protocols are adhered to. At PEPPS we are very conscientious about adhering to protocols. The research goes on to say that **children under the age of 10 are statistically less likely to catch the disease** and in fact, are seldom stealthy asymptomatic

carriers either. The links to the articles I am referring to are given below, for those who may be interested in reading the current science available on the subject.

<https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/risk-comms-updates/update39-covid-and-schools.pdf>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2020/12/we-now-know-how-much-children-spread-coronavirus/>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02973-3>

Obviously, it is impossible to guarantee safety for all, but **we promise to do everything reasonable to protect all people on our campuses** as we return to school.

The purpose of our organisation is to excellently educate children and to this end, our plan is as follows:

All ECD pupils will return to school campuses as planned on Wednesday 27-01-2021.

Online schooling will begin on Wednesday 27-01-2021 for Grade 1-12 pupils.

All Grade 1-12 pupils will be permitted to collect resources from school on Wednesday 27-01-2021 and Thursday 28-01-2021. Families will receive an email detailing the date and time that each pupil may collect resources from campus. Masks must be worn to collect the resource pack. Pupils do not need to wear their uniform and there will be no classes. Pupils will be sanitised and have their temperature screened, before spending a minimum of time on campus simply collecting their resources and immediately leaving. Teachers will assist in ensuring the efficiency and efficacy of this process.

All Grade 1-12 pupils will return to campus from Monday 01-02-2021 or Tuesday 02-02-2021. Each pupil will be allocated to the **Red or Blue group** in their class and come to school **every second day**. The email, which will be sent to each family on Monday 25-01-2021, will let you know if your child is in the Red or Blue group. As soon as possible, and when we feel it is safe to do so, we shall bring pupils back to classes daily. Grade 1-3 and Grade 12 pupils will all return to campus daily at the earliest reasonable opportunity. Each school's Head will communicate the details of what will happen on each campus.

Information about the daily lessons will be shared online with families to allow for pupils who cannot attend school, on certain days, to stay up to date. **We plead with families not to send unwell children to school and not to send children to school if a person in the household has been in contact with a Covid case or is experiencing any symptoms.** This endangers our community.

We are excited that we now have an **online uniform shop**, so we can minimise families coming to campus to purchase uniform items. Uniform items can quickly be collected from the various campuses without standing in queues.

PEPPS ONLINE UNIFORM SHOP: <http://www.peppsuniform.co.za/>

Uniform can still be purchased at:

Bank store - 24 Ruiters Road Mokopane (015 491 2400)

Stands - 60 Pretorius Road Mokopane (015 491 7862)

Uniform Shop – Polokwane Campus

Uniform Fitting – Ga-Ledwaba Campus

I was inspired by the first and last lines of Amanda Gorman's inaugural poem 'The Hill we Climb'. She is only 22 years old yet she is a Poet Laureate and was invited to share her poetry at Joe Biden's inauguration.

"When day comes, we ask ourselves, where can we find light in this never-ending shade?"



"For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it."

Right now, it may feel like we are in a 'never-ending shade' as our education is once again disrupted. We need to climb our hill and see the light. More importantly, we must be brave enough to BE the light. Let us all take courage as we embark on this year.

Below is the link to the full poem and Ms Gorman's reading of it.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2021/01/20/amanda-gormans-inaugural-poem-the-hill-we-climb-full-text.html>

I trust that all of our families will take hands with PEPPS as we begin this new year with enthusiasm and a desire to effectively educate our pupils in 2021



Yours in healthy and safe education,

Annabel Roberts

PEPPS Executive Head