



Michael Mount **Waldorf** School

Nurturing conscious, creative, independent thinkers

4 July 2020

Dear Michael Mount Community,

Sadly, I must advise that two members of our finance team have tested positive for Covid-19 and at least one other member of our office staff is showing symptoms. This has led us to take quick and extensive action to implement the following:

- School campus is in lockdown for the whole of next week (6 – 10 July 2020)
- No-one is allowed on the property including support staff and cleaning staff
- The offices have been deep cleaned and sanitised and will remain closed due to the 14-day isolation period imposed on admin staff who were in close contact with the compromised staff members
- Anyone who has been in contact with our finance department staff should please isolate themselves and seek medical advice if they begin to show symptoms. Those known to us have been tracked and traced
- The office will reopen on the Monday, 13 July
- With the safety of our community in mind and due to the lockdown, the school campus cannot be prepared for the beginning of term 3; we will therefore resume **online teaching** for the entire school for the first week of the term - starting Monday, 13 July
- We will monitor the situation and decide at a later date whether it is safe to resume physical classes from the second week of term – Monday 20 July 2020.

For parents with nursery school children under the age of 6

The Minister of Basic Education has gazetted a change regarding the return to school of children below Grade R. The young child falls under the purview of the Children's Act (2005), which is administered by the Department of Social Development. The Minister of the Department of Social Development and the Minister of Basic Education are in consultation as to how best to phase in the return of small children.



At this stage children pre-Grade R (those under the age of 6 in our school) are not permitted to return to school. Independent schools are caught in the middle of this debate between the two departments and it is as frustrating for us as it is for you. Dear parents, your nursery school teacher will be in touch with you personally to appraise you of this situation as it unfolds.

We understand that the situation in Gauteng is being closely monitored. Should the Gauteng Covid Command Council issue new directives for schools we will keep you informed.

These are unnerving times and something we couldn't possibly have envisaged as we embarked on 2020. I urge you to please remain positive and optimistic. We will get through this together!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W Bester', enclosed in a white rectangular box.

William Bester
Administrator