



RAND PREPARATORY AND COLLEGE NPC

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4 January 2022

NEWSLETTER NO 1 OF 2022

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the staff, I would like to extend a happy new year to our parents and learners. We pray and hope that this year will be much kinder than 2021 was to our school community. I trust that you all have enjoyed a very welcome rest over the December period and that all our parents who celebrated Christmas, had a joyous occasion.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new parents and learners. I hope that you will have a happy stay with us.

SCHOOL REOPENS NEXT WEEK

I would like to confirm that school will reopen next week. From Monday, 10 January, our administrative staff will be back at school. The teachers will also return on Monday, however they will be engaged in meetings and planning so that we can start working with the children from day one.

The children will return to school on Wednesday, 12 January as scheduled.

All new learners (from Grade 8 to 11) as well as the Grade 12 Prefects will attend an orientation day on Tuesday, 11 January. All learners involved in the orientation will need to be at school by 8:30 and they will complete the programme by 13:00. Please could all parents of learners attending ensure that their children have a packed lunch as the tuckshop will not be open on that day. The new learners may attend wearing civvies; however, all prefects must be dressed in correct school uniform.

Grade 9 learners may also negotiate the sale of their second-hand text books with the Grade 8's.

COVID SAFETY

Once again, we will be very strict with management of COVID regulations. It is vitally important that every child wears a mask, from the moment they leave home, until the time that they return home. This is the law and it is compulsory for everyone to take responsibility and protect the lives of not just their immediate family, but everyone that they come into contact with.

Please make sure that children have a spare mask in their school bag. It is strongly recommended that this mask is kept in a zip locked bag. We had incidences where the

elastic on the mask snapped or a child had a nose bleed and a spare mask was necessary. In emergencies, the school carries stock of disposable masks which can be purchased from Mrs Wyer for a cost of R6.00.

We had excellent compliance with the rules last year and we will ensure that they are followed going forward.

The staff and I will, once again, run through our COVID safety protocol on Wednesday, 12 January and see whether we need to make any further adjustments going forward.

COVID VACCINATIONS

I would like to urge parents to seriously consider having their children vaccinated against COVID. There is talk amongst teacher unions to make it compulsory for children to be vaccinated, especially as the omicron variant of COVID targets children in particular.

If this is made compulsory, there will be huge rush across the country for children to get the vaccine and the queues will be long. I strongly recommend that you take the time this week to get your child vaccinated.

DRESS CODE

All children will be required to wear school uniform to school each day. Parents are please to ensure that uniform is washed each day to eliminate the possibility of transmission of the COVID virus.

TIMETABLES

Children will be issued with new timetables on Wednesday, 12 January. These timetables must be followed each day, even if we go into lockdown. Our timetables are designed to ensure that social distancing is observed. Through careful manipulation of the timetable, we have been able to bring all our learners back every day. To accomplish this goal, we have decided to convert the hall into a teaching venue. We are committed to keeping class sizes as small as possible.

SCHOOL START AND ENDING TIMES

A reminder that school starts at 07:50 and ends at 14:30. Parents, we need your assistance with ensuring that children arrive at school punctually. This is a very important part of training your child for adult life. We need to inculcate the culture and ethos in our learners that it shows huge disrespect to a fellow person if you are late as you are not respecting the other person's time. This applies in everyday life including lessons or meetings.

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

It is very important for us to maintain open communication channels with our parents. Please note that the first line of communication should always be between the parent and the teacher concerned. A list of all the teacher's email addresses will be circulated shortly.

The second line of communication occurs when you as parents feel you need to escalate a matter to the head of departments.

Mrs Byrne is the HOD in charge of Grade 8 and 9 matters. She can be contacted on lbyrne@randschools.co.za

Mrs Bell is the HOD in charge of Grades 10, 11 and 12. She can be contacted on jbelle@randschools.co.za

If your child is experiencing an issue relating to his or her relationship towards other learners or towards the staff, you can contact Mrs Leta who is the HOD in charge of student affairs and pastoral care. Mrs Leta can be contacted on sleta@randschools.co.za

Should you still have a matter that requires further attention, or a serious matter that you would like to speak to me about, please feel free to contact me on bharris@randschools.co.za or you may schedule an appointment with Mrs Wyer on 011-618-3331.

WORK FORECASTS

It is our school's policy to provide forecasts of the work that your child will cover each week. This is to assist children who may be ill to keep up with the work covered in class. It is a way for you as parents to be aware of work that is set so that children cannot come home and say we "didn't do any work today". It is indeed very rare for us to have a day where no work is covered.

I also want to state clearly that we commence work from day 1 of the term and we teach up to and including the last day of each term.

SCHOOL FEES

A reminder to parents that school fees are due for payment before the 1st of each month.

In our next newsletter, I will provide a detailed term programme along with the cycle test schedule. We will also look how parents can connect to the school's Ed-Admin App so that you can monitor your child's academic progress in real time.

At this juncture, I would like to wish you and your family a successful 2022!

Yours sincerely



Mr B Harris
Executive Headmaster