



In these turbulent times, there is so much uncertainty and inconsistency that it is really difficult to feel like we are moving forward. It is easy to feel frustrated and angry or even fearful and anxious.

God never promised us that life on earth would be free from hardship. He does, however, promise that we should **“take heart”** [be confident, be brave] because **“He has overcome the world”**.

Let us stand together and hold the proverbial hands of those who are in need. Please pray for those who are ill and those who are carrying the weighty burdens of ill loved ones. May God's amazing grace and love nourish our souls and restore our peace.

As a PEPPS family, there are many who are currently affected by Covid. We have pupils in Grade 2, Grade 4 and Grade 7 who are infected along with a teacher and our librarian. We pray for their swift and unhindered recovery and return to school.

As a result of the above, Grade 2 will isolate for the week and return to school on Wednesday 25 August. Our Grade 6s and Grade 7s are isolating and will return to school on Monday 23 August. There are a number of teachers having to isolate as well. This disruption has the potential to destabilise us and bring tension and confusion. It is very important that we remember that we live in unusual and drastic times and these call for drastic measures.

According to the current law in South Africa, those who come into contact with someone who has Covid are required to isolate for a period of 7-10 days. This isolation serves to mitigate the further transmission of the virus. I would happily agree with anyone who finds this isolation frustrating, especially with pupils in primary school having to receive and submit work online. However, it is necessary and will be enforced for the sake of protecting the pupils, teachers and their respective families, who have not yet been affected. We are fortunate to have both teachers and pupils who are increasingly tech-savvy and capable of navigating lessons and submissions on a digital platform. What we may find ourselves struggling with is that of adaptability between the two platforms and the self-discipline required to stay on task when online.

I ask that parents please take note of the following:

- If your children show ANY symptoms, please refrain from sending them to school. Late detection of or reaction to Covid symptoms may result in whole grades being sent home to isolate. Please keep communication channels open and share health information with us. No child will be discriminated against but names of pupils may be withheld if this is the choice of the family. While the child or any family members in the home await Covid results, the child should stay home.
- myHomework will be populated daily. For a grade that is isolating, the lessons on myHomework will be teaching in nature (resources, instructions, activities, etc.). For a grade at school, the lessons will be in the form of a summary of what took place in class. This will be sufficient for the isolating child to remain on course. All children isolating (but not ill) will be expected to keep up with the pace of the lessons. They should submit work on a daily basis. Teachers should be emailed where this cannot be done. We ask that parents keep a close eye on ADAM to ensure that their children are keeping up. This is applicable when children are working from home. This is the teachers' responsibility when children are working from school.
- As of today, all extra-curricular activities have been suspended. These will resume again when the Covid numbers have stabilised. Children must be collected from school promptly at 13h30 (Monday to Thursday) and 12h30 on Fridays. We do not wish to have children loitering on campus. The Foundation Phase Rotation period is also on hold.

We are in the business of establishing well-constructed educational foundations within our pupils. We love each child and the extended family he/she represents. During these challenging times, my prayer is that God would grant us wisdom when making decisions that impact all of our families. I also trust that we would continue to be humble receivers of His amazing Grace.

God bless you and your family.

Kind regards



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