
MULBARTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Newsletter 01 of 2022

17 January 2022

“Let go of yesterday. Let today be a new beginning and be the best that you can, and you’ll get to where God wants you to be.” ~ Joel Osteen

From the Principal’s Desk

Welcome back to the new academic school year. I trust that you all had a great festive season and a restful holiday. 2021 was certainly a tough year, however our prayer is that 2022 will a blessed and productive year!

We would like to extend our sincere condolences to everyone who has lost loved ones, members of the school community, staff, colleagues, government, education and religious leaders over this holiday break. We understand that when school re-opens many people will be deeply affected by the trauma of loss. We wish everyone extra strength at this difficult time.

We would like to welcome back Miss Van Vuuren after her recovery from her sick leave and welcome as well to Miss C. Ramashamole to our school – as the new educator for Grade 7C. We wish her a fruitful stay at our school.

Parents, please note that we all need to be extra cautious and vigilant concerning covid-19. We once again stress not to send sick children to school. Those learners who display symptoms should remain at home and be tested. Also, should a parent or family member display any symptoms and are being tested, we request that the child/children also remain at home until such time as the test results are available – please inform the school immediately of the results. If a parent or family member tests positive, then the child/ren should also isolate for 10 days even if the child shows no symptoms – if symptoms develop later, then these children must be tested as well. Covid-19 vaccinations are open to all 12 year olds and above – please accompany your child to get their vaccines if you haven’t done so already. Please continue to keep our school, our community, and our country in your prayers.

Please note that we are having the full return of ALL learners daily. There will be no rotation of classes. With the full return of learners, we will be trying our best to mitigate the spread of the virus – please emphasize to your children to observe safety at all times.

Unfortunately, the Parent information evenings will not be able to take place as normal. Instead, handouts with all the important and relevant information for each phase will be issued to your child. Please read through this handout thoroughly so that you are fully aware of what is expected from you and your child. Please complete the reply slip and return to the school. This will be kept on file as acknowledgement of your receipt.

The holidays are now behind us and we now have to focus towards the term ahead. Parents, please note that good discipline on the part of your child is an extremely crucial aspect of education. Let's work together to ensure that we instill good habits and behaviour in our children from the very beginning, such as correct stationery and books, school uniform, school shoes and correct hair styles (NO highlights, streaks, wedges, etc.). Children with incorrect hair styles will be sent home. Also note that cellphones are NOT ALLOWED at school. If cellphones or any other electronic devices are brought to school, they will be confiscated, and a fine of R200 will be levied for its return.

We are once again appealing to parents not to deliver items that your child has left behind or the parent has gone early morning shopping to bring to the learner – food; money; projects; sports kit; clothes; house keys; etc. What is left behind stays behind! Parents, children will never learn responsibility if you keep running after them. Please instill in them the habit of packing their bags and getting ready for school the night before! This also disrupts classes and lessons when children are constantly called up to the office.

The school tuckshop will continue to operate using an order form system where the tuckshop staff will collect orders from the teachers as per the orders from the learners in their classes in the mornings and deliver the food to the learners before the break. There will be no queuing taking place at the tuckshop. Please see attached menu and prices. Please indicate the item/s required, the quantity and the total amount that needs to be paid. Please insert the exact amount in a money bag which the tuckshop staff will verify. Please ensure accurate orders and amounts.

Please note as well that school starts promptly at 07h45. Please ensure that your child is at school by 07h30. Late-coming stamps will be issued to children arriving late (this will be recorded in their diaries). Also, please fetch your child on time after school. Sometimes children are left at school until late in the evening to fend for themselves – this is not safe for your child. Please note that the school gates will be locked at 15h00. Inculcating positive habits, like punctuality, in our children will stand them in good stead when they are adults. Please note that we will be continuing with break detention this year.

Please take note of the following dismissal times:

- **Mon-Wed:** Gr R & 1 – 13h20; Gr 2 – 13h30; Gr 3 – 13h55; Gr 4 – 13h45; Gr 5 – 13h50; Gr 6 – 13h55 & Gr 7 – 14h00.
- **Thursday:** Gr R & 1 will dismiss at 13h20; Gr 2 – 13h30; Gr 3 – 13h55; Gr 4 – 14h15; Gr 5 – 14h20; Gr 6 – 14h25 & Gr 7 – 14h30;
- **Friday:** Gr R & 1 – 13h10; Gr 2 – 13h20; Gr 3 – 13h30; Gr 4 – 13h15; Gr 5 – 13h20; Gr 6 – 13h25 & Gr 7 – 13h30. This is to try to alleviate congestion at the gates. Please fetch your child timeously.

Please note that the whole school dismisses at 13:30 on Fridays.

All learners from Grade R – 7 have been issued with school diaries. Please ensure that your child carries this to school every day as this is the first means of communication between parent and teacher. Please ensure that the inside first page of the diary contains all the relevant contact information of parents or guardians. All learners' stationery should have been purchased by now. Children coming to school without the required books and stationery fall behind in their classwork and this negatively affects their progress and performance in class.

If your child is not well, please keep him/her at home until s/he is well enough to return to school (a doctor's note or a note in the diary is required). It will be much appreciated if parents could please send cotton wool, plasters, small Dettol, Mercurochrome and a box of tissues for your child.

Parents are not allowed on the school premises without signing in at the office. No parents are allowed to go to teachers' classrooms in the mornings, afternoons or during teaching time. This precaution is for the safety of your child as strangers could enter the school premises. It also disrupts the teachers' lessons if done during teaching time. Please wait outside the school in the afternoons when waiting to fetch your child after school.

Please note: Archibald Avenue is to be treated as a one-way street from east to west at peak times (from 07h00 to 08h00 and from 13h00 to 15h00). We have parents stopping directly in front of our car park driveway or at the scholar patrol point to offload their children, then opening the car boot so their children can retrieve their school bags. This is inconsiderate and causes traffic congestion. Please refrain from this – there are ample parking bays that can be utilized. Please drop off your child and leave so that other parents can utilize the parking bays as well. Please be courteous and considerate to our neighbours and the business center on Dalbini Drive – please do not block their driveways or entrances. We are appealing for the co-operation of all drivers so as to not to cause undue frustration in the mornings and afternoons.

Parents, please encourage your children to keep our school, the park across the school and our surrounding streets clean from all rubbish and litter. The litter around the school is not only an eye-sore which makes the streets and pavements look disgusting but is also endangering local plants and animals. We all need to work together in this on-going venture.

With regards to school fee payments, please see attached letter regarding resolutions/decisions taken by majority of our schools' parents via their return slips last year – majority of the parents were in agreement with 2022 budget. This is binding on all parents. Please ensure that your school fee payments are up to date to avoid penalties against you. The School Governing Body grants a 10% early settlement discount to those parents who pay their school fees in full by 28 February 2022. Full, partial or conditional exemption from school fee payment will only be granted to parents that meet all the necessary criteria. School fee exemption forms are available from our school bursar.

Parents, please make any holiday bookings, doctors' appointments for your children, etc strictly during school holidays or after school times. Please note that the school calendar below could be subject to change as determined by the GDE.

2022 School Calendar

Term 1	12 January – 17 March
Term 2	5 April – 24 June
Term 3	19 July – 30 September
Term 4	11 October – 14 December

Covid-19 Procedure for Grades R-7 Learners:

- MASKS ARE COMPULSORY. If your child has no mask – children will NOT be allowed to enter the school premises. Please ensure that your children's masks are

clearly labelled with their name, surname and grade. No buffs to be worn. Disposable masks will be sold at a cost of R10.

- There are three entrances to the school for learners – 2 on ARCHIBALD AVENUE (1 for Grade R and 1 for Grades for 1-3) and 1 on Dalbini Road (for Grades 4-7). No parents will be allowed to enter onto the school premises.
- When learners arrive at their classrooms their temperature will be taken by staff members.
- If children's temperatures are above 38°C, the secretary will telephone parents to fetch the learners. Please educate your child on the various screening questions that they will be asked by the educators so that children are not confused by these questions.
- Learners who have a high temperature during the day will be taken to an **isolation area**. Parents are advised to take such children for an immediate check-up to their doctor.
- Strict social distancing will be observed (use red markers on the ground) – while queuing, while walking as well as while lining up in the line-up area.
- Learners will start to move from class to class for change-over of subjects as of Monday, 17 January.
- Each class has a section in the school where they will be sitting during lunch breaks. Social distancing will be followed during breaks. Unfortunately, playing and interacting together during lunch breaks will not be permitted.
- At break learners will be fetched from the classroom and returned to the class by their register teacher or a school assistant.
- Hand sanitizers will be available at the entrance of every classroom. Children are welcome to carry their own hand sanitizers as well.
- There will be no hugging, no handshakes, no touching, such as fist pumps, high 5's – all direct contact to be avoided.
- Tissues are to be used correctly and to be disposed of in an appropriate manner, coughing or sneezing should also be done in an appropriate manner.
- No child is allowed to share stationery, lunch, snacks, cold drinks, water, etc.
- Please note that Aftercare is still closed.
- Please ensure all uniforms are washed daily. All learners to be dressed in full summer uniform. We will be alternating formal summer uniform with the summer PT uniform on alternate days. Correct hair styles, hair bands, earrings, etc. to be worn.
- Please note that normal school rules will apply eg. merits, demerits, break detentions, etc. We aim to get our children back to some sense of "normality".
- You will be advised as to when extra murals will commence – all learners to be fetched immediately after school or extra murals. ***NO child should be waiting after school until late to be fetched! No Child is allowed to play in the park or go to the shops!***
- It is parents' responsibility to ensure that the correct safety protocols are adhered to in their children's transport.
- Please work with us in educating your children on the new social distancing norms and correct safety measures.
- All learners will be required to attend school daily – NO rotation of classes.

- Please ensure that your child has all the required books and stationery at school as no sharing or borrowing is allowed.

Please work with the school as far as the above aspects are concerned. Please be patient with us as we may revise plans and procedures continuously as new information comes to light.

Looking forward to your support and co-operation in the term ahead.

Stay safe.

L. Kistadoo
Principal