

Tamboerskloof Primary School
Principal's report
Lockdown 2020
The next chapter

25 April 2020

Dearest Tambi family.

I hope that you are still staying safe at home to minimise the spread of COVID-19. Since the last letter I sent to you so many regulations changed, some on a weekly basis for us as schools. I therefore decided to rather wait till the very end and first have everything in place before sending out this letter. This letter itself changed a few times already as well.

I want to start off by saying well done and great job to the more than 80% of our learners and parents who accessed our Google drive, Website or other forms of communication such as ClassDojo, Zoom, and WhatsApp. We know it was not easy for anybody during this time as online teaching was not the norm for our school. The entire Tambi family, Learners, Parents and Teachers had to learn and adapt very quickly to use these platforms. This has posed some challenges from time to time and frustration at the best of times. From data issues and connectivity, to parents contacting Teachers at 22:00 in the evening and demanding that Teachers assist them. We are currently working on an idea where parents will be able to park on the top field, access the schools WIFI and the download from our Google drive without exiting their vehicles. More details will be made available as soon as we get this up and running.

I am aware that you as parents are also anxious about the re-opening of schools and by now, I am sure that you have made up your mind as to what you will be doing with your child. We need to know the number of learners we could expect back when all the grades are allowed back to school. Parents will receive specific instructions as it will be grade specific.

The SMT, Maintenance Staff as well as the Office staff has been very busy to make sure that the school is ready and compliant in terms of the regulations set by Government. After several meetings with various stake holders we can say that Tamboerskloof Primary School is ready to receive learners back at the school. Rest assured that the SMT place the safety of our learners and staff at the very highest priority as well as the challenges

Tamboerskloof Primary School
Principal's report
Lockdown 2020
The next chapter

with the adapted curriculum. Let me make it very clear that Tamboerskloof Primary School will NOT be able to guarantee that our school will be 100% safe. We have a lot of variables such as learners coming in from other areas, the so-called hotspots, learners and parents visiting shops, learners travelling by public transport, etc. will all play a significant role in this. The school will only be as safe as we will make it and keep it. There are therefore regulations set up to try and safeguard us in terms of this. The document will be on our website, tkps.co.za as well as the D6 communicator under resources. **THE SCHOOL WILL BE AS SAFE AS WHAT WE KEEP IT.** As a Tambi family, we need to work hard to try and keep the environment safe for all concerned.

Returning to School

What the new curriculum will look like, we don't know yet as we have not been given this yet. We have only received a partial Gr7 curriculum at this stage. Preparations are on the way to receive the grades and we are ready for the return of the Gr7 learners. For now the entire Grade 7 class can be accommodated at school. Once most of the grades are set to return, we will be allowed to run at 50% capacity with social distancing applied, varied starting, break and dismissal times will be implemented.

For Gr 7's

1. Upon arrival at school, a temperature test will be taken at the gate where they normally enter. If their temperature is above 37.2 c, access will be denied to the school. The temperature reading will be noted and the parent/transport provider will have to take the child home again. They will be allowed to try again the following day. Should the temperature still be above the maximum allowed, we would suggest that the parents take the child to their GP.
2. A second screening will take place under the canopy at the tuckshop.
3. The learner's temperature will be taken again.
4. Their shoes will be sprayed underneath with sanitizer.
5. The screening team will record temperatures upon entry and ask the necessary questions. This will take place from 07:30.
6. The learners will then move straight to the hall. Their teachers will receive them there.

Tamboerskloof Primary School
Principal's report
Lockdown 2020
The next chapter

7. The hall is already set up with social distancing, a sanitizing station, etc. In place as per the regulations.
8. School starting times as well as break times will remain the same for the Gr7's as they will be the only learners currently. This will change for the other grades as they are introduced.
9. Each learner will receive two cloth masks, supplied by WCED and a Face Shield supplied by Tamboerskloof Primary. The face shield must stay at school and will be sanitized daily by the learners and the cloth mask must alternate so that there is always a clean one available.
10. The learners will be taught how to sanitize their own space.
11. School will close at 14:40 from Monday to Thursday. The Monday intra- mural time will fall away.
12. Friday time will as usual, 12:20.
13. Remember that face masks are compulsory to wear.
14. School uniform must be worn from Monday to Friday. At this stage Friday will still be civvies day (Free) to assist you in making sure that the uniform is clean for the next week.
15. NO Aftercare facilities are available at this stage as these facilities are not allowed to open under the current regulations. We are hoping that this will be allowed as the lockdown levels are lowered.

More detailed information will be shared with the learners and parents as we move along.

16. The Maintenance staff will ensure that thorough cleaning and sanitizing takes place regularly throughout the day.
17. NO TUCK SHOP ALLOWED.
18. NO outside feeding schemes allowed yet.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

As per the regulations:

- The Minister of Education announced the dates for when learners must return to their respective schools. These are the three scenarios as per the **WCED**.

1. The learners must attend school if they are healthy.

Tamboerskloof Primary School
Principal's report
Lockdown 2020
The next chapter

2. Parents must inform the school about learners who are at risk and have comorbidities. A medical certificate must accompany this notification. The learners in this scenario will still receive information via the e-learning platforms. Parents will need to take full responsibility for learning at home. No tasks to be left incomplete. Your environment must be set up to receive e-learning effectively. At some stage you will be contacted with regards to assessments. Assessments will be done at school.

PLEASE NOTE:

This option is not recommended by the school as the onus will be completely on the parent for the education of their child/ren.

- Parents must inform the school if learners are not well and unable to attend school. Parents must provide a medical certificate to this effect.
3. Parents who feel strongly about not sending their children to school for your own reasons must register for home schooling. By implication it means that your child will be deregistered at Tamboerskloof Primary School. This also means that you will have to re-apply via the online system and follow that procedure.

We understand that some of you are mindful of family members with comorbidities and who your children will have contact with and that you are naturally anxious about the possible spread of infections. **We can't force you to send your child to school. You need to decide what is best for your child as well as your family.**

Clothing Depot

For now, no parents will be allowed as we would like to minimise cross contamination. The learners will have to go to the clothing depot at a specified time.

Tamboerskloof Primary School
Principal's report
Lockdown 2020
The next chapter

You have received the finance letter, so I am not going to delve into that now. All that I will re – iterate is that if you are experiencing financial difficulties, that you should contact the Finance office for assistance.

I would also like to thank the parents for messages of encouragement during these very challenging times.

To the parents who kindly offered to donate some money, even though going through challenges themselves, to buy safety equipment for the school, I salute you and thank you very much.

Gr R –6 parents.

Don't stress too much yet. Detailed information will be sent to you prior to your child/ren having to come to school. In the meantime ensure that we have your updated contact details.

Please practise everything to stay safe, stay indoors and to stay healthy.

Yours faithfully

Mr. R.H. Abrahams
Principal

Tamboerskloof Primary School
Principal's report
Lockdown 2020
The next chapter