



21 May 2020

Dear JCA Parents/Guardians,

RE: COMMUNICATION REGARDING RETURN TO SCHOOL, REMOTE LEARNING AND VARIOUS SCHOOL MATTERS

1. RETURN TO SCHOOL:

Following the announcement by the Minister of Basic Education earlier this week, we are officially gearing up for the reopening our School! **As anticipated, the opening of schools will follow a phased approach, and the first group to return will be grade 7 on 1 June 2020.**

We are currently preparing our facilities to comply with the Health and Safety regulations and requirements set by the DBE. Our plans are subject to the confirmation from the Gauteng Department of Education as well as verification of COVID-19 readiness from both the Departments of Education and Health.

The Minister mentioned that discussions will take place during the course of the month to address the phase in approach for *small, private schools* such as JCA. This means that if we have our facilities ready and meet all the criteria, we will most likely be allowed to phase in more grades in a shorter period of time than what public schools are allowed to do. We will communicate the return dates of all grades as well as the school calendar for the rest of the year with you as soon as we receive confirmation from the Department.

I am sure that this announcement has been met with a great deal of excitement, but also some questions from Parents. I trust that this letter will provide some answers to the questions and provide important information.

2. PROTOCOL FOR WHEN RETURNING TO SCHOOL:

Transport:

Let us act responsibly when traveling to school. It is compulsory to wear masks throughout the school day, starting *before* boarding transport. Parents and Guardians are encouraged to transport their child/children to school themselves where possible or alternatively check that the public transport service provider is adhering to the regulations issued in terms of the Disaster Management Act 2002, especially with regards to loading capacity of learner transport. We request that children be collected immediately after school to minimise the risk of transmission after school.

Arrival at School:

Upon arrival, all learners and staff will be temperature screened, hands will be sanitised, and masks will be checked. Learners will only gain access if proper masks are worn. Learners or staff who record a fever will not be allowed to attend the school day. The School will contact Parents to fetch a learner with a temperature immediately, to be tested for COVID-19. The learner or staff member may only return to school after submitting a medical certificate, testing negative for COVID-19.

VERY IMPORTANT: If you notice that your child has a fever or shows symptoms of COVID-19 at home, do not send him/her to school. Please first consult with a doctor or get your child tested. Report any suspicious COVID-19 symptoms or confirmed cases immediately to the School Office.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

All Staff and learners will be required to wear **fabric/cloth** (non-medical) face masks throughout the day. The masks should cover the nose and mouth. As JCA is a non-subsidised private school, the DBE will not provide us with any PPE. Parents are responsible for obtaining a mask for their children before returning to school. These masks are available at several stores or can also be made at home provided that it has a minimum of two layers and are made according to the prescribed National guidelines. Please try to obtain the mask a few days before your child will return to school and make them wear it at home to get used to it. Practise to put it on and take it off. We request that children's face masks are washed *daily*. Additional masks will be available from the School office for R20.

Social distancing at school:

The implementation of physical distances in classrooms and on the schoolgrounds will be a priority. No hugging, handshaking and direct contact will be allowed.

Mass Gatherings:

Mass gatherings such as assembly, music concerts, field trips and tuck shop will be cancelled for the time being. All extra-curricular activities will also be cancelled until further notice. The Edudome Space trip will be postponed until a time when it is safe to continue.

Preparing your child before returning to School:

We request that you as Parent make sure your child understands what COVID-19 is and how it is spread. A folder titled "COVID -19 Resources" will be made available where some presentations and songs will be posted. These documents will hopefully aid in explaining the virus to children. Please enforce good hygiene practises such as washing and sanitising of hands, coughing or sneezing into a tissue paper or bent elbow at home, to make children use to these practises.

Learner Orientation:

An orientation and training programme will be implemented for all learners upon their return to school. During the orientation programme, the School will also address the matter of avoiding any stigmatisation after testing positive for COVID-19.

Psychosocial Support:

School Staff will do the best we can to assist learners experiencing any social and emotional difficulties as a result of COVID-19. Biblical counselling will be available when needed.

Parents and Visitors to School:

Screening procedures will be followed for all visitors and parents/guardians who wish to enter the school premises. For the time being, telephonic calls or email will be the preferred method of communication. In-person meetings will be by appointment only and will only be scheduled if necessary.

3. REMOTE TEACHING AND LEARNING:

It was wonderful to see more than 90 parents collect printed worksheets for learners on Tuesday. Printed work for Week 6 will be available at the School gate next Tuesday, 26 May 2020.

Please be advised that once a specific grade is allowed to return to School, we will offer face to face classroom teaching only and will not be able to continue with remote teaching for that specific grade. As and when a learner must be isolated or quarantined, we will make necessary teaching and learning arrangements on an individual basis.

All other grades still waiting their turn to return to School will continue with Remote Teaching and Learning until classroom teaching resumes.

4. SCHOOL FEES:

Please take note that School fees are still payable during this period of lockdown.

As per contract, no learner will be allowed to return to class if fees are outstanding and where financial arrangements have not been made with the School.

Even though the school building is currently closed, we are continuing with provision of teaching and learning via a remote platform. All staff are working during this time and monthly running costs still need to be paid by the school. The school has a deep concern that several parents have not paid fees during this period, currently accumulating to a loss of income of R 273 901. Failure to pay will result in the school not being able to operate as previously, providing the same standard of service to your child.

We urge Parents/Guardians who are unable to pay school fees during the lockdown period due to the *direct* impact of COVID-19, to *urgently* get in contact with the Financial Department of the school (accounts@boi.org) to request an application form for an extended payment plan or payment deferment.

We are thankful for all the Parents who have remained committed with payment during the past two months.

For any general enquiries, please contact the JCA Office for assistance:

Email: jabulane@boi.org, Landline: 012 711 0087 or WhatsApp (Messages only): 081 403 2390

Today we celebrate Ascension Day! Jesus ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us in the Father's house! What a great comfort to know that we were not left alone in the world, but that God sent us a Helper, an advocate, a counsellor and a friend, the Holy Spirit!

John 14

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God;^[a] believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also."

¹⁵*"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*

²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

We are eagerly looking forward to seeing all our JCA learners soon!

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anine Bonthuys', written in a cursive style.

Anine Bonthuys
Principal