

Dear Parents

It's a given that COVID-19 is influencing us all. We need to face the challenge and I need to point out a few important matters:

1. We have already lost 12 school days, (this term) another 10 will follow and to be honest and to the point as always we might lose even more. So let's take it on, whatever this virus throws at us, we will take it on and we will face it head on!
2. Sunridge staff members are positive, they have been working for the past 12 days, they are available to you from 08:00 to 15:30 for 5 days a week.
3. They know your child, they know strengths and weaknesses and they are the only ones who can work with you from a point of understanding your child's real needs.
4. We work with children and we also need to keep their minds positive, we cannot overwhelm them with mountains of work and whatever new things might hit the air.
5. We are not saying that there are not good things out there, we are saying that we need to deal with it very carefully. The problem is that everybody is now a teacher and they know what is best. This is not supportive to real teachers already providing the service and who would be the ones responsible in the end.
6. Lots of new work, programs, lessons, support, apps and who knows what are daily being thrown at you. Suddenly we find hundreds of experts on education and what to present, how to present it and what the future will be. It's simple, the one who will work and play an essential role is your current teacher, the very one who is available to you and who will be in class when we return.
7. Our staff is currently reading, evaluating and undergoing training on different topics and with work being made available to you, you just need to stay calm, positive and focused. Ask if you do not know and to ask for support is fine.

Our Executive team is at work through electronic conference meetings and they are guiding staff and planning for whatever might be thrown at us.

We need to keep all our staff employed, actively involved, providing work, support and undergoing training for when we return. Paying your school fees is not only the right thing to do but the investment you will be making for when we return. We need each and every one of them to be fighting fit and ready and I can assure you that even our general workers, whom we are keeping in touch with, they are all being looked after, they want to come back, they want to serve your children. We however know that we must wait till it's safe and appropriate.

Knowing our children and what we are providing you with, we know that 75% of our learners will return able to pass 2020 and to progress to 2021 with support. It might not be your 90% academic average as some expect, that is anyhow not important, but being ready for the next grade or phase is now the key.

Our task is to support the 75% BUT our biggest challenge is to get the 25% to also meet the standards with support. While supporting them we must also support the 75% in such a way that we can increase their capability and standards so that they can reach their full potential.

It's within this framework that we have kept on working, we have asked you to be positive, supportive and to bite the bullet with us. I know it's not easy as some parents are still working, others have lost their income and many more challenges face each and every one.

We are praying for each and every one, please be safe on all fronts and please work with us.

Attached please find our top 10 achievers for the first term for grade 4 to 7. Let that be motivation for some while for others it's the general achievers list still to be confirmed. If you might have missed out, then let's just never give up!

Should we all at least focus on reading with understanding during this time, I firmly believe our children will all return as winners. Get this to improve and I can assure you that even our 75% of learners who are now ready to progress with support will rise to 90% who can progress with support.

Our very first assessment will be reading and reading with understanding will be our guide. You might already be at a very high level, let me assure you that it's never high enough. Grade 1 to 3's, your teachers will help and support, mums and dads, work with them and stand in as teachers as best you can.

Should we be able to keep all our staff we are already working to ensure that our ratio from 1:34 go to 2:34 for grade 1 to 3. Grade 4 to 7 will also find that on return we will introduce a comprehensive support program. The key is to get your child to understand how important it is and to get them to be positive and to want to do it. That is already a hell of a challenge in some cases, so let's get to it.

While dealing with this, Mr Niël van Rensburg in grade 5 will be retiring by the end of April. Mrs Lindie Jonck will be taking his place. She is an experienced teacher with a very good support background that is already being utilized.

Please stay safe and positive.

M. de Vries
Principal