

SUNRIDGE  
VANDAG



SUNRIDGE  
TODAY

23 April 2021

Geagte Ouers

### Kitsnuus

Ons is opgewonde oor die nuus dat daar blykbaar moontlike samesprekings en 'n debat aan die gang is oor 'n 100% terugkeer van skole. Dit sal helderheid bring en ons help om goed ingeligte besluite in almal se beste belang te neem.

Terwyl ons op 'n besluit wag, moet ons egter ver vooruit beplan. Hiermee in gedagte sal ons gereed wees vir 'n 100% terugkeer of steeds op alternatiewe dae soos tans die geval is. Ons begin egter op Maandag 3 Mei 2021 met week een. Groen en Blou.

Met moontlike uitsonderings kan ons tot 'n sekere mate begin voorberei en beplan vir 'n moontlike 100% terugkeer onder die huidige regulasies. Dit sal eers in die tweede week aan ouers gekommunikeer word en 'n proeftydperk mag dalk in die derde week volg sodat ons dit kan evalueer. Indien dit prakties is, sal ons graad vir graad voortgaan om te verseker dat ons binne die reëls bly. Ons sal egter nie ons veiligheid op die spel plaas of buite die beleide optree nie.

Aan die ander kant kan die huidige vlak 1-beperking opgehef of selfs verleng word. Vanweë hierdie onsekerheid moet ons sorgvuldig beplan.

Met die terugkeer na buitemuurse aktiwiteite ondervind ons dat minder kinders deelneem, MAAR ons respekteer die ouers se besluit. Ons het dan nou bevestiging ontvang dat daar in die tweede kwartaal geen ligawedstryde in enige laerskool-sportkode sal wees nie. Ons sal egter 'n interne byeenkoms reël sodat die vlak van gereedheid geëvalueer kan word. Met die uiters belangrike toetsreeks gedurende die tweede kwartaal sal ons 'n gebrek aan tyd hê om enige groot byeenkoms te beplan en te onderneem.

**'n Skrywe vanaf die Skoolbeheerliggaam waarin hulle belangrike inligting met ouers en personeel deel, is hierby aangeheg**

Dear Parents

### Snap News

We are excited to hear about the apparent discussions and debate under way re the 100% return to school. This will provide clarity on the matter and assist us in making well informed decisions in the best interest of all.

Waiting for the policy makers to make a decision requires us to plan well in advance. With this in mind we will be ready to return 100% or, as now, on alternative days. We will, however, start on Monday, 3 May 2021 with week one - Green and Blue.

With possible exceptions we can, to a certain extent, start preparations and planning for a possible 100% return under the current regulations. This will only be communicated to you in the second week and a trial period in the third week might follow to allow us to evaluate it. Should this prove to be feasible we will continue grade by grade to ensure we can comply and adhere to regulations. We will not compromise safety nor act outside the policies.

On the other hand, the current Level 1 status could be lifted or even extended. It is within this uncertainty that we need to plan carefully.

With the return to extra mural activities we have seen fewer children participating BUT we respect the decision of parents. We have just received confirmation that there will be no league matches for any primary school sport code in the second term. We will run an in-house event to evaluate the level of readiness. With the very important test series coming in the second term, the limited time available will prevent us from preparing and undertaking any big event.

**Attached please find a letter from the School Governing Body with important information for parents and staff.**

Sunshine greetings/ Sonskyngroete

M DE VRIES  
Principal/ Skoolhoof



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## SUNRIDGE SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

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## SUNRIDGE SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Dear Parents

As School Governing Body ("SGB") we do not, nor is it expected of us, interfere with the day to day management of the school. We support the Principal and his Senior Management Team in the exercise of their duties. It has become clear however that they are encountering numerous daily struggles to deliver on their mandate to ensure that the children of Sunridge Primary School received the best possible education.

As SGB we believe it prudent to highlight certain of these issues that are faced by the Principal and his team. To deliver the service that we are used to, and strive to deliver, they need educators who can start work from day one. Educators who prepare well in advance and educators who deliver a quality service in time and on time.

As SGB we make provision for teachers to deliver the extra services as we rely on the Department of Education to fulfil their statutory duties and provide educators as declared on the Post Provisioning for the school. Despite there being a legal duty on the Department of Education to provide us with the educators on the Post Provisioning of the school, we are currently functioning without 5 Departmentally appointed educators.

Many letters, documentations, physical visits and phone calls were made by the Principal but the Department of Education however neglects to respond to our entreaties. This year many hours and resources were used to comply and follow procedure to get what our children deserve.

"A teacher in front of every class" is a well renowned principle in the Department of Education however this principle is not implemented in reality. Our management team are managing without the 5 teachers through careful planning and creative time management. Our current teachers are carrying the load on a daily basis.

Over the years the Department of Education has failed for extensive periods to comply with their statutory obligations to appoint teachers. The SGB had to instruct our attorneys to commence court proceedings and in 2014 about R1,4 million was recovered by the school. The recovery aside, how does one then go about compensating the teachers for carrying the load during this time?

Since then we are back in court with another claim of R3.2 million due to the same failure but we now also include the non-payment of exemption to pay school fees as well as the failure to pay the full allocated budget to the school per learner.

Additionally the Principal must also deal with the challenge that the Department appoints a teacher at Sunridge but they then neglect to pay her salary. She delivers her work without being paid. Sadly, this is not the first time we encountered this issue.

SUNRIDGE SCHOOL  
GOVERNING BODY

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It is disappointing to find that the Department of Education also fails to provide a replacement teacher for our teacher on maternity leave. It is argued that this failure is due to current financial constraints. They choose not to inform us until 9 April 2021 of their decision although the Principal submitted all documentation in December 2020. The delay in processing the request together with its ultimate arbitrary declination only adds to the financial burden of the school who now has to arrange for a substitute for that period.

Of greater concern is that they also neglect to appoint 3 teaching staff which we qualify for as on our Post Provisioning from 1 January 2021. This puts even more tremendous strain on the Principal and his team to continue delivering quality Education.

Although we must say that the school management are doing a brilliant job to cope, compensate and to keep our standard of education high, we can also see the mental strain and fatigue taking its toll. You cannot drain blood from a stone and expect the impossible.

As day to day Manager, our Principal and his staff are now required to manage the failure of the Department of Education within our budget.

The Department could not provide the first round of PPE's in 2020 and they never complied while the School management had to ensure that the school is functional and in compliance. Covid-19 put our budget under pressure but we kept delivering the service.

Management stretched our resources and even with normal sick leave and Covid-19 positive cases amongst teachers the school managed to deliver a quality service by requiring staff to deliver extra academic services.

The Department is focusing on the appointment of EA's and GA's while they neglect to appoint qualified teachers.

We are now faced with a situation where we would need to consider what steps must be taken to ensure that we are not continually prejudiced by the failures of the Department of Education.

With an ever higher state salary bill we offered to save the Department of Education money on their salary bill - they bluntly refused. The current financial position is surely not due to any wrong doing of our school.

We simply asked for the Department of Education to appoint the number of teachers we qualified for, pay our budget per child in full, pay teachers as appointed, pay back the money for exemption in school fees and pay back the outstanding money owed to Sunridge, the children and Community.

Stand up as parents, make your resources available and let's take the fight for our children's future to the front door of the offices of these officials. We invite you to contact us at [support@sunridge.co.za](mailto:support@sunridge.co.za) so that we can get a united effort to safeguard our children's future. Let's use the law, legal resources and social media to move forward.

We reserve all rights.

"Together we Grow"

Sunridge School Governing Body

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