

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
**“If the plan doesn’t work, change the plan,
but never the goal”**



NEWSLETTER 01

25 JANUARY 2021

Dear Parents

This year has definitely started off with a couple of challenges. Unfortunately, some of our staff were affected by the loss of loved ones. Please accept our deepest condolences if any of your families have been directly affected by Covid – our hearts go out to you.

Within a week, staff, parents and learners had to move from the excitement of looking forward to the first physical day, to online schooling. We are also aware, that as we are not on level 5, parents have gone back to work. The staff have had to keep this in mind while adjusting their lesson plans, particularly with the extra support needed in the Foundation Phase.

The decision to postpone the actual physical teaching time by 8 days, was due to our willingness to cooperate with the government’s request regarding the current state of the Covid-19 pandemic. We will continue to monitor the daily infection numbers and trust that the decline in numbers will allow us to physically start teaching from school on the intended date.

I would like to bring the following information to your attention:

- ❖ We are using Zoom lessons for teaching.
- ❖ The times for the Foundation Phase have been given through to you. The classes have been divided into smaller groups in order for each child to receive individual attention.
- ❖ The work for the 8 days has been given to the Foundation Phase learners. We will ensure that no learners are left behind. We will start off slowly, which is how we would have started if your child was physically in the classroom.
- ❖ All textbooks and stationery were delivered to your houses. There are some outstanding books due to the fact that some of the printers had to close due to a rise in Covid-19 cases.
- ❖ The books are on their way. Your child will not fall behind if they do not have a textbook as the teachers will plan around this.
- ❖ The Intersen Phase, Grade 4-7, will follow the Zoom timetable in the coming week, after which they will follow the normal school timetable when we return to school.
- ❖ We suggest that pupils follow the school timetable when there are no Zoom classes, to ensure that they spend sufficient time on each subject.
- ❖ Learners will therefore be very busy. Lessons will be uploaded onto Ed-admin in case your child is unable to access a computer during the day.
- ❖ Learners will be able to view the work and to ask the teachers for any help. This will also help them with revision at a later date.

MIDSTREAM RIDGE LAERSKOOI / PRIMARY SCHOOL

- ❖ Parents must please note that on the Zoom timetable, MATH is for the English learners while WISK, is for the Afrikaans learners.
- ❖ The Zoom timetable as well as the links are all on Ed-Admin. Please ensure that your child attends. Please inform us if your child does not have access to a computer.
- ❖ Your child's teachers need to know if they are unable to attend a Zoom lesson as we are monitoring school attendance and we do not want any child to fall behind.

How sport will be affected:

- ❖ At the moment there is plenty of uncertainty regarding sport.
- ❖ Cricket, swimming, tennis, and chess may be played at club level. No school is allowed to play against another school.
- ❖ Currently we are unable to continue with athletics. We will however be able to practise in small groups of 4, for those learners who would like to.
- ❖ We are still awaiting confirmation from other sporting codes, such as squash but we are not optimistic that we will be able to play against other schools.

We will keep you informed as soon as we receive more information.

Lastly, I would like to request that you give us your full cooperation for this coming week. Staff and learners are still getting to know each other. We trust that the year will run smoothly once we are back at school.

We remind you that the learners will again enter the school grounds at different times using different gates. The relevant information will be sent to you during the week.

The school will always help those learners who will be doing online schooling rather than returning to school. No one will be left behind.

Midstream Ridge Greetings

V HARMSE
PRINCIPAL

TINA COWLEY MIDSTREAM

*At **Tina Cowley Midstream**, we believe that **Readers are achievers!** When you can read, you can do anything! If you want to read very well, you have to exercise your brain and eyes on a regular basis. We do a scientific evaluation of your reading ability and skill before enrolment in the programme. The programme encourages a love for reading and aims to improve reading skills, speed and comprehension. We do **eye kinetics** to strengthen the eye muscles for improved reading. **We also conduct the Essi Spelling Test to determine on which spelling level our students operate.** This time of the year we enrol our Grade R students. We do not teach them to read yet but we do all the preparation for reading in Grade 1 and we practice all the basic skills for reading. We can help! We are currently presenting English classes on Mondays from 14:00 to 15:30, Tuesdays from 15:30 to 17:00 or Thursdays from 15:30 to 17:00.*

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