



# BERGVLIET PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## BPS NEWSFLASH - 12 of 2021 30 July 2021 – Welcome Back to Term 3

Dear Parents and Guardians

Wishing all of you a warm welcome back to school, for what promises to be another rollercoaster term of ups and downs! Our experience since March 2020 has shown us that the status of the Covid pandemic is fluid, to say the very least. Media sources are contradictory - some tell us that we have passed the peak of the third wave, while others indicate that our numbers are still on the rise. As responsible adults, we therefore need to be mindful of adhering to the safety protocols.

### **Covid-19 Standard Operating Procedures:**

The BPS Covid-19 protocols are updated regularly as mandated by the DBE and WCED. When an individual learner tests positive, we do not notify the entire school body. Contact tracing must first be conducted. If the contact is limited to one venue, then only that class is informed. Other parents are only contacted if their child/children have been in CLOSE CONTACT with the learner who has tested positive. Furthermore, the names of individual learners may only be divulged when a parent/guardian has given us the required consent. Only when there has been "cross pollination", i.e. where learners have moved to different venues, attended ASC or participated in extra-murals, must the entire school be notified.

A high level of anxiety is to be expected, as we are all naturally concerned about the health of our children. However, we appeal to you to maintain a calm, positive attitude. Wait for official notification from BPS. We will certainly keep you abreast of any new developments. Our track record speaks for itself – the well-being of the entire BPS community remains our top priority.

Should you have any queries with regard to our safety protocols, we urge you to contact us. Our Class Representatives are amazing and have done an outstanding job of keeping parents informed. They will certainly communicate any relevant and factual details to you as soon as it is necessary. However, please do not expect the Class Representatives to answer difficult questions, rather engage with the school.

### **Covid-19 Reminders:**

- Do NOT send your child/children to school if they display flu-like symptoms.
- Ensure that your child has a clean mask daily and that it fits over both the mouth and the nose. Masks are mandatory by law and must be worn in public.
- Do NOT send your child/children to school if you are awaiting the results of a Covid test.
- For parents/guardians who test positive, your child/children MUST self-isolate too. If ANY member of the household tests positive, then the child/children must NOT be sent to school.

### **Term 3 Extra-Murals Programme:**

These will now only commence at the start of the Third Week, 10 August. This will be as an added precaution to protect our class and school "bubbles".



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## Term 2 Academic and Music Reports:

These will be mailed on 10 August. Please contact the Office Administration with your updated email address, should it have changed since April 2021.

## Olympic Spirit:

With the Olympic Games in full swing and Tatjana Schoenmaker winning our 1st gold medal this morning, we have planned a free Civvies Day for Friday, 6 August. Learners are encouraged to dress up in a country's colours of their choice or Olympic sport of choice. Please, the idea is not to go out and purchase items, but to be creative and use what you have in your homes. The Olympics is a wonderful learning opportunity to talk about history, culture, sport and so much more in your homes.

As we navigate these choppy waters, please be reminded of Pope Francis's words used last year: "We are all in the same storm, but not rowing in the same boats. Some of us find ourselves afraid, lost and devoid of hope and others go on as if life is as normal as can be. Covid-19 has taught us to make the most of everyday life; to live it to its fullest, to be kind, compassionate and to care not just for our own family, but for all those around us". May these words echo in our hearts and help us to keep hope alive.

Please take care, stay safe and remember to apply the Five Golden Rules daily.

Sincere regards

MR BLP PAULSE