



Mini Circular 1 of 2022

It is unbelievable to think that we have only been mask free since 23 June 2022. As we were already half way through the year we continued, in good faith, with our interim arrangements. Sunridge Primary recovered way faster than other schools and we were back fully on all levels and as close to 2019 as possible.

Ultimately the majority supported our move forward and dealing with the negative minority was a given. That being said, we must also acknowledge aspects in need of attention and careful consideration without a pre-set outcome in mind. As we allowed the year to run, we managed to obtain and evaluate valuable information in support of our planning for the future. We all have an opinion but facts are what we base our decisions on.

Extra mural

Bouncing back proved to be a challenge way beyond our control. We could not arrange and produce a service with enough opportunities for our youngsters and although we can present reasonable reasons we chose to take matters in hand. We man up and a new reasonable plan to achieve better results in this regard was tabled and will be put into place.

Thank you for the support within this challenge and we look forward to a realistic improvement in coaching and matches. It will still present challenges but we must work positively to find solutions and to overcome the needs.

We can never compare the opportunities and levels of beginners and young ones to those of first teams / A teams – this will always be something to work towards. Although we might play against stronger opponents the opportunity presented is one to grab and use. Our first teams / A teams also find themselves in this position when we play outside our province and against much stronger teams. It is a fact that we will lose in some cases BUT it is all about how you deal with it and how you better yourselves.

A very exciting 2023 for our cultural department is planned and we look forward to hearing and seeing the planned opportunities. Let us embrace it with enthusiasm as hard work will be required.

Break time schedule

With a 30 minute break, scheduled brain breaks and “walk abouts” we had more free time but also improved our academic contact time. Even though the Grade 6 & 7’s had the worst time allocation, interestingly they were the ones with zero issues. The grades with a more favourable break time and free time were the ones with the issues.

We pushed through and with the information available we will introduce a 3 slot double period system with two 20 minute breaks for Grades 4 - 7. The same will apply to Grades 1 - 3 but with only a 2/3 slot double period system and ending the day with one final period. This addresses all positively communicated issues and also keeps a controllable break time in favour of discipline.

The critical factor will be a very strict tuck shop order and delivery system. This will call for support from home to prevent a child being denied the opportunity to buy something from the tuck shop.

In future breakfast and coffee may be ordered before school. Orders will need to be placed the day before. Nothing else will be issued/sold before school. After school it will be business as usual. The other news is that we are working towards opening the gates at 07:00 in 2023, with a place to sit under supervision at the tuckshop. This idea will have to be investigated further and we will keep you informed.

Entering our premises/ Arrival at school

This policy is non-negotiable as it has improved discipline, social skills and our academic outcomes substantially. We expect a calm, peaceful, physically and emotionally well rested child at the start of the school day. On arrival at school a child will go directly to class. A request to go and place a tuck shop order will be allowed. Learners will then sit quietly in class and read, prepare for the day, study or have a quiet social conversation – this is also not negotiable.

This matter has been addressed extensively in newsletters and although we are satisfied we will look at suitable solutions to support parents without compromising ourselves. The gates will still open at 07:15 until further notice. We are convinced that we will be able to provide a positive solution in the near future.

Facilities

The building of the four classrooms to ease the current burden on rooms not built as classrooms will not only add a positive outcome but will add value to our service. This is a long overdue project and the will relieve the pressure on classrooms, which is something we have been working on for over 9 years. Thank you to parents who have supported us over the years to finally achieve this. Many will never benefit from this but they are leaving a legacy. Hopefully current parents will not only see this but will also contribute in whatever way for future generations to enjoy the facilities.

The pavilion is moving forward and the completion will also see a new era for a variety of events to be hosted and for children, parents, teachers and visitors to use an uplifting facility again. This has been made possible by the incredible support of a few parents and friends of Sunridge Primary School. Surely it is time for all parents to contribute positively to our school.

Again we must thank those who will never reap the privilege to use it as a student or parent at Sunridge BUT we invite them to use it as valuable friends of our school. You have made a difference and are leaving a legacy. Your example is there for others to follow.

Reading

Some learners have grabbed the opportunity to read productively in the mornings before school. This is visible in their reading progress and ability. The average reading ability at school has improved from 2021 and although we are still not satisfied we are thankful that our measures are working. It is in the hands of children supported from home to better their reading ability and to grab the opportunities.

The bottom line is that reading skills are driven by attitude and that dedicated readers are outperforming the majority. Readers will always be leaders and it will benefit your child and support his/her future. Getting them to read is not an option, it is an investment for the future.

Prize-Giving

Dressing appropriately is not a request but an obligation in respect of our children. These events are to celebrate their achievements and we expect them to dress correctly. It is compulsory for those attending to honour the children and to comply with the semi-formal dress code.

We have seen that to some people semi-formal means jeans, T-shirts, golf shirts, “plakkies”, crocs and running shoes. For the ladies it gets even more difficult as fashion trends do not extend to semi-formal. Moms need to think carefully as this is a dangerous conversation for the school to get involved in. Long pants, a button up shirt, without a tie, and shoes are surely not too much to ask from Dad for your child’s special event.

Our children have questioned the way parents dress and why they, as children, must then dress in formal school wear. Please support your child in good taste and ensure you look carefully at the requirements of “semi-formal.” Parents are special and we want you to support your child.

It is also essential to note that it is not good manners nor acceptable to leave a ceremony while other learners are still receiving their prizes. We allow 75 minutes per grade and parents can exit the hall after a grade has finished. We request a quick exit so as to allow the next grade to enter.

We are limited with space and normal health and safety requirements will not be compromised.

General Prize-giving

All parents are invited to attend per session for your child only.

Grades 1 - 3 prize-giving is on 28 November 2022 – per grade

Grades 4 - 7 prize-giving is on 29 November 2022 – per grade

Prestige Prize-giving

Only two invited adult guests per invited child.

Academic Prize-giving is on 30 November 2022

Sport and Cultural Prize-giving is on 1 December 2022

School fees

This is not something that is easily addressed in a newsletter. It is not always easy to be confronted with the facts by the Finance Department. My focus is on educating the child and available facilities. It is so important for parents to realize that, not only are you liable by law to pay school fees, but it is also the right thing to do.

Service is delivered and facilities are being used – non-payment or poor payment of school fees puts our school at risk. Thank you very much to those parents who faithfully do their duty in this regard and who co-operate to ensure the future of our school. Should you be remiss in this regard I would like to respectfully, request you to make it right.

We look forward to our learners successfully completing this year. We are nearly done with assessments/exams and ask you to please pray for us as we enter the last week.

Prefects 2023

We have an open system allowing for a nomination to be made by any teaching staff member for any Grade 6 or 7 learners to be appointed as a prefect at any time. The nomination, with reasons, will be tabled to the SMT and a period of observation will be allowed. With no objections from the SMT the learner can then be appointed by the Principal on his/her discretion.

It gives me great pleasure to appoint and welcome Jayden Kretzmann to the prefect board of 2023. A proud moment BUT also an open invitation to all Grade 6 learners to grab this opportunity - this system is there to serve you.

Sunshine greetings

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M de Vries', written in a cursive style.

M de VRIES
Principal