



*'Embracing Change to Drive Innovation and Growth in My School Community' -2021 Vuleka Theme*

15 January 2021

## TWO WEEK DELAY FOR THE RE-OPENING OF SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOLS

Dear Parents

I hope this communication finds you well.

As per school communication that was sent out yesterday (14 January 2021) regarding re-opening of school, we provided two scenarios (Scenario A and B), Scenario A articulates the school position regarding 18 January as the day we planned to re-open school and Scenario B provided information if schools are not able to open. The latter Scenario (Scenario B) is what we are now facing, following the announcement from the Department of Basic Education this morning, regarding delay for the re-opening of South African schools due to rise in the COVID-19 cases.

The Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Dr Makgabo Reginah Mhaule, held a press briefing at 9:00 this morning (15 January 2021) and announced a two-week delay for the re-opening of all schools in South Africa, including independent schools.

The Deputy Minister has asked the independent schools to apply a two-week delay from the date they were supposed to start school and therefore in our schools' case, **we will re-open on 01 February (Monday)** instead of 18 January.

We wish to re-assure you our commitment in providing education and support to your child for the next couple of weeks. We will do the following:

1. All Vuleka teachers have already set up WhatsApp parent groups to communicate with parents and pupils.
2. **Monday 18 January and Tuesday 19 January:** Teachers will start sending work (revision work) to you via platforms such as WhatsApp and Microsoft Teams, but your teachers and heads of school will communicate with you.
3. **Wednesday, 20 January:** Parents who are not able to access work via WhatsApp or Microsoft Teams can collect hard copies from school, between 8:00 – 12:00. Please advise your class teacher if you need hard copies prior to a collection day.
4. **Monday, 27 January, and Tuesday 28 January:** Teachers will send second batch of work via WhatsApp or Microsoft Teams.
5. **Wednesday 29 January:** Parents can collect hard copies of work from **8:00 – 12:00**. Please advise your class teacher if you need hard copies prior to a collection day.





**Monday 01 February:** Term 1 commences. **7:30 – 14:00** but will open gates for screening as from **6:45am**. As a school, we operate on small campuses and therefore, we will open school for pupils of all grades but observe all health and safety protocols.

**School Safety Measures:**

1. Wearing of masks
2. Social Distancing
3. Screening: Taking temperatures
4. Break times are staggered (Grades to take turn to go on break)
5. Afternoon screenings are staggered.
6. No big gatherings such as assemblies or morning prayers.
7. Pupils stay in one classroom, but teachers move from one class to the other (primary school)
8. Morning and break time plays are supervised by staff to monitor social distancing and other safety protocols.

**Extra-Murals:**

**Swimming:** As you may be aware that all our schools are using outside school swimming pools which the State has prohibited citizens from using public pools, and therefore we have decided to suspend Term 1 swimming until further notice.

**Cultural Activities:** We are offering all our cultural activities such as, Marimbas, Music, Dance, Art, Drama, Computers and many more, and will invest more resources in these activities.

**‘Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success’ – Henry Ford.**

Should anything change we will inform you. We need to pray for our school and the rest of the country.

Yours sincerely

Mr Sanele Majola

Executive Head of Vuleka Schools

