Meerhofskool

 2020

Dear parents

Following the Minister of Education's speech on May 19 and receiving joint information from Fedsas, SAOU and the Bojanala District Office, we would like to pass on the following to you:

All staff return in phases during the week of 25 to 29 May and learners will return to school from 1 June.

• June 1, 2020: Grade 7 and Grade 12 learners report

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Number of Learners | Hostel | Brits Bus | Schoemansville/Ifafi route |
| Gr 12 | 15 | 3 (Snr Boys) | 2 | 1 |
| Gr 7 | 17 (2 klasse) | 5 : (2 Snr Boys) (3 Snr Girls) | 4 | 4 |

• Once the growing pains of this first group are sorted out, phasing in of other grades will also begin. We are waiting there for guidance from the DBE.

• The revised school calendar has yet to be approved by the Cabinet and will be forwarded to you as soon as we receive it.

**COVID-19: SAFETY MEASURES IN THE SCHOOL AREA**

It is essential that certain sustainable measures are put in place to ensure that our community and learners remain safe and that we can complete the school year without any further interruptions. The school follows the guidelines as set out in the following documents:

* *Standard Operating Procedures for teachers, non-teaching staff and learners on the coronavirus in South Africa* as issued by die Department of Basic Education
* *Coronavirus Orientation Guidelines for Schools* as issued by the Department of Basic Education

**1. DAILY PROCEDURE:**

**1.1 Day scholars**

• All day scholars who come to school with their own transport must enter at the **main gate in Jan Smuts Avenue**. No learner will be allowed into the other gate. Learners' temperature must be taken daily at the gate before the learner gains access to the school. Parents must wait until the learner is through the gate. NO PARENT may enter the school grounds with learners.

• No learner will be allowed on the school grounds without a mask.

• No physical contact such as hand shaking or hugging is allowed.

• Learners with a temperature of 38 ° C and above may not enter the school grounds and must return home. The learner will only be allowed back if the fever is within the acceptable limits.

**1.2 Bus learners**

• Learners will be tested at the bus stop. No learner with a temperature of 38 ⁰C will be allowed on the bus. Parents may not leave until the learner is allowed on the bus.

• No learner will be allowed on the bus without a mask.

• Bus rules regarding social distance must be strictly adhered to. Any learner who fails to comply with these rules will immediately be denied further use of bus transport.

• Buses will be disinfected daily.

**1.3 Hostel learners**

• Learners will be tested at the gate upon returning to school. Thereafter temperature will be taken daily by staff at the Sick Bay in the morning and at night.

• If a learner has a temperature of 38 ⁰C, the learner will be isolated and the parents contacted.

* A separate letter with more details will be sent to hostel parents.

**2. SECURITY OF LEARNERS AND STAFF**

**2.1 Hygiene**

• The school will regularly enforce the washing of hands with water and soap, or a hand sanitizer.

• Staff and learners are responsible for the regular disinfection of their personal space. Classrooms will be disinfected daily and with class changes.

• There will be no big gatherings, like assembly, at the school.

• Social distance will be maintained and physical contact or touch (handshakes or hugs) will not be allowed.

• The school will be disinfected on a regular basis, with emphasis on high-risk surfaces such as stairs, door handles and bathrooms.

• A 1.5 m distance will be maintained as far as possible in classes between learners as well as staff.

• Learners and staff who feel ill MUST stay home. They must be tested for Covid-19 and also notified the school.

• Stigmatization will be combated through thorough information sessions.

• Staff and learners will be required to wear masks.

• The Department will provide each learner with two washable material masks.

• Masks should be washed daily with warm water (above 60 ° C) and soap.

**2.2 Personal items (Optional)**

• Learners can purchase their own masks - these must be according to standards and washed daily.

• Face shields are also permissible if parents wish to purchase it themselves.

• You can send hand sanitizers with your child for personal use.

• Wet Wipes may be used for surface wiping.

**2.3 Discipline**

Any offense that threatens the health of another learner will be considered a category 3 offense and punished as such. This includes:

* the refusal to wear masks; or
* the refusal to sanitize hands
* the damage, hiding, tearing, etc. of other learners' masks
* violation of social distance and the like.

**2.4 Good health practices**

• Stay home when you are sick
• Sneezing and coughing in your elbow
• Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly
• Clean surfaces regularly
• Avoid any physical contact with other people

**3. HIGH RISK LEARNERS**

High risk learners are characterized by the following criteria:

• Existing medical conditions, such as diabetes.
• Existing respiratory conditions, such as asthma.
• High blood pressure.
• Heart disease.
• Cancer and other immune-weakening conditions.

Our sisters at the Sick Bay are aware of all learners' diagnoses and will monitor the situation. If you are concerned, you can contact the sister on duty.

**4. DISTANCE TEACHING:**

• Parents and learners are officially asked by the Department of Education to use the available platforms of the school, as well as other resources.

• Parents should do everything to support and assist learners where there is a need.

• All homework and class work will continue to be available electronically. This is necessary for grades that only come back to school in phases and learners who may be ill and need to stay home.

• All work done at home during the locking period may be printed by the school upon return to school to paste into books.

• The school will monitor work and provide feedback.

 • Various options such as whatsapp, email and Google classroom are used. Hard copies are also printed and published for those who do
not have access to computers and the Internet.

**5. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE, SCHOOL FEES AND OTHER SERVICES**

**5.1 School attendance**

Although we request that learners who show some symptoms should stay at home, it is essential that the healthy learners come to school. We have already lost a lot of academic time with the restriction period. Please do not stay at home unnecessarily.

**5.2 School fees**

Although the school was closed for two months, there are still monthly expenses and salaries to pay. In view of this, we encourage parents to continue to fulfill their financial obligations to the school whenever possible.

However, we realize that there are many parents who are financially severely affected by the containment measures. We, as a school, do not stand up to you, but ask that the correct procedures be followed. Contact

Mrs Adel Olivier at the Finance Department to apply for bursaries or waivers. If you fail to make arrangements with the school, further steps will unfortunately have to be taken.

**5.3 Grade R**

Grade R follows the phasing-in timetable as determined by the Department.

**5.4 Aftercare Center**

After-care centre will not reopen for the time being. We will notify you as soon as this situation changes.

**6. POSITIVE DIAGNOSIS**

• Sick learners will not be allowed at school.

• Learners and staff who are ill at school should be sent home as soon as possible.

• Sick learners or staff will be kept separate from healthy learners and staff in the prepared isolation room until they can leave.

• Remember that schools are not required to identify COVID-19 cases. The majority of respiratory diseases are not COVID-19.

• As we enter the Winter season, common colds and flu are something that will occur. If a learner has a high fever that subsides within a day or two and there are no other symptoms of COVID-19, the learner may return to school. (COVID-19 cases' fever remains continuously above 38 ° C.

**7. RETURN AFTER A PERSON IS SICK**

According to available preliminary data, the average period from onset to clinical recovery for mild cases is approximately two weeks, while severe cases last three to six weeks.

When can learners come back to school?

• Learners must stay at home for 14 days if their symptoms start to show or have been tested positive.

• After 14 days, or if the learner no longer shows symptoms, the learner should be tested again.

• The parents must call the sickbay and provide the negative result to them.

• Sickbay in consultation with top management will then allow the learner back to school.

**8. TUCK SHOP**

The Tuck shop will not open during breaks at all. Parents are asked to pack their own food for their children. If the situation changes we will notify you.

**9. COMMUNICATION**

**9.1 Correct information**

If you as a parent did not receive any communication from the school during the lockdown, it means that we do not have your correct contact details. Contact the school as soon as possible to provide your school cellphone numbers and e-mail addresses. We will increasingly use technology to keep the learners up to date academically and it is your responsibility as parents to notify the school if your numbers change.

**9.2 Communicate with the school**

Sick staff and learners must be reported to the school and the Department of Health - this is the law. People who become ill must be able to follow the contact with other individuals to fight the virus as far as possible. Your cooperation in protecting our community is absolutely essential.

• It is the responsibility of parents and staff to answer inquiries as fully as possible.

• Any new information received from the school will be communicated to our community as soon as possible.

• If there are confirmed COVID-19 cases in your household, that must be reported to the school.

**10. VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL**

Parents are not encouraged to enter the school grounds. We want to minimize the chance of spreading the virus. If there is anything you want to discuss with the school, you are welcome to contact the office. Any visitors to the school will have to comply with the following measures:

* Completion of questionnaire (screening)
* Temperature scanning
* Disinfection of hands
* Must wear mask

**11. SUPPORT SERVICES**

The school will continuously look after the welfare of learners as well as staff. No one needs to feel alone and anxious at this time. The following people are there to help you:

• Governing Body of Meerhof School

• Management of Meerhof School

• Psychologist and Social Worker at Meerhof School

• Our school's parent community

• North West Department of Education

• National Department of Health (012 395 8000)

• The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) (0800 029 999)

• Medical clinic British (012 2528000)

• Hartbeespoort police station (012 2537000)

• “Adopt a Cop” Captain T Scanlen 0837779357

These are difficult and uncertain times. We urgently need the cooperation and assistance of every parent and learner to save what is left of this academic year and to provide our learners with the best opportunity to complete the year successfully. We are still going to make mistakes and we may be making the wrong decisions, but we as staff and parents must stand together to make the best of this situation.

Be assured that your child's health is extremely important to us and we will do everything in our power to create a safe environment at school.

Meerhof Regards

MR DJ VAN DER MERWE

PRINCIPAL