KING DAVID
RETURN TO SCHOOL
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“EVERYTHING CAN BE TAKEN FROM US BUT ONE THING: **THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE OUR ATTITUDE** IN ANY GIVEN SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES”

- VICTOR FRANKL
The Minister of Education’s announcement that schools will be returning in phases over the coming weeks has been met with relief by some and concern from others. This is understandable as the risks attached to COVID-19 have not disappeared and yet these risks have had to be considered in light of the need for the economy to slowly restart and for children to not have their educational year compromised. This is not an easy balance and the return to school is a process that we have taken very seriously.

When schools were closed down, just over two months ago, the common view was that COVID-19 was no different from influenza, making children the most susceptible and the biggest transmitters of the virus. Now, some two months later, while there are still many unknowns about the virus, the statistics and emerging medical data suggests strongly that this is not the case. While children can catch the virus it is most often weaker and they are for some reason not as likely to transmit it. While this is good news, it does not detract from the schools need to adhere in every way to all health guidelines.

We do believe that the online teaching provided has been of a high quality yet remain firmly convinced of the many benefits that face-to-face schooling provides. The level of community, of meaningful interaction and engagement, of social and emotional development as well as the immediacy of the learning cycle are but a few critical examples to be mentioned after such a long period in lockdown.

There is a recognition that with all the desire for a quick return, in this situation we need to go slow in order to go fast. We need to be guided by available data, learn from what is working for others and be both agile and adaptable. There may be families who will choose not to send their children back initially yet our return to school is intended to be organised, paced to engender confidence and involve all of the necessary actions to mitigate possible risks. This is a time that is going to need partnership, co-operation and compliance from each and every one of us.

The approach adopted by the board is underpinned by a number of guiding principles. These include:

- The safety of our children, staff and parents
- The imperative to revert to face-to-face teaching for the additional educational benefits inherent in such a model
- The need to comply with all government guidelines and regulations
- The social and emotional needs of our students who will benefit greatly from being back in the school environment

The schools have received the general operating procedures and health requirements from the Department of Education and we have used these to guide the procedures in our schools. This document will set out our operating procedures and expectations from staff, students and parents. The initial school day will be focussed and shorter than a normal school day due to many reasons that will be evident in the rest of the document. Lessons will be longer and breaks shorter due to the physical distancing constraints.

Disasters or the experience of going through a common difficult situation assists us to reach greater heights of community and co-operation. This theory of “collective resilience” was pioneered by John Drury, a professor of psychology at the University of Sussex. I am sure that as many of you have gone walking in the early morning hours you have been greeting fellow walkers. You innately know what they are going through and identify with them. In the past you may have just walked by without even acknowledging them. As we return to school, there will be great excitement for many children who are able to see their friends yet one underlying feeling that will create a tremendous bond will be the sense of our common difficult experience. Maybe like biblical Noah leaving the ark and slowly entering a new reality, it will be our choice how we decide to contribute to those around us. When making that choice hopefully it will be to do kindness and continue to reach out to those who need our support as we have done over the past two months.

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LETTER FROM RABBI KACEV

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A PHASED APPROACH TO RESUMING SCHOOLING

With permission from the Department of Education, independent schools have been given the dispensation to phase in schooling at a rate that differs to public schools. They have however limited this to **one grade per contained school site starting at a time.** The King David Schools are intent to manage the return to school in a manner that ensures full adherence to all health requirements and allows for **proper orientation in a calm and anxiety free environment** that will nurture safety and an optimal learning environment. Each school will **bring in one grade at a time,** make sure that that grade is settled and fully understanding of the compliance required and only then introduce the next grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>King David High Linksfield</td>
<td>Grade 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King David High Victory Park</td>
<td>Grade 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King David Senior Primary Linksfield</td>
<td>Grade 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King David Sandton</td>
<td>Grade 7 (1 June) and Grade R (4 June)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King David Primary Victory Park</td>
<td>Grade 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King David Junior Primary Linksfield</td>
<td>Grade 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King David Ariel</td>
<td>Grade 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King David Pre-primary Linksfield</td>
<td>Grade R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King David Pre-primary Victory Park</td>
<td>Grade R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnie Bersohn</td>
<td>Grade R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King David Rosebelle Klein in Waverley</td>
<td>Grade R</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is the current thinking and intention of the primary schools to **introduce Grade 1 after Grade 7 and the high schools will move from Grade 12 to Grade 11 and so forth.** The Department of Education has laid out the requirements for physical distancing, the need to stagger the start and end of the school day as well as the requirement to stagger breaks during the day. To accommodate these requirements and ensure that we do **not compromise on safety,** the return dates for subsequent grades cannot be determined upfront. As the school is ready to introduce the next grades, it will be communicated to parents together with all necessary details. Adherence to physical distance requirements will necessitate that grades be staggered in a variety of ways once the school reaches its capacity. This may be accomplished **using different time slots on the same day or alternating days** depending on the size of the school.

**Online school will continue for all grades that have not yet returned to school or for those students who are unable to return.**

**ALL THESE GRADES ABOVE WILL COMMENCE ON 1 JUNE.**
SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENTS

As grades begin to return, there will be assessments and baseline benchmarking done so as to ensure the efficacy of the online teaching. Furthermore, schools may well bring in other grades for very short periods in the initial weeks so as to complete required assessments. In each case when this is required, the schools will communicate these details to the parents.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD CANNOT RETURN TO SCHOOL?

We are well aware that some students will not be able to return due to having pre-existing medical conditions or are living with family members who may be in a high risk category. It is the intent of each of the schools to continue with online teaching for these students and the model for this will be communicated by each of the schools during the course of this week. In order to facilitate planning for the number of children who will return in the coming weeks you are all requested (this applies to all grades and pre-school groups) to respond to the survey by no later than Tuesday 26 May 6pm. This has a major impact on classrooms and logistical planning and as such your initial decision can only be changed after consultation with the school principal.

Please complete the Return to School Parent Survey so we get a better understanding of your family’s specific needs:

COMPLETE THE SURVEY HERE
In order to ensure the ability to screen students upon their arrival to school, we will be instituting the following:

- Each school will initially have only one entry through which students will have to enter upon arrival in the morning or at any time during the day.
- Different starting times for grades will be implemented to reduce traffic when meeting the screening requirements.
- A period of time will be indicated for school arrival and screening prior to classes starting and parents are encouraged to not drop children in the last few minutes of the allotted time as they will then possibly miss the start of the academic day.
- Parents will not be permitted to walk into the school at school arrival time.
- Once more grades are permitted to return, additional access points will be opened.
- Every school will have a screening protocol as described in the “Screening protocol” on the following page.
- There will be sanitizer at every entrance which anyone entering will have to use without exception.
- Everyone entering is required to wear a material mask. (The school will provide 2, 3-ply material masks to each staff member and pupil, a mask needs to be labelled and washed daily. Depending on the decision of the Department of Education there may be times when staff and students will be permitted to wear face shields).
- Physical distancing of 1.5m-2m is required upon entry and at all other times including in classrooms and breaks.
- At any place where it is anticipated that there will be queuing there will be floor markings to indicate the distances required.
- Initially there will be no parent protection rosters and extra CSO staff will assist. As the number of entrances increases then security rosters will be put in place.

Please note that should someone be feeling ill they should not wait for the screening at the entrance, they should remain at home for the day and join the online lessons. You are encouraged to err on the side of caution.

### SCHOOL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>ENTRANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KD High Linksfield</td>
<td>High School Bedford street gate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KD High Victory Park</td>
<td>Craighall Road entrance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KD Senior Primary Linksfield</td>
<td>Bedford Street gate at entry to sports field (by pavillion)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KD Sandton</td>
<td>Only through the media centre gate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KD Primary Victory Park</td>
<td>Road No 3 walk in gate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KD Junior Primary Linksfield</td>
<td>Through the Hug and Go entry on Club Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KD Ariel</td>
<td>Road No 3 walk in gate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KD Pre-Primary Linksfield</td>
<td>Bedford street entry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KD Pre-Primary Victory Park</td>
<td>Road No 3 Pre-Primary gate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnie Bersohn</td>
<td>School parking lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KD RKNS in Waverley</td>
<td>School parking lot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SCREENING PROTOCOL

UPON ENTERING THE SCHOOL, THE FOLLOWING SCREENING WILL TAKE PLACE:

STEP 1:
Someone will check to make sure that the person entering is wearing a mask.

STEP 2:
EVERYONE WILL BE ASKED 3 QUESTIONS:

1. Have you or anyone in your family recently had any of the following symptoms: Fever, a cough, a sore throat or shortness of breath?

2. Do you have any of the following: Body aches, loss of smell or taste, nausea, diarrhoea, fatigue, weakness or tiredness?

3. Have you or your family been in contact with anyone that has tested positive for COVID-19 or is awaiting test results?

STEP 3:
A thermal thermometer will be used to take a temperature reading. Any temperature below 37.5 is acceptable.

STEP 4:
Someone will ensure that the person entering uses sanitizer on their hands.

NB: If the person screening has good reason to be concerned, the student or staff member may be asked to leave or be requested to move to the isolation area.
SCHOOL ORIENTATION

On the first day back or on the days before the school returns for some of our schools, students will be given an orientation of all the requirements for the running of the school in a manner that upholds the highest standards of health and hygiene and it is imperative that everyone take these seriously and adhere to them. All stakeholders will receive ongoing education and reminders in this regard. There will be implications for non-compliance as this places everyone in the environment at risk as well as the school's ability to operate. Staff have received a full document of their standard operating procedures and the consequences for non-compliance and schools will advise students of the school rules in this regard.

Each school will have an appointed ‘compliance officer’ and a team working with them and due process will be instituted for any staff or students not following the requirements. There will also be ongoing temperature monitoring during the day as is required by the Department of Education and should anyone’s temperature be too high they will be placed in the designated isolated area until they can be fetched or are able to leave.

THE SCHOOL WILL HAVE CLEAR HEALTH SIGNAGE REMINDING EVERYONE TO KEEP TO THE BASICS FOR PREVENTING INFECTION:

- Washing in the correct manner
- Sanitizing where washing is not available
- How to cough
- How to sneeze
- Keeping physical distance
- Wearing of masks including how to put a mask on and take it off
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
CLASSROOMS

We are determined to keep sufficient physical distancing in class and in the school environment. This may lead to classes being divided where necessary or the use of larger venues where needed. In order to ensure that the classroom environment keeps to all health requirements, the following will be put in place:

- There will be sanitizer at the entrance to every class and venue and anyone entering or leaving the class will be required to use the sanitizer on their hands.
- Desks will be allocated to each student by the teacher. As per the Department of Education procedures, there will be an attempt to not move children around. That said, where there is a need for students to move, then the surfaces and equipment will be cleaned in-between classes.
- Students and staff will wear masks at all times. Teachers will be permitted to wear face shields only when they remain 2m away from students.
- Classroom doors and windows will be kept open if possible so as to keep natural ventilation. As such, please ensure that children dress warmly for school.
- There will be no sharing of books, stationery, tissues and equipment in the class during the day.

General Hygiene requirements will continue to be part of the school educational programme, this includes the correct etiquette when sneezing and coughing. While children are in class, the cleaning staff will be following their cleaning procedures in bathrooms and on other surfaces. When children are having breaks the cleaning staff will do further cleaning of surfaces in the classrooms.

SCHOOL BREAKS

Breaks during the day will be shorter so as to allow for eating and some relaxation and to avoid the need for students to compromise the physical distancing requirements. It must be noted that tuckshops will not be opened in schools and as such students must bring their own food for the day. The Pre-Primary schools will have their usual snack provided to them by the school.

- Schools will communicate the daily schedules to parents
- Students will be required to keep to physical distancing requirements in place from time-to-time
- There will be no sharing of food
- There will be no sport or group games during break
- Students will keep their masks on unless they are eating
- Everyone will sanitize their hands when leaving for break and then sanitize again when returning to the class

TEACHERS & SUPPORT STAFF

This document does not go into detail with regard to the procedures that we have put in place for our staff, be it our teachers, administrative staff or support staff. Rest assured that we have put very clear operating procedures in place for everyone on the campus and compliance officers will be monitoring all round adherence for everyone. Students often want to touch their teachers and show affection and teachers do reach out to students in permitted manners, yet during these times this will not be allowed and will be explained to students in an emotionally appropriate manner. It would also be helpful if parents explained this further to their children in a sensitive manner.
ADDITIONAL KEY INFORMATION

The regulations against gatherings of 50 people or more are still in place for schools and as such these gatherings will be avoided. This will impact on school assemblies and the manner in which davening can take place. Furthermore, there will be:

- **NO extra murals** until the government guidelines permit them to resume
- **Online extra murals** or enrichment will still be offered
- **NO transport on buses** until such time that we are able to ensure adherence to the requirements of the transport sector

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

In order to maintain adherence to protocols, the schools will minimise access to campuses during the school day. Anyone who is permitted to enter will be screened in accordance with the arrival protocols. The Department of Education operating procedures require that meetings, if needed, should take place online if it is not necessary to meet in person. We do ask that parents please respect this requirement.

PROVISION OF PERMITS & MATERIALS BY SCHOOLS

Once the regulations for schools change, you may be required to have a permit issued from the school. If this is the case, then each school will ensure that these are sent to families. We also anticipate being able to provide materials to those students who are continuing their studies at home due to the phasing or due to not being able to go to school.

The schools will communicate with you about the collection of such materials.

FETCHING OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL

Upon leaving schools, students will once again be required to sanitize or wash their hands. Parents will not be permitted to enter the site so as to avoid gatherings or groups that contravene the requirement of physical distancing. Parents are also reminded to remain in their cars and limit socialising where possible. Each school will communicate with its parent body how school egress will be run so as to ensure all of the health and safety requirements are adhered to. The egress gates will be the same as the access gates for each school as listed above.
WILL IT BE SCHOOL AS NORMAL?

What is clear from the above, is that even with schools returning, it will not be school as normal. There will also be some changes in the delivery of the curriculum where required. Every effort will be made to focus on core subjects **in grades 1-9 upon the return to school** so as to ensure that students are fully up-to-date in literacy (all languages) and numeracy. Thus, school timetables may be different initially as schools consolidate key areas.

**Where schooling does not take place on campus, it will continue remotely.** It is difficult to plan for the long term in what has become a somewhat uncertain time and yet the school calendar will be adjusted as follows in the interim:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUNE 1</th>
<th>JUNE 15, 16</th>
<th>TERM 2</th>
<th>TERM 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School return for the grades listed above and successive grades to be added in the coming weeks</td>
<td>School break</td>
<td>Ends on July 8</td>
<td>Resumes on 20 July</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SEE THE IMPORTANT SUMMARY HERE
**SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL STUDENTS STARTING ON 1 JUNE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>START/END TIMES</th>
<th>DROP OFF/COLLECTION POINT</th>
<th>BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE DAY</th>
<th>SUBJECTS TO BE TAUGHT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KD High School Linksfield</td>
<td>Grade 12</td>
<td>9.00 Closing times will be communicated accordingly</td>
<td>Bedford Street gate</td>
<td>Timetable to follow same as online learning which will now start at 09:00</td>
<td>All subjects required for the NSC plus Jewish Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KD High School Victory Park</td>
<td>Grade 12</td>
<td>8:00 - Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30 - Tuesday and Thursday Closing times variable according to the Semester 2 Block Teaching Timetable</td>
<td>Craighall Road. Matrics driving their own cars are to drop off any passengers at Craighall Road entrance and then they may proceed to park their cars in the school.</td>
<td>According to the Semester 2 Block Teaching Timetable</td>
<td>All subjects required for the NSC plus Jewish Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KD Senior Primary Linksfield</td>
<td>Grade 7</td>
<td>7.45 - Arrival and screening 8.15 - Davening and lessons begin 11.30 - School ends</td>
<td>Sports field gate Bedford Street - by Pavillion Bedford reception gate during the school day</td>
<td>Four core lessons per day plus 1 break</td>
<td>English, Afrikaans/Zulu, Hebrew, Maths. Jewish Studies once a week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Schedule details</td>
<td>Language: Subjects</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| KD Sandton                | Grade 7 | 7:45 - Arrival and screening  
8:15 - Davening and lessons begin  
11:30 - School ends  
Media Centre gate  
Four core lessons per day plus 1 break  
English, Afrikaans/ Zulu, Hebrew, Maths.  
Jewish Studies once a week |                                                                                                                                                         |
| KD Primary Victory Park   | Grade 7 | 7:45 - Arrival and screening  
8:15 - Davening and lessons begin  
11:30 - School ends  
Road No 3 Gate  
Four core lessons per day plus 1 break  
English, Afrikaans/ Zulu, Hebrew, Maths.  
Jewish Studies once a week |                                                                                                                                                         |
| KD Junior Primary Linksfield | Grade 1 | GR 1-1 & GR 1-3:  
7.30 – Arrival and screening  
8.00 - Davening and lessons begin  
11.00 - School ends  
GR 1-5 & GR 1-6  
8.00 - Arrival and screening  
8.30 - Davening and lessons begin  
11.30 - School ends  
Hug & Go drop off zone - Club Street  
3 core lessons per day plus 1 break  
Maths, English, Hebrew, Jewish Studies once a week |                                                                                                                                                         |
| KD Ariel                  | Grade 1 | 7.45 - Arrival & screening  
8.15 - Davening and lessons begin  
11:15 – School ends  
Road No 3 Gate  
Three core lessons per day plus 2 mini breaks  
English, Hebrew, Maths, Afrikaans |                                                                                                                                                         |
| KD Pre-Primary Linksfield | Grade R | 8:00 - Arrival and screening  
9:00 - Lessons begin  
12:00 - School ends  
Bedford Road  
Lessons and outside time  
Numeracy, literacy, life-skills, Hebrew, speech, Jewish studies, art |                                                                                                                                                         |
| KD Pre-Primary Victory Park | Grade R | 8:00 - Arrival and screening  
9:00 - Lessons begin  
12:00 - School ends  
Road No 3 Gate  
Lessons and outside time  
Numeracy, literacy, life-skills, Hebrew, speech, Jewish studies, art |                                                                                                                                                         |
| Minnie Bersohn            | Grade R | 8:00 - Arrival and screening  
9:00 - Lessons begin  
12:00 - School ends  
Parking lot  
Lessons and outside time  
Numeracy, literacy, life-skills, Hebrew, speech, Jewish studies, art |                                                                                                                                                         |
| King David Rosabelle Klein Waverley | Grade R | 8:00 - Arrival and screening  
9:00 - Lessons begin  
12:00 - School ends  
Parking lot  
Lessons and outside time  
Numeracy, literacy, life-skills, Hebrew, speech, Jewish studies, art |                                                                                                                                                         |
| KD Sandton                | Grade R (only starting on Thursday 4 June) | 8.30 - Arrival and screening  
9.00 - Lessons begin  
11.00 - School ends  
Media Centre gate  
Lessons and outside time  
Numeracy, Literacy, Hebrew.  
Jewish Studies once a week |                                                                                                                                                         |
The schools have completed a full risk assessment of the schools and in response to these have instituted operating procedures across the campuses so as to mitigate the transmission of the virus. The operating procedures are in accordance with those gazetted and are considered to be reasonable so as to avoid the spread of the virus. It is, as mentioned, incumbent on every individual to keep to these requirements, and for parents to insist that their children adhere to these requirements at all times.

Non-compliance or the use of any bullying tactics related to the virus or any form of discrimination against someone who may have tested positive for the virus will be seen in the most serious light.

SEE COVID RELATED QUERIES
COVID RELATED QUERIES

WHAT HAPPENS IF SOMEONE HAS OR IS SUSPECTED TO HAVE COVID-19?
GUIDELINES FOR SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES IN THE SCHOOL

While every effort and precaution will be taken to avoid infections within the school environment, we do need to be realistic with the knowledge that COVID-19 will be with us for many months to come. **It is for this reason that the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) have put protocols in place for schools to follow.**

These are updated from time-to-time and are available below:

SEE NICD PROTOCOLS HERE
WHAT WILL THE SCHOOL DO IF THERE IS A SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19?

1

IF A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER APPEARS ILL OR DISPLAYS SYMPTOMS ASSOCIATED WITH COVID-19:

- They will be isolated from other students and staff in the designated area
- In the case of a student, the parents will be contacted
- In the case of a staff member, arrangements will be made for them to get assessed by a health professional

2

IF A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER IS CONFIRMED TO HAVE COVID-19:

- They will be isolated from the other students and staff in the designated area
- Arrangements will be made for them to leave the school premises
- The relevant public health officials will be contacted who will then conduct a risk-assessment and give recommendations for the management of students and staff
- In most cases, a school closure will not be necessary; however, the school will be guided by the NICD in this regard. If a school is closed, it will be required to consult with the NICD before opening once again

3

IF A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WHO IS SUSPECTED OF HAVING COVID-19:

- No restrictions are required while awaiting the outcome of the laboratory tests
- There is no need for that student or staff member to remain at home

4

IF A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER WERE EXPOSED TO A CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASE:

- All close contacts of confirmed cases are required to quarantine at home for 14 days while being monitored for symptoms and may not attend school
- Secondary contacts (i.e. those who came into contact with the person who was in contact with the positive case) do not need to take precautions unless they begin to develop symptoms

The school is required to keep daily records of all who were at school so as to assist the health officials in any situation where tracing may be required
CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the above steps are intended to be the reasonable steps, in line with the Minister’s announcement for schools to return. The King David Schools intend to follow such reasonable procedures and staff, parents and pupils are all responsible in assisting us to adhere to these procedures.

There may well be a change in the levels announced by the President and this will necessitate the schools moving between face-to-face schooling and remote teaching.

This may also be caused by cases of COVID in the school requiring classes or grades to move to remote teaching. We will all need to be aware of the uncertain period we are moving into and your understanding, patience and co-operation will be required through this phase. SABJE will at all times ensure that the highest levels of hygiene and safety precautions are instituted in our schools.

THANK YOU