

26 March 2021

Dear Parents,

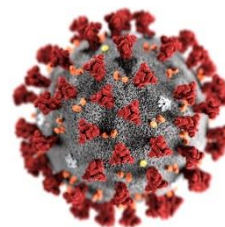
Herewith a short end of term letter given that a more detailed one was sent out 2 weeks ago. We have come to the end of a term that started “remotely” for all except the KiGa classes, but one that has ended well with everyone back at school by the 1st of February. We can look back with much satisfaction on a successful term that included a Fasching celebration, some inter-house cricket and hockey as well as the return to the full, “normal” time table that includes art, scripture, music and computer lessons. The KiGa to Grade 2 children were treated to an “Under the Sea” drama production at school, the Books 2U book fair was held on Tuesday and Wednesday this week and many report discussions were concluded at school. And now we are all ready for a well-earned break!

There has been quite a lot of talk in the news of a possible 3rd Covid wave, and many fear that the Easter holiday (and more specifically the Easter weekend) may cause a spike in Covid infections. This is thus an appeal to all members of the DSD community to please not let your guard down during the coming weeks. Please maintain all Covid protocols and please model correct and sensible caution during this time to your children so that we can continue uninterrupted next term. As always, please continue to monitor your children’s health as well as that of anyone else in your household.

At the start of next term, and beyond:

Please do not send your child to school if they are sick or if they or anyone in the household displays any symptoms associated with Covid-19. These symptoms include:

- A temperature/ fever
- body aches,
- loss of smell or loss of taste,
- nausea, vomiting,
- diarrhoea,
- fatigue, weakness or tiredness;



In partnership with

Please also do not send your child(ren) to school if they or anyone in your household has been in contact with a confirmed or suspected Covid case. In such an instance please seek medical advice before your children return to school. Please keep children at home if they have been in contact with anyone waiting for the result of a Covid test result.

Wednesday 19 May: AGM

The school's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 May, at 18:00. The format of the meeting will be confirmed closer to the time but will most likely be done remotely as was the case last year. Please see the attached Notice to Shareholders as well as the minutes of the 2020 AGM.

Aftercare

At the moment there is a very limited Aftercare programme in place in the afternoon, catering only for KiGa and Grade 1 & 2 children until such time as the school closes for the older children. Pre-Covid, Sandy Ambross offered an Aftercare programme until 17h00 daily. This is NOT available to Schmetterling children, for whom Aftercare is only available on a daily basis until 14h30.

We wish to establish the level of interest in / demand for the resumption of this service and request that interested parents contact Sandy Ambross directly (sandy@ambross.net or 082 406 5603). Sandy will be able to reintroduce the service at the DSD subject to sufficient demand and will advise accordingly.

Statements for aftercare this term will be sent out shortly to those parents who have made use of the limited facility that was on offer this term. This will continue next term should Sandy not be able to return at the start of Term 2.

Inter-House Gala (Gr 1-7)

As communicated last week, we are going to hold an inter-house gala at St Benedicts School in Pinetown on Friday 16 April 2021. We are excited by the interest shown and the large number of swimmers who are going to participate. The Gala will start at 15h00 and (at this stage) we expect that it will take about an hour and a half to complete.

Regrettably, parents are unable to attend but your parental services will be required in getting the children to and from the pool. We understand that this is far from ideal but it is the reality of what we are able to do under current conditions and we feel that it is an important opportunity for the children to participate in a traditional school event, even though they would have loved for their parents to be there to cheer them on.

More details will follow early next term!

“21 Club”/ Cross-country Training (Gr 1-7)

Starting on Tuesday 13 April, Grade 1-7 children will be able to run our 500m running route at school on a Tuesday and Thursday morning (i.e. on their sports days) between 7h15 and 7h30am. I will personally supervise these sessions and record the number of laps completed by each child. This is of course completely voluntary but I encourage as many as possible to challenge themselves to see if they can reach 21km, 25km or even 30km (or more!) before the end of the term on Friday June 18. All children covering more than 21km (half marathon distance) will receive a certificate of achievement at the end of Term 2.

Unlike previous years, we will only use the distances covered here at school during these morning runs. Children are, however, encouraged to also run outside of school hours and they are welcome to drag their parents along on these runs 😊

Regrettably there will not be any inter-schools cross country league runs next term due to Covid.

Auf Wiedersehen

We are sad to say goodbye to the Hubbart family as they emigrate to Austria. Daniel is the last remaining Hubbart at the School as older brother Luke is already in high school and as Father Tyron no longer serves on the Board of Directors. We wish Tyron, Manuela, Luke and Daniel all the best in their new ventures and thank them for their many contributions to our School. We are particularly grateful to Tyron for his role in chairing the school’s Board of Directors from 2015 to 2020. Auf Wiedersehen, all the best in Austria!

Important Dates to please diarise:

Monday 12 April:	Term 2 starts
Friday 16 April:	Gr 1-7 Inter-house gala @ St Benedicts, starting at 15h00.
Monday 26 April:	School Holiday
Tuesday 27 April:	Freedom Day – public holiday
Friday 7 May:	Muffins 4 Moms (KiGa only)
Friday 7 May:	Slipper Day (all – more details next term)
Wednesday 19 May:	AGM
Friday 11 June:	Donuts 4 Dads (KiGa only)
Wednesday 16 June:	Youth Day – Public Holiday
Friday 18 June*:	School closes at 11h00

* As communicated via the Newsletter on 12 March 2021: please note that Term 2 ends on Friday 18 June and not on Tuesday 15 June.

We wish you and your families a restful holiday as we celebrate Easter and the fact that He is risen!

Kind regards



Peter Deppe
Principal

