



BERGVLIET PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHILDRENS WAY BERGVLIET 7945 TEL: (021) 715 1103 FAX: (021) 715 24 86
EMAIL: secretary@bergvlietprimary.co.za WEBSITE: www.bergvlietprimary.co.za

BPS NEWSFLASH - 15 of 2021 03 September 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians

We wish everyone a Happy Spring Season - may this be a time of rebirth and renewal, bringing us hope for the future.

It is hard to believe that 6 weeks have passed since Term 3 started, because learning has been constantly interrupted due to the third wave of the pandemic. Our school community, families and friends, continue to feel the devastating impact on their lives. BPS learners have been forced to isolate due to close contact with someone who is Covid-19 positive, resulting in sporadic attendance at school.

Despite this, the current infection rate amongst learners has remained slow, with no rapid spread across Grades or Phases. We remain committed to adhering to the safety protocols. Clearly, our standard operating procedures are effective, as shown by the containment of the infection rate. Thank you to all parents and guardians who keep us informed of any possible exposure. We must continue to have open and honest dialogues around Covid-19, in order to keep our school community as safe as possible.

In keeping with the above, we have taken the decision to suspend the Term 3 Extra-mural programme, for the protection of all on the campus. We are hopeful that, with the passing of the third wave, we will be able to revisit this decision in Term 4. Despite learners' disappointment, we trust that our families will acknowledge that health and safety are always paramount to our community.

Learn @ Home:

Many parents have made enquiries into the possibility of children learning from home, amid heightened anxiety around the impact of the virus. Current WCED regulations still make provision for this; however, the onus would then be on the parent or guardian, to ensure that work is completed. Work is posted on Google Classroom, or if parents prefer, the work can be emailed or collected from school.

Communication is the key, so please keep the class teacher AND the office informed if you decide to go this route. Formal Assessments cannot be written at home. Learners must come to school to complete these, if they are symptom-free, and not isolating due to exposure to a positive person.

Please be reminded of the Covid-19 Protocols:

If a learner is ill, or even has a slight cold or snuffle, please keep him/her home until the symptoms have cleared. Please pay attention to headaches, nausea, dizziness and body aches, sneezing and blocked and/or runny nose, as these also present themselves as possible Covid-19 symptoms.

- If your child has had close contact with someone who tested positive, he/she must isolate for 10 days, dating from that contact.
- If your child has had contact with someone who is awaiting a test result, he/she must not come to school until the test result is known.



BERGVLIET PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHILDRENS WAY BERGVLIET 7945 TEL: (021) 715 1103 FAX: (021) 715 24 86
EMAIL: secretary@bergvlietprimary.co.za WEBSITE: www.bergvlietprimary.co.za

- If a learner who has been attending school tests positive, then we will do contact tracing to ascertain the need for other learners to isolate as well.
- REMEMBER: Being in the same venue as a Covid-19 positive person or passing them in the passage or at break is not deemed "close contact", if the Covid safety protocols were followed.

BPS Values:

Our BPS Values have been highlighted recently. We have spoken about Respect and Responsibility, and next week we will focus on Work Ethic. Please emphasise the importance of these values by discussing them at home. Our values guide our actions, and the hope is that all of us will lead value-driven lives.

Responsible use of Social Media:

The Covid-19 pandemic has necessitated the use of technology within our school. Zoom, Google, MS Teams, webinars, Netflix, Showmax, etc, have become the order of the day. However, screen time MUST be limited. Please ensure that children engage with age appropriate content and media and practise responsible social media etiquette. We would urge you to enter into a contract with your child around the responsible use of devices. Put secure boundaries in place, and monitor these carefully.

School Calendar 2021:

The National Minister of Basic Education has communicated that the latest amended school calendar for 2021 will remain unchanged. Term 3 will end on 1 October. Term 4 will commence on 11 October and end on 15 December 2021. The 2022 School year will start on 19 January 2022 for learners.

Robert H. Schuller wrote, *"Let Your Hopes, Not Your Hurts, Shape Your Future"*.

One of our greatest gifts is HOPE, for with it, all things are possible. Without it, nothing is possible. The survival of Nelson Mandela and victory of Mahatma Gandhi are dramatic examples of the power of hope. Despite their ordeals, both nurtured hope in their hearts, and in return hope sustained them. Hope not only makes our journey more pleasant, but may even guarantee our success in the future, especially when it is combined with action. May we continue to walk with hope in our hearts, put hope into action daily and know that tomorrow will be a better day!

Wishing you and your families a wonderful weekend.

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

Sincere regards

MR BLP PAULSE