



ROYAL SCHOOLS ALBERTON MEMORANDUM 2021

TO: ALL PARENTS
FROM: EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL / ACADEMIC DIRECTOR / COLLEGE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS
DATE: JANUARY 27, 2021

Dear Parent

1. Background and previous communication

- On **12 January 2021** a parent memorandum was sent out to set out the re-opening dates for our school as originally communicated to parents in 2020.
- On **15 January 2021** the Department of Basic Education (DoBE) announced that **ALL SCHOOLS** will only be allowed to re-open on **15 February**. On this day a parent memo was sent out to communicate that our schools will only re-open on 15 February and that online learning will be offered from 1-13 February.
- On **22 January 2021** the Minister of Basic Education announced and gazetted that **PRIVATE SCHOOLS** will be allowed to re-open on **1 February**. On **25 January** a parent memo was sent out to inform parents that our school will re-open on 1 February. On the basis of an earlier directive, we further communicated that all **PRIMARY SCHOOL** learners can return while the **HIGH SCHOOL** will return in a staggered manner at 50% capacity.

2. Subsequent events


Subsequent to the distribution of the memorandum of **25 January** (indicating that all **PRIMARY SCHOOL** learners can return while the **HIGH SCHOOL** will return in a staggered manner at 50% capacity), the following transpired:

- The School Management Team received various phone calls, e mails and WhatsApp's from parents expressing their concerns on re-opening the entire primary school on 1 February. Some of these messages were very aggressive and of a threatening nature towards our people and school.
- There were various incidents of intimidation of school leaders and managers reported in the media. However, these were more targeted at private schools that remained open regardless of the Minister's request to only open on 1 February.

3. Amended plans

As a result of the above-mentioned events the School Management Team is compelled to amend our plans as follows:

- The **Pre-Primary school** learners (Grades RRR, RR and R) will all attend from 1 February as these classes are very small.
- The **Primary School** learners will return to school in a staggered manner from 1 February and will follow the same phase-in plan as the High School shown below.
- The **High School learners** will return to school in a staggered manner from 1 February (as communicated in the previous memorandum) as follows:

 Phase-in Plan: 1-13 February 2021							
◀ January							March ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1 Girls Group (Gr. 1-11) come to school	2 Boys Group (Gr. 1- 11) come to school	3 Girls Group (Gr. 1-11) come to school	4 Boys Group (Gr. 1- 11) come to school	5 Girls Group (Gr. 1-11) come to school	6	
7	8 Boys Group (Gr. 1- 11) come to school	9 Girls Group (Gr. 1-11) come to school	10 Boys Group (Gr. 1- 11) come to school	11 Girls Group (Gr. 1-11) come to school Valentine's Day Celebration (R10)	12 Boys Group (Gr. 1- 11) come to school Valentine's Day Celebration (R10)	13	
TAKE NOTE: Grade RRR-R and 12 learners will attend school every day.							

- On the day of attendance the learners will have **face-to-face classes**. They will then be given **written work** to complete at home on the days that they are not attending.
- We will slowly start implementing our Google Classrooms program that will supplement the classroom learning. You will receive more information on this soon.
- All COVID rules and regulations will be strictly adhered to.

Please note that the above-mentioned plan will be in place from **1 February to 13 February**. During this time the School Management Team will assess the situation on a daily basis. On or before 13 February the plan from 15 February onwards will be communicated to you. This may include returning a larger percentage of learners, depending on the circumstances. If anything changes before then, you will also receive communication from the school.

Once again, we apologise for this change in plans. Please understand that these are not easy decisions to make for us as a School Management Team. Circumstances literally change on a daily basis.

On the one hand we have parents criticising us for re-opening the schools as they are concerned for the health and safety of their children. However, on the other hand we have parents criticising us for not opening the schools earlier as they do not have anywhere else for their children to go or no one to look after them. Further to this we as a school are committed to the health and safety of our learners, staff and parents and we want to be responsible citizens. But we also have a commitment to our parents and learners to provide quality education. Most of our learners can't wait to come back to school as the school is a safe place for them where they can be in a social environment and have a balanced life.

We really hope that you understand the immense pressure brought about by the unprecedented circumstances created by this pandemic. Nobody has ever encountered a situation like this. We are simply doing the best we can to satisfy all our stakeholders.

4. Management Contact Details

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact one of our managers:

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Kind Regards

Susan Du Plessis

Executive Principal