



Michael Mount **Waldorf** School

Nurturing conscious, creative, independent thinkers

15 January 2021

Dear Michael Mount Community,

Today the Deputy Minister of Education Dr Reginah Mhaule briefed the media with regards to the reopening of schools in 2021. This follows the earlier announcement, on 11 January 2021, by President Ramaphosa regarding the adjusted level 3 lockdown measures.

The decision by the National Coronavirus Command Council (NCCC) - after consultation with all stakeholders - is that schools are to remain closed until Monday, 15th February 2021, to assist with flattening the curve of the second wave of infections.

This has come as quite a shock in education circles and is not an ideal way to begin the school year, but dear parents this is certainly beyond our control and we will do everything in our power to support your children in the best possible way. We have certainly learnt to be resilient!

The school closure is not however applicable to all classes however – please see hereunder:

Early Childhood Development

- Baby Group is already open and can remain open;
- Playgroup children may return to school from Tuesday, 19th January;
- Nursery School children may return **except** those who are turning six this year (Grade R) may not return at this point and resource packs will be prepared for them. This is because the year before Class 1 falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Basic Education.

Way Forward – Distance Learning

We will revert once again to online learning and, at this point, it is envisaged that we will physically return to classrooms on **Monday, 15th February**.

We ask, as we start the term on **Tuesday, 19th January**, that all parents ensure that their children have access to their MS Teams groups, where appropriate. Should you experience any difficulty in connectivity, your first point of call is your Class Teacher or Class Guardian, who will do their best to assist with alternative arrangements.

Registered member of



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2021

Class 1

The Class 1 teachers are committed to supporting and helping to nourish your children through stories, songs and activity ideas. To this end, the Class 1 teachers will be in contact with you directly to arrange the collection of resource packs. We will formally begin the Class 1 year when we can once again physically be present at school.

Classes 2 to 8

Class teachers will revert to a hybrid of online learning and activity tasks, which will be provided by the teachers. The Class Teachers will communicate with parents individually to advise on the week's learning and timetable. Emails and WhatsApp's will be used in order to keep you updated.

Classes 9 to 12

Specific work and timetables for the lessons will be sent out to each class by Mrs Trish Godlonton. The Class Guardian is still the main contact for parents and students and, in addition, all subject teachers will be available to support the students from 8.00am to 3.30pm. (NOTE: Please be aware that teachers are teaching and will respond as soon as they are available).

Please ensure that your children have MS Teams connectivity. If there are connectivity problems, contact your Class Teacher or Class Guardian, so that alternative arrangements can be made.

These are extraordinary circumstances. We will do our utmost to support our students in their academics until we are able once again to resume classroom teaching.

Useful Contacts

Hereunder are a list of important email addresses, should you need to make contact:

Administrator	Mr William Bester	wbester@michaelmount.co.za
Deputy Administrator	Mrs Trish Godlonton	pgodlonton@michaelmount.co.za
Personal Assistant	Mrs Claire Bharath	cbharath@michaelmount.co.za
School Secretary	Mrs Christinah Soko	csoko@michaelmount.co.za schoolsecretary@michaelmount.co.za
Registrar	Ms Nolene Choonoo	registrar@michaelmount.co.za
Bursar	Mr Hamish Brand	hamishb@michael-mount.co.za

The school office will be open during normal school hours. Individual meetings with teachers may be arranged by prior appointment or via Zoom.

Dear parents, this was certainly not the way we envisaged opening our 2021 school year. I ask once again that you show the incredible support and understanding displayed last year. Our indomitable community spirit and fortitude will enable us to do the best we can for our children together.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Bester', written in a cursive style.

WILLIAM BESTER
Administrator