



**Michael Mount Waldorf School**  
Nurturing conscious, creative, independent thinkers

15 July 2020

Dear Michael Mount Community,

Welcome back to Term 3 of this very different school year.

We are ready to embrace your children and the new term. All classrooms and offices have been sanitised. The schedule for on and off campus teaching is in place. Below are a few items to attend to as we get going.

### **MM community health update**

Hamish Brand, our Bursar, is at home and recovering well. Mary Connolly, our Deputy Bursar, is fully recovered. Two teachers tested positive in the school holidays - one of whom has fully recovered and the other is in the process of healing. Two high school students tested positive in the holidays and are at home recovering well. To all those affected by Covid-19 we wish you strength and resilience in this trying time.

### **Term 3 teaching schedule**

The term has started with online teaching for Week 1. Next week, starting Monday, 20th July, we will pick up with **Week 2** of teaching on campus. Please consult the attached schedule for **Week 2 times and days** for your child's classes.

### **Increased health protocol vigilance**

- Please keep your child at home if he/she shows any sign of being unwell or if any family member shows symptoms. Rather err on the side of caution during this peak period.
- Ensure that your child arrives at school with a mask. We will be reinforcing hand washing and sanitising throughout the day as well as the importance of social distancing.
- Be fastidious about following the drop-off and pick-up times as specified in the schedule.

These protocols are in place to keep us as safe as possible and we thank you for your support.

### **Health questionnaire**

The latest regulations from the Department of Basic Education require a **new health questionnaire** to be completed and returned ahead of your child being admitted back on campus for Term 3.

Even if you completed the form last term, you are required to submit a new form for this term.

Mrs Godlonton has e-mailed a health questionnaire to all families.



## Attendance

### 1. Choosing not to return to campus

Should you choose not to allow your child to return to the classroom, we require a letter explaining your decision. Your child will be accommodated in the relevant online group for at-risk children.

### 2. High School Students

Students with a **co-morbidity** (or a close family member with a co-morbidity) may continue to study via MSTeams. New MSTeams groups will be created for each class to accommodate at-risk students.

**Reminder** Please ensure the school has the following current documents to support this position:

- a letter explaining the medical condition
- a signed health declaration
- a doctor's certificate

**Quarantine** - If a student is quarantined, that student may (by arrangement) join the online MSTeam group of at-risk students in that class for the required period.

**Absence due to illness other than Covid-19** - Normal rules apply. A doctor's sick note is required if the student is absent for more than two consecutive days or is absent on a Friday or a Monday. Work will have to be made up when the student returns to school. *Absenteeism does not qualify the student to join the MSTeams at-risk student group.*

### 3. Primary School Children

Children with a **co-morbidity** (or a close family member with a co-morbidity) will receive support from their teachers on the various online platforms.

**Reminder** Please ensure the school has the following current documents to support this position:

- a letter explaining the medical condition
- a signed health declaration
- a doctor's certificate

**Quarantine** - If a student is quarantined, that student may (by arrangement) join the relevant online platform in that class for the required period.

**Absence due to illness other than Covid-19** - Normal rules apply. A doctor's sick note is required if the child is absent for more than two consecutive days or is off on a Friday or a Monday. *Work will have to be made up when the child returns to school.*

## Nursery School

As announced previously, we are delighted to welcome back our six-year-olds. The new term will start for them on Monday, 20th July.

- Government has resolved questions concerning younger children returning to school and Michael Mount's date of commencement will be announced shortly.



## Aftercare

Aftercare is permitted to re-open in a limited capacity. It is only available to children being taught **on campus on that day**. Should you require aftercare, please contact Gwen Moore (072 233 0770) or Esther Mthimunye (064 666 6070) to make arrangements ahead of time.

## Be prepared

Challenge, change and adaptability are common keywords for 2020. We would like to add community, consideration and empathy. We don't know how the term will unfold but we ask that you be prepared and flexible, as your children may need to go back online and off campus should the need arise.

Finally, dear parents, teachers, students and children, thank you for your support; for your appreciation of all we are doing and for your resilience in handling this unpredictable situation. May we all enjoy a successful and productive term.

Yours sincerely,

**William Bester**  
Administrator