

16 March 2020

Dear Parents

**School closure — 18 March to 14 April**

In light of President Ramaphosa's decisive action to halt the transmission of Covid-19 in South Africa, Waterfall Pre-Primary, Waterfall Preparatory and Waterfall College will be closed to students from Wednesday, 18 March 2020. Tuesday, 17 March will be a normal school day, but without assemblies.

Please limit social contact wherever possible. We request that you do not arrange playdates or take your children to public venues to keep them entertained, as it defeats the purpose of social distancing.

For the sake of transparency, we have included a large amount of information, below. Please take your time to digest it and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

**CALENDAR CHANGES**

In order to make up for the days lost in Term 1, we will close a week later at the end of Term 2. As such, the mid-year break, which was scheduled to start on Friday, 19 June, will now start on Friday, 26 June 2020.

We are confident that we will be able to cover the required curriculum before the end of the year and will make further adjustments, should they be required.

**AFTERCARE/HOLIDAY CARE**

Pre-Primary and Preparatory Aftercare will run until 17:00 on Tuesday, 17 March. There will be no Holiday Care during the national school closure period. We appreciate the additional pressure this places on parents, but believe this to be necessary under the circumstances. Parents who pay for permanent Aftercare and Holiday Care will be compensated for these changes with a credit being passed on their April school fee account. The Holiday Care shut-down planned for Monday, 29 June to Friday, 3 July will no longer take place.

**STAFF**

Our teaching and support staff will continue to work until Friday, 20 March, with a thorough clean being conducted across the campus. This will be repeated in the week before children return to school in April.

Finance, Marketing and Admissions staff will be available by email and phone throughout the break, as they will be working remotely.

**INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL**

Any pupil (or an immediate family member) who has recently travelled to a high- or medium-risk country or region, as defined in the President's address (currently consisting of the European Union, Iran, South Korea, The United States, United Kingdom and China), is obliged to inform the School and comply with the Government's requirements for testing and self quarantine. They are also required to provide a medical clearance certificate no less than 24 hours prior to their return to School.

**PRE-PRIMARY**

- Parent-teacher meetings have been postponed to Term 2.
- Class and individual photos will be rescheduled.
- No children's parties will be held on school premises during this time.



PRE-PRIMARY • PREPARATORY • COLLEGE

## PREPARATORY

- Both Cultural Evenings are cancelled.
- Sporting fixtures for this week are cancelled.
- Parent-teacher meetings will be rescheduled to early in Term 2.
- Given the hands-on nature of teaching in this phase, continued curriculum learning is not always possible. Teachers will provide activities to encourage general knowledge extension and consolidation exercises, rather than any new concepts. Please look out for these on email and/or WhatsApp during the break. Your support in promoting fun, learning activities with your children would be appreciated.

## COLLEGE

- The Toastmasters Awards will continue as planned.
- Lessons will continue via Google Classroom until Friday, 20 March (and into Term 2, if necessary). Look out for a separate letter outlining the details of digital teaching.
- Term 1 reports will be available via ADAM on Monday, 23 March at 14:00.
- The Matric Dance has been postponed.

If you have any concerns regarding your or someone else's symptoms, call the Coronavirus info line on **0800 029 999** or call your healthcare provider for more information.

This is an unprecedented situation, which requires the utmost care and consideration. We will take our lead from the Health and Education authorities, with the wellbeing of our community forefront in our minds. We will keep a close eye on developments and keep you informed, as we learn more. Thank you for your support. We trust that you will find peace in these difficult times.

Kind regards

Paula Mason  
Principal, Pre-Primary

Brad Cooper  
Principal, Preparatory

Jeanette van der Merwe  
Principal, College

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.  
I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Psalm 91*