



Loreto Convent School

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Dear Grade 1 Parents,

We are pleased to inform you that we have received approval from the Gauteng Department of Education to phase in the Grade 1 learners from Monday 22 June.

This email contains very important information for you to take note of before bringing your child to school.

1. Before bringing your child back to school:

- Please prepare your child at home by speaking about COVID-19 and how the environment in which they will find themselves has changed. We do realise that this can be challenging with the little ones but focussing on personal hygiene, hand-washing and maintaining social distancing will reassure them and better orientate them towards the daily programme at school. Try to also explain to them that physical distancing means they can't hug or even touch their teacher or friends.
- Try to get them into a routine of wearing a mask. This may prove to be very difficult for the younger children. We will be supplying the children with two masks each.
- The children must only bring one bag to school, containing everything that they need for the day. On Monday 22 June, your child's whiteboard and pair of scissors should be in their bag. We will not be making use of chair bags as they cannot be sufficiently sanitized. For the first while, there will be no homework given, however day care children will be given an activity booklet to complete during the study session in the afternoon.
- The children must be dressed in warm home clothes or the school tracksuit. The uniform shop at school will be open on a Monday from 11h00-12h00 and on a Wednesday from 11h00-13h00.
- It is very important that you do not send your child to school if he/she is unwell or has flu-like symptoms. Should a child present with these symptoms, he/she will be isolated and the parents called to fetch them from school.
- If your child has underlying conditions or co-morbidities, please inform the school if you have not already done so.

2. Drop-off and pick-up at school

- There will be a drop-off facility in Visagie Street. The gate will open at 7h15 every morning.
- Parents must please just drive in, drop off the children and drive out again. The entrance into the school premises will be at the first gate in Visagie Street. Once in the grounds, take a sharp left, drop, and exit the premises through the second gate. No parent may exit their vehicle. The teachers will be receiving the children in the classes, and there will be other members of staff waiting at the drive-through area to assist the children. We would like to appeal to parents to please be patient during this process, especially when more learners are phased in in the coming weeks.
- The children must please be wearing a mask when they are dropped off.
- All children will be screened by taking their temperature before entering the classroom.
- During the week of 22-26 June, the school day will end at 13h00. Further communication will be sent within the course of the first week back informing parents of any changes beyond 26 June.
- At 13h00, pick-up will take place at the Visagie Street drive-through facility, where the children were dropped off in the morning. Once again, parents may not exit their vehicle. The children will be supervised by members of staff and taken to the parents as they arrive. The gate will be opened at 13h00 and closed at 13h15.
- We will still be providing a day care service for those parents who choose to make use of it. Day care will, as usual, end at 17h25 every day. However, no lunch will be served at day care and parents are to please ensure that the children bring a packed lunch. The tuckshop is currently operating at limited times, with limited stock, and the little ones will not have the opportunity to visit the tuckshop at this stage.
- We do, however, encourage parents, where possible, to fetch the children directly after school.
- There are two important documents on the website: a screening form and an indemnity form. If it is at all possible, please complete these forms and bring to school on 22 June. Alternatively, they will be sent home with your child.

3. Daily programme

- The classes have been prepared and are ready to welcome the children.
- Social/physical distancing measures, as well as protocols regarding sanitising and disinfecting of the classes will be maintained regularly throughout the day.
- The teachers will have assistance with regards to ensuring personal hygiene, going to the toilet, washing of hands and sanitizing. The children will be monitored throughout the day to make sure that they adhere to these measures and make it part of their daily routine.
- All children will be issued with their own stationery (crayons etc) and may not share with others
- The Jungle Gym will not be used as it cannot be sanitized sufficiently to prevent contamination.
- Please ensure that your child has sufficient nutritious food to eat during the course of the day, and also later in the day if they will be staying for day care. The children will not be allowed to share food. **All food must be packed in disposable containers or plastic bags, for easy disposal after break.**
- Our Occupational and Speech Therapists will be returning to school soon. They will contact the relevant parents with regard to continuing with therapy.

All of the above mentioned points represent our plan for the smooth phasing in of our learners. However, should we realise that any of the proposed protocols are not practical/realistic, or present us with challenges, we will revise this document and inform all parents of any amendments.

At Loreto Convent School, we strive to keep each and every child safe and to adhere strictly to our Standard Operating Procedures (document on the website). We appreciate the support of our parents during these unusual and difficult times and will continue to provide the best possible education to our children.

We look forward to seeing all our little ones back at school next week!

Loreto regards

Loreto SMT