



Headmaster  
**G.J.D. JORDAAN**

# Parkdene Primary School

**PERSEVERANCE AND PROSPERITY**

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Dear Parents

## **Newsletter number: 5**

As a school we valued the clear communication from the President and as we are in the process of moving from **LEVEL 5** lockdown to **LEVEL 4**, we all are waiting in anticipation for instructions and real leadership from our Minister of Education and then the Gauteng Department of Education.

Communication with our parents is one of the key factors of our school, particularly during these uncertain times, however this can also be challenging. At this stage we do not know when schools will resume, nor can we make any predictions. We must all avoid being alarmist and spreading rumours. We are waiting for the Minister of Education to address us all. The school will only respond to official announcements by the President or the Minister of Basic Education.

Please be assured that we at Parkdene Primary School will make sure it will be safe for your child to return to school when they are allowed to. As you know that during **LEVEL 4** lockdown all must wear face masks. As parents please prepare to have face masks at the ready as it is most likely that this will be required when returning to school and also make sure that your child is comfortable wearing them. At this stage we want you as parents to know that your child will be fine academically and that the school will do everything to catch up the academic programme as set out by the Department.

In the back ground and under some difficult circumstances, teachers are all working very hard to make sure that your child gets some work and activities on the D6 Communicator to help them not to forget what was taught during the first term and to help them to be ready on their return back at school. New assessments and teaching plans need to be developed, a new way of teaching in general needs to be introduced and all of these need hours of planning and preparation on the teachers side. We are not sending any more work home for now as we are all waiting for further guidance from the authorities. As soon as we hear from the relative authorities, work will be uploaded on the Communicator again. In the meantime the learners need to please carry on with what they have already been given. Reading is one of the most important skills one can have. Please read to your child or make sure they read as much as possible.

I personally want to thank our parents for the efforts put in to help your child to complete any work, activities and projects the school provided. We do not expect our parents to teach the curriculum and no child will be disadvantaged if he/she did not manage to do all the work that was given. As long as they have tried, particularly in the Intermediate - and Senior Phases.

In terms of school fees, we know many parents have been affected by this. We urge those parents who are still getting paid to please pay school fees. If you are receiving reduced incomes then please pay what you can afford. I cannot stress enough how much the school relies on the school fees to meet our contractual obligations to 3<sup>rd</sup> party suppliers all of whom we need to keep the school running. Most of this is not paid by the government so we have to find the funds elsewhere. We are all doing our best under exceptionally difficult circumstances and appreciate all you are doing in turn. My worst fear is that we will need to retrench SGB paid teachers which will have a detrimental effect on the class sizes and we all need to pull together to avoid this.

We are also building 2 additional classrooms that are thankfully being paid for by the Department of Education. We had just started this project before the schools had to close, but in the long term this will be hugely beneficial in relieving space issues.

As previously mentioned, reports are ready to hand out and we will do so as soon as it is safe and we are able to. We will let parents know once this is possible.

Amongst all of this angst, there is always good. I would like to wish a valued and long-serving member of staff a wonderful retirement. Mrs du Preez is one of our longest serving teachers and an HOD and is retiring at the end of April. She has been at Parkdene Primary since 1991 and is an integral part of our everyday lives. Mrs du Preez we wish you a long, happy retirement filled with many treasured memories.

I look forward to the safe return of each and every learner and wish you well in the meantime.

Kind regards

**G.J.D. JORDAAN**  
**HEADMASTER**