

10 JULY 2020



# The King's Ken



*Reflections*  
ON SCHOOLING  
IN THE  
*pandemic*



Contact Us!



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# From the Principal's desk

The Minister of Education, Mrs. Angie Motshekga, delivered a speech on Sunday 5 July, where she summarized the state of schooling in the pandemic since reopening. There were a number of extremely helpful bits of information for us as parents in her speech.

She stated that "since our learners returned to school, nine hundred and sixty-eight (968) of the twenty-five thousand, seven hundred and sixty-two (25 762) schools, were closed and reopened. This is 3,75% of the total number of public and independent schools in our country."

She further added that "two thousand, seven hundred and forty (2 740) teachers, of the total number of about four hundred and forty thousand (440 000) teachers, were infected by the virus. This is equivalent to 0,6% of the entire teacher population in our country."

"In the same period, one thousand, two hundred and sixty (1 260) learners were infected by the virus." It should tell us something about the science of the transmission of this virus that, even though there are almost 30 times more students than there are teachers in our country, the number of students being infected is less than half of that of teacher infections. This seems to confirm what the scientists have been telling us all along that children are much less susceptible to Coronavirus infection than adults. This means that zero point zero one percent (0.01%) of our learners, were infected by the virus. It is further not possible to state whether infections actually arose in schools or

originated in homes in the community, but the latter is far more likely according to available research. While "the average duration for the deep cleaning, decontamination and fumigation of schools, and the preparation of schools for the resumption of teaching and learning, is three (3) days, it should be emphasised that temporary closure of the less than four percent (4%) of schools after the school reopening, is much better than a system-wide closure over the same and even longer period of time."

Turning to the scientific basis for reopening schools, Minister Motshekga said, "we have sought and obtained advice from scientists, medical and education experts, which informs the decisions that we make on a daily basis."

"Among the experts, the understanding shifted in or around April 2020, from the virus being seen as a flu-like virus, which was spread easily by children, to the understanding that not only did young children not get infected by the Coronavirus; they were also exceptionally weak transmitters of the virus. This is in part, what prompted global bodies to call for the end of school closures, and for countries, such as South Africa, to reopen schools fairly quickly. In addition to concerns about health, wellbeing and protection from society's ills, the case for reducing learning loss is clear. The progress and improvement seen in international and national assessments in the last two decades could be erased the longer children stay out of school."

The Minister lamented that many parents have still been very wary. She said, “**the epidemiological rationale has not been well understood by the public. As a result, many parents and teachers over-estimate the personal health risks they face, which in turn, can lead to excessive risk-avoidance, which is detrimental to schooling**”.

**MR. KEN LANGLEY**  
Principal

# Our Nursery School Is Back

It is quite natural for parents of little children to experience a high degree of anxiety about sending their kids back to Nursery School. After all, this is a particularly widespread infection, and God has given us a powerful protective instinct for our children. But in the end, we need to be guided by reasoned logical thought and the following article provides a balanced view of both alternatives.

[https://m.parent24.com/Preschool\\_2-6/Development/should-your-little-one-return-to-preschool-before-the-covid-19-pandemic-is-over-20200630](https://m.parent24.com/Preschool_2-6/Development/should-your-little-one-return-to-preschool-before-the-covid-19-pandemic-is-over-20200630)

The doors of our Nursery School literally burst open on July 6th with great excitement of little ones running in to see their teacher and friends again. Any apprehension felt on the day by parents or children evaporated within minutes to be replaced by smiles and laughter.

Our children have shown such resilience with our new routine of screens, sanitizers and social distance being our new norm.

The theme our teachers are concentrating on this week is hygiene, allowing us to explain in an age-appropriate manner about the virus and germs as well as how to prevent germs from spreading.

A reminder to all our parents to log in daily to our new workplace platform where videos and photographs are being posted of our little ones working so hard and having a blast while doing it.

Thank you to all the parents for your patience and compliance to our new procedures. Welcome back and we pray for a happy and healthy term 3.

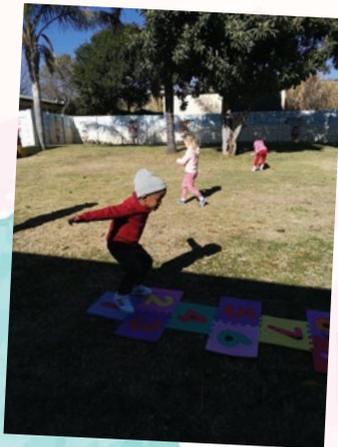
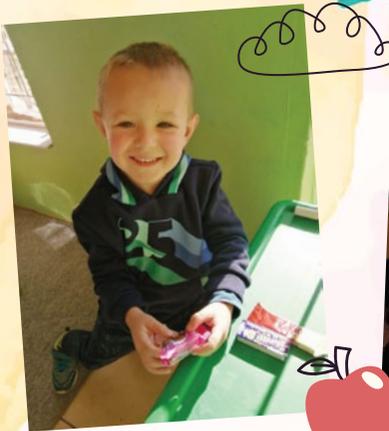


**Please Note:** In case of absenteeism a doctor's note must be provided for all summative assessments (tests, orals, practical assessments etc) missed.

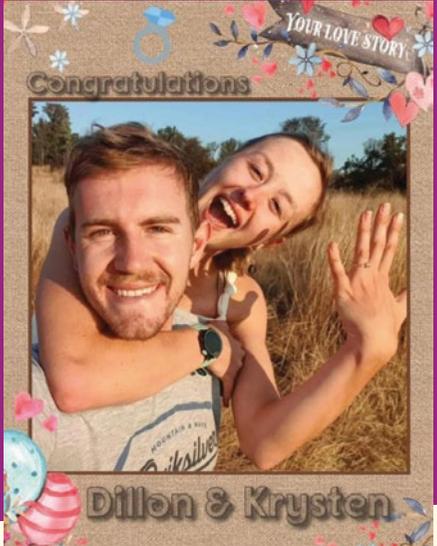


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**Friendly Reminder.** School fees must be paid in advance, before the 7th of each month, 12 Months of the year.



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## Congratulations

Our Staff had a very busy holiday celebrating life and God's goodness in it. We congratulate Dillon and Jade on their engagements and celebrate with Riekies on the birth of their 3rd grandchild! May God's favour continue to shine on you!

## HYGIENE GUIDELINES FOR SWOP SHOP/2<sup>nd</sup> HAND SHOP

Guidelines for the management of the swop shop/2nd hand uniform shop, based on the principles set out by the NCID in the control of Covid-19.

- Surfaces of the shop to be cleaned with household detergent, then disinfected applied to surfaces before the shop opens.
- All surfaces, including floors to be disinfected at the end of each day that the shop is open.
- Gloves to be used when cleaning the surfaces and handling soiled clothing items. Proper personal hygiene to be followed before and after the use of gloves. Correct disposal of gloves to be followed.
- Parents accessing the school grounds will be required to follow the access rules as set out by the school.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitiser to be used on entry to the shop.
- No mask No entry policy to be enforced.
- Maximum of 2 people to be allowed into the shop at any given time.
- Minimum social contact and a safe distance of 1,5m between customers.
- Parents advised to please bring their own bags or packets.
- Parents are requested to please wash any items brought in for exchanging.



Please contact:  
Kim 066 521-8717 or Antoinette 061 944-3898



# SWOP SHOP

**For second hand school items to buy or swap**

The shop will be open on **Mondays & Thursdays** from **06:45 to 07:30**. Please keep in mind that all items that you want to swap or donate must be in a usable condition. We will not accept clothes that are torn

**CONTACT:**  
Kim 082 339 0640 or  
Antoinette 061 944 3898.

# THE SCHOOL WEAR SHOP

**Please take note...**

- UNTIL WE REACH LEVEL ONE APPOINTMENTS ONLY** to avoid queues and to adhere to the social distancing rules. I will only be assisting one parent (family) at a time.
- Please contact Liza on 072 1083 670 or email ropacc@vodamail.co.za to set up an appointment.
- Assistance available on Saturdays to accommodate working parents.
- Wearing of masks is compulsory.  
**No mask – No entry.**
- Hand sanitiser will be available in the shop for Parents and Children on entry and exit of the shop.



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