



KITSONG

16March/2020

Quality schooling made accessible

Luka Road, Phokeng
www.kitsong.co.za Tel 0145661400

Dear Kitsong Community

Notice: Closure of Kitsong under South African Government State of Disaster declaration, due to COVID-19 pandemic

On Sunday evening, in an address to the South African Nation, President Cyril Ramaphosa, announced a number of mandatory restrictions under the declared State of Disaster in terms of the National Disaster Management Act, 57 of 2002, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic facing our country. These include:

1. **Schools' Closure:** Schools will be closed from 18 March 2020 until after the Easter weekend.
2. **Travel Avoidance:** All non-essential international and local travel should be discouraged and travellers from high-risk countries will not be allowed to enter the country.
3. **Public Gatherings:** Public gatherings of more than 100 people are prohibited.
4. **Testing of High-risk travelers:** All of those who have visited high risk countries in the past 14 days are requested to test for the virus.
5. **Self-quarantine:** Self-quarantine is suggested for anyone who is not critically ill but presents with mild symptoms.
6. **Contact Prevention:** Please follow prevention suggestions and keep contact with others to a minimum.
7. **Enhanced Hygiene Measures:** Thorough and regular hand-washing with soap and/or suitable hand sanitiser is encouraged.

President Ramaphosa appealed to everyone, that we cannot allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by fear and panic and that we must stop spreading unverified and fake news. "While we are facing a medical emergency far graver than we have experienced in recent times, we are not helpless. We have the expertise, means and knowledge to fight this disease. We also have partners, various countries and institutions, working with us. If we act swiftly we can limit the effects of the disease". (Cyril Ramaphosa)

What this means for Kitsong:

School Closure: Kitsong will be closed from 12h00 on 18 March 2020 until after the Easter weekend. The closure of ALL schools is almost aligned with our original schedule. It does mean that we will now close two days ahead of schedule and reopen on Wednesday, 15 April as per the original schedule. Staff will return to school on 14 April as per usual arrangements.

- **Sports and Holiday activities:** All sporting and holiday events will be postponed/ or cancelled. **(ISSA, BASKETBALL/SOCCER GAMES AND TOURNAMENTS ARE CANCELLED)**
- **Extra-mural Activities:** Effective today, all sports activities and extra-mural activities are cancelled.
- **Lower School Aftercare:** We obviously want to limit contact amongst students as much as possible. Sherpa Kids, our aftercare service provider, will provide aftercare until close of day on Tuesday, 17 March, but we respectfully ask that you collect your children as early as possible each day. There will be no aftercare on Wednesday, 18 March – please make arrangements for the collection and supervision of your child on this day.
- **Date Changes:** Any further changes to these dates will be communicated with you through WhatsApp. We urge all parents to ensure they have your latest cell phone number to add on to our group.

Academics: We are requesting that our students take **ALL** their books and learning materials home with them. The teachers will prepare learning packs for each student, **should the need arise for schools to remain closed after the 15 April opening date.**

- **Collection of Academic Packs:** Each child will be issued with a relevant academic pack. If your child is not currently at school we ask that you collect the pack from your child's teacher or tutor at 12h00 on Wednesday. All parents are welcome to keep their children home if they prefer, and collect the academic packs on Wednesday.

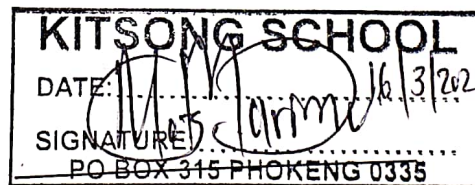
Health and Hygiene: Kitsong has already been educating our learners on the COVID19 Pandemic and this will be continued until we close on Wednesday 18 March. Key aspects are:

- **Before the closure of our Early Learning Centres and our Schools,** we shall conduct a blitz information campaign to children and learners. The key principles are:
 - Washing Hands regularly with soap and water.
 - Maintaining a social distance of 1m or more.
 - Staying away from groups unless totally necessary.
 - Avoiding making journeys unless absolutely essential.
- **Local occurrence of COVID-19:** It should be noted that, at present, there are no reported cases of COVID-19 in Rustenburg or the North West Province, but this is likely to change within the next week.
- **Travel Declaration:** All non-essential travel is discouraged.

I trust that this decision addresses any concerns you may have about the recent declaration. We wish to reassure you that the safety of our students and Kitsong remains our top priority and that we support the sensible and responsible actions by the government to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. We thank you for your support and understanding around this matter and ask that you place your own family's health first in the coming times, so that we may welcome you back safely to school in the second term.

Please direct any queries you may have to (Ms Francina Phiri Finance and Admin officer) or Ms Danielle Swart HoD: Foundation Phase) on 014 566 1325

Best regards



Mrs Olga Motshwanedi-Morimo
Principal