



# HARTLEY ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

*A Quantum Leap for Education & Training Excellence!*

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30 May 2020

Respected Parents and Guardians

Assalamu Alaikum and May the Peace of the Almighty be on you and your family. We would like to begin with an inspirational quote.

**RATHER THAN STRESSING ABOUT THINGS WE CANNOT CONTROL**

**PRAY TO THE ONE WHO IS IN CONTROL**

**AND FIND RELIEF**

The current global pandemic has created fear, anxiety, worry and despondency. During these times it becomes easy to succumb to negative thoughts and forget the Creator who is in total control. The Almighty advises us not to lose heart and not to despair. We must learn to adopt a positive attitude in every situation. For a believer there is benefit in every situation. If goodness comes his way and he is grateful, this is good for him. If he is afflicted with some calamity and bears it patiently, this is also good for him. Let us turn to the Almighty in prayer and supplication; take the necessary precautions and put our total trust in HIM because ultimately HE is in control.

## **RE-OPENING OF SCHOOL FOR GRADE 7**

Due to the educators heeding the call from their respective unions to refrain from reporting to school; we will not be able to receive any learners on Monday; the 1st of June 2020. We advise all parents to continue checking for updates on school information on our school website; Facebook page and the bulk sms sent to your phone.

Parents are naturally concerned about the health and safety of their children and the Principal; SGB and Staff will make every effort within our capacity to ensure that our children are educated in a safe and protected environment. This newsletter will briefly outline the measures that our school will be taking.

## **1. OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES TO RE-OPEN THE SCHOOL**

The approach adopted by the Principal; Board of Governors and Teachers is underpinned by the following guiding principles:

- Our children, staff and parents must be safe.
- We will with the help of the Almighty comply with the government regulations and guidelines.
- We want to revert to traditional classroom teaching incrementally which has added educational; social and emotional benefits.

## 2. PREPARATION OF THE SCHOOL CAMPUS TO RECEIVE EMPLOYEES AND LEARNERS

- Hartley and all other Schools have received the general operating procedures and health requirements from the Department of Education and we have used these guidelines, to prepare the school to receive our staff and learners.
- The Department of Education has laid out the requirements for physical distancing, the need to stagger the start and end of the school day as well as other requirements.
- To accommodate these requirements and ensure that we do not compromise on safety, the return dates for all grades; will be according to the Department of Education latest guidelines which was gazetted yesterday. The table on the following page outlines the return dates of all grades.

### **NEW GAZETTED RETURN DATES**

<b>GRADES</b>	<b>RETURN DATE</b>	<b>GRADES</b>	<b>RETURN DATE</b>
Grade 7	1 <sup>st</sup> June (delayed)	Grades 4 5	3 <sup>rd</sup> August
Grades R 3 6	6 <sup>th</sup> July	Grade 1 & 2	To be announced

Adherence to physical distance requirements will necessitate that each class will comprise of twenty learners once the school reaches its full capacity. This may be accomplished using different time slots on the same day or alternating days or a combination of these approaches. We will communicate this to you. According to the latest statistics gleaned from our survey; 58 grade 7 learners will return when school opens and they will be accommodated in three different classes. If all our learners return; they will be accommodated in six classes.

## 3. MORNING ENTRY INTO SCHOOL AND SCREENING

- All learners; parents and employees will enter and exit through Hopelands Road and drop off their children at the Boom Gates. No entry through Hartley Road.
- When learners arrive at school, they will wait on the right hand side of the driveway leading to the Slam Gates. The area has been marked off for physical distancing.
- A special team of 3 screeners will be stationed at the Slam Gates.
- Every learner will be required to sanitize his/her hands.
- An infra-red thermometer temperature reading will be taken. If a learner's temperature is in excess of 38 degrees Celsius, the learner will be moved to a special quarantine area and the parents will be contacted to fetch the learner.
- Standard questions related to the learner's general health and movements will be asked at the screening station.
- The learner will then proceed to his/her classroom.

## 4. OUR CLASSROOMS HAVE BEEN PREPARED AS FOLLOWS:

- In terms of the regulations, there has to be a distance of at least 1.5 m between learners in every class.
- The school will make arrangements to ensure that this requirement is adhered to and furniture has been rearranged accordingly.
- Class sizes have been reduced to approximately 20 learners and some of our classes will be held in the Hall and the Girls Salaah Room (Room 17) to accommodate a larger number of learners whilst maintaining the social distance of 1.5m.
- The entire campus has been disinfected and sanitized by a reputable company. A certificate of Compliance has been issued to the Principal.

## 5. LEARNER BREAKS

- Each grade will be designated to a designated area with teachers on duty and Safety Marshalls will ensure compliance to COVID 19 rules.
- There will be two 30 minute breaks during the day.
- Separate breaks for JP and SP learners.
- As the tuck shop will remain temporarily closed, parents are requested to ensure that their children bring lunch to school.

## 6. JUMA CONGREGATIONAL SALAAH

- There will be no congregational Salaah / Prayer at school at this stage. Learners will be required to perform their Salaah at home.

## 7. SCHOOL TIMES FOR LEARNERS (subject to change)

<b>GRADES</b>	<b>LEARNERS REPORT TO SCHOOL</b>	<b>MONDAY TO THURSDAY DISMISSAL</b>	<b>FRIDAY DISMISSAL</b>
R 1 2	7.00 am to 7.40 am	12.15 pm	11.00 am
3	7.00 am to 7.40 am	12. 45 pm	11.15 am
4 5 6 7	7.00 am to 7.40 am	13. 15 pm	11.30 am

## 8. LEARNER DISMISSAL

- Learner dismissal will be staggered class wise and grade wise.
- All learners will be escorted to the Pavilion Assembly Area by their teachers and Safety Marshalls.
- They will be seated apart from each other on the Assembly Area.
- All parents and Lift Clubs will enter through Hopelands Road and proceed to the Main Sportsfield.
- They will turn right and proceed to the Assembly Area.
- They will park on the right hand side of the driveway and allow vehicles to pass on the left.
- When the child recognizes his or her vehicle; he or she will proceed guided by the Safety Marshall and Teachers.
- Exit will be through Hartley Road Gate only.
- Vehicle Entry through Hartley Gate is strictly forbidden.

## 9. WHAT PARENTS SHOULD DO TO PREPARE THEIR CHILDREN FOR THE RETURN TO SCHOOL

The COVID 19 pandemic is bound to have had physical, psychological, emotional and social effects on children. Some of the key suggestions are:

- To talk to your children in an age-appropriate and honest manner about Covid 19
- To get them to practice using the face mask/visor and to emphasize the importance of keeping it on at all times
- To reinforce the regular washing of hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water.
- To get into the habit of sanitizing their hands correctly
- To instil the habit of coughing and sneezing either into a tissue which needs to be disposed of immediately or to cough/sneeze into the bent elbow
- To alert them that physical distancing will be enforced at all times at school- in the classroom, in the corridors and during breaks
- To emphasize that sharing of books, equipment, lunch will not be allowed
- To educate children to practice kindness; tolerance and avoid mocking and teasing.

## **10. BEFORE BRINGING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL:**

- Parents should check that their children have their masks or visors.
- A personal sanitizer is recommended though not compulsory.
- Parents should check on the general well-being of their children. If they are running a fever or are displaying flu-like symptoms, they should not be brought to school.

## **11. WHEN DROPPING OFF YOUR CHILD AT SCHOOL:**

- Parents will not be allowed to accompany their children into the school premises.
- School Personnel will be on duty and will direct children to the respective screening queues.

## **12. PICKING UP YOUR CHILD FROM SCHOOL:**

- Parents are requested to be punctual when fetching their children so as to avoid children having to wait and to congregate. Please fetch your children on time.

## **13. LEARNING THROUGH OUR WEBSITE**

This will continue for all grades that have not yet returned to school or for those students who are unable to return. We will be moving to the next level of online teaching after training.

## **14. HARTLEY QUESTIONNAIRE**

Please complete the survey sent to you. We have received only 50% of responses. Thus far 58 Grade 7 parents indicated that they will be sending their children when school opens. Remember this survey is merely intended to get information so that the Principal and SGB can make informed decisions.

## **15. COUNSELLING FOR LEARNERS**

The school will arrange for counselling services to learners who may be in need of psychological or emotional support during this stressful period.

## **16. SCHOOL FEES**

Minimal school fees were paid. To enable the school to meet its financial commitments; parents are kindly requested to pay their school fees via EFT or ATM only. Our banking details are:

Name of Account : Hartley Road Primary                      Name of Bank : Nedbank  
Account Number : 1015640982                                      Branch Number : 130126 Musgrave  
Reference : Child's Name & Grade

## **17. MEDIA BRIEFING BY MINISTER OF BASIC EDUCATION**

Minister of Basic Education, Angie Motshekga will brief the media to provide an update on the readiness for the reopening of schools.

### **Details are as follows:**

**Date:** Sunday, 31 May 2020                      **Time:** 18h00

**Links:** Facebook : <http://facebook.com/GovernmentZA>  
Twitter : <http://twitter.com/GovernmentZA>  
YouTube : <http://youtube.com/GovernmentZA>

## **CONCLUSION**

All role players must understand that the resumption of schooling after a two month break and in an uncertain atmosphere is bound to have some teething problems. Whilst we will take the necessary preventative and safety measures, we cannot 100% guarantee that any individual will not be afflicted with the corona virus. However, the SGB, Senior Management and Staff are approaching this exercise with the knowledge that all the necessary and recommended health precautions will be taken and will continue to be implemented. Our priority is the safety of our children, parents and our staff. We now request the cooperation of our parent community who have over the years supported the school. The Department will trim the syllabus and we will do our utmost to complete it and re orientate our children in this new learning environment. If all role players associated with the school cooperate; we will with the help of the Almighty salvage the 2020 academic year.

MR. A.W. HASSEN  
**PRINCIPAL**

MR. A.A. DESAI  
**CHAIRMAN**