

# Newsletter



## Executive Head's Address

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Today marks the start of Term 2 of the year. I trust our families are keeping well and they are safe during this unprecedented time. As a school we have not been informed of any of our community members directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are extremely grateful and blessed as we wish our parents and children good health for the rest of 2020. We also recognise the huge impact this time has on our parents' income and business in general and as mentioned before we will continue to look at ways on how we can support you during this uncertain time.

We have not lost many academic days as the school holiday and educational tours were scheduled for the end of term 1. With the financial demand and the uncertainty of what will happen to our children in months to come, I believe it is important that we turn to our community to provide us with a sense of normality. At the heart of what we do has always been the 'individual matters first and foremost'. The relationships we build with our community, our parents and our students remain strong, even though from a distance.

*From a distance there is harmony*

*And it echoes through the land*

*It's the voice of hope*

*It's the voice of peace*

*It's the voice of every man*

*Bette Midler*

As parents we will always strive to give our children the opportunities we never had. It is also very important for us to remember as parents that we fulfil a specific role in the upbringing of our children. We need to be reminded that our primary role is care - in time of difficulty our children look at us and how we deal with situations. Use the time to read a book with your children, bake a cake and do things you usually don't have the time for with your children. Please don't become the educator, as this might influence your relationship with your child. Be the facilitator who supports your child while they go through this new online educational experience. I always speak of using the 'grandparent approach.' This is to encourage your child, compliment them for attempting something that is new to all of us. Parents, learners and even the educators will have to work together and collaborate even more.





I can assure you that the teachers have spent time during the holidays to work on ways to better assist our learners. We had a staff meeting with all staff through Microsoft Teams yesterday and they are committed and prepared to assist when and where needed. They surely miss having your children at school. We miss hearing their laughter in the corridors, but we also know that this is only temporary.

School has always been the centre of community and as Curro Rivonia we want to continue to be the place of stability and what we know as normal. During the last week of term 1, we forwarded links with work until 14 April 2020 to be downloaded and completed. We made hard copies available to parents who wished to fetch from school. The original link expired on 26 March but was resent to all parents by yesterday afternoon. Below I am sharing a detailed approach to the distance learning and support.

## **From the Castle**

Nothing will ever replace the personal touch and quality time spend with our little ones. We wish for you to have this special time with your children as a family, but also know that it can be overwhelming if you are locked up and cannot even leave your house. Just like us, our children are social beings who want (and need) their peers and miss them very much. One of our classes suggested WhatsApp Video calls with friends if you wish to set up 'play dates'.

As educators we do not want our children to have too much screen time and we don't want to overload them with media, but we know that recourses might be limited and sometimes you just feel stuck and cannot think of more activities to do with your child. We know how difficult it is to work from home, run the household and keep your children

busy.

What we do from our side:

Head Office is sending out 'Invitation to play' activities daily for all the different age groups on social media which will also be distributed on the class WhatsApp groups.



Group 3 – 5 teachers worked out their weekly planning which was sent out on e-mail and will continue to be sent until the school re-opens again.

Our teachers who have access to internet and Wi-fi will check in on a weekly basis on video calls and give more ideas on activities that can be done at home.

We have sent out our daily programme and Castle menu to guide parents and give extra support. Structure and a set routine let children feel safe and they know what to expect.

We would love to hear from you and to get feedback without overwhelming our parents with too many messages and information.

Please feel free to ask for assistance and talk about ideas if you need to. We want to help and assist as far as possible.

Lizell Botha

[lizell.e@curro.co.za](mailto:lizell.e@curro.co.za)



## ***Foundation Phase Learning Platform***

Our amazing group of teachers are working hard to bring the essential curriculum to our learners across the Foundation Phase.

At the end of last term you will have received the distance learning material sent out on My Hub for your child to complete. This work was scheduled for the start of the second term from Tuesday, 31 March until Thursday, 9 April.

From Tuesday 14 April we will be using a platform called SeeSaw where we will upload teaching videos and worksheets for learners to watch and complete. You will receive a step by step run down, closer to the time about how to use this very effective platform for learning. Once our teachers have completed their planning you will get a QR code that you can download, and it will give you access to the learners work.

From Grade R, learners will continue with similar concrete activities they recently received. Please note all activities sent home form part of the Grade R curriculum for 2020 .

Grade 1-3 will continue with One English and One Mathematics activity a day and the specialist subjects such as Afrikaans, Isi Zulu, Music and PE will be sent out according to the number of lessons on the timetable.

Thank you,

Karen Adams

[karen.a1@curro.co.za](mailto:karen.a1@curro.co.za)

## ***From the Intermediate-Senior Phase***

The teachers in the Intersen Phase have already sent through the lessons and work using the link provided. We know the link expired on 26 March

but it has been re-sent to parents to ensure they have received all work that needs to be completed.

The teachers will be assessing the work that was sent via Teams and will communicate back to learners who have completed work. Work can be submitted through Teams using Whatsapp photos. Links will be forwarded to parents with new and updated video clips when they become available through MyHub. Assignments will be sent to revise work that has been completed. The teachers will also notify the class representatives when updates have been forwarded to parents. Learners can email questions via teams to their teachers between 08:00 and 16:00 daily for assistance. Please note that the teachers will schedule online lessons with their learners at times available to them.

Thank you.

Barry Phillipson

[barry.p@curro.co.za](mailto:barry.p@curro.co.za)

## ***From the High School***

At the end of last term work was uploaded to the Files tab in Homework Team for each register class. This work is for the period 31 March to 14 April 2020. In due course additional work will be uploaded to keep the remote learning process going until we return to school.

To assist the learners to stay on track, we will be setting up Assignments on Teams for the learners to submit this work so that they may receive continuous feedback on their work. Teachers will then assess the work and return it to each learner. This also enables us to see which learners are not engaging on this platform and Mr Vermaak will then contact those parents via email.



Throughout this process all teachers will be available via the Chat function on Teams and learners may ask them for assistance should they need additional assistance or wish to set up a Teams call. Mr Vermaak will oversee this platform and assist where he can.

As you are aware Mr Zhou left us at the end of last term. Due to the Lockdown, the new teacher will only be able to join us at the beginning of May. Until then, Mrs Kirton and Mr Vermaak will interact and assist the learners with Mathematics on the various Teams groups. Please do not hesitate to contact them directly in this regard.

Thank you

Francois Vermaak

[francois.v2@curro.co.za](mailto:francois.v2@curro.co.za)

### ***From the Music Department***

The music department is excited to announce that we are offering online instrumental lessons during the lockdown period.

Please let your music teacher know if you are interested in this service. All you need is an active WiFi connection and your instrument.

If you do not have an instrument at home and you are still interested in this service, please contact Ms. Green via email, [sarah.g1@curro.co.za](mailto:sarah.g1@curro.co.za)

We look forward to connecting with you over this time.

### ***From the Sports Department***

In light of the current lock down we find ourselves in, the sports department would just like to let you know that all league matches have been halted. Speaking to the league coordinators we will either receive new dates for our fixtures or will have to work around the new dates and plan them be-

tween the different schools. Once I received any information, I will communicate it with you, our coaches and learners. We will do everything we can to ensure that our learners get the opportunity to play these matches once we are back.

During this time, we urge all learners to keep active and keep their fitness levels up so that once we are back and into the leagues, we can have a foundation to build on. You will see that the sports department has and will be sending out activities for Physical Education and with this we will send out a small fitness plan and fun challenges which we encourage all our Grade 3-10 learners to complete at least twice a week to aid in keeping healthy, active and fit.

If you require anything further or your child would like more activities, please do not hesitate to contact me.

[charlene.h1@curro.co.za](mailto:charlene.h1@curro.co.za)

On another positive note:

We, as educators often say that we are preparing our children for a world that might not yet exist and that is why we brought the subject, STEAMD Education into school to allow our children to work on real life situations and to make a difference in the world they live in. Curro was approached by Netcare to assist them in printing surgical face masks, as there is a worldwide shortage. Curro was registered as a Support Services provider to allow us to fetch equipment at our school. The equipment required for us to assist is our 3D printers and laser cutters. This will allow us to print and cut from home. We are currently producing about 100 surgical face mask per day throughout South Africa and this is being distributed and donated by Curro to various service providers.



A big well done and thank you to Mr Liebenberg for his dedication and commitment in driving this initiative on behalf of Curro Rivonia.

Below please find the link to the school Facebook page, as well as an article by Business Insider that shows the work that is being done by Curro on a national level:

Facebook:

[https://web.facebook.com/141156259340291/posts/2761378850651339/?vh=e&d=n&\\_rdc=1&\\_rdr](https://web.facebook.com/141156259340291/posts/2761378850651339/?vh=e&d=n&_rdc=1&_rdr)

Business Insider:

<https://www.businessinsider.co.za/curro-private-schools-aim-to-start-production-on-3d-printed-medical-shields-due-to-covid-19-2020-3>

May we embrace the time we are living in - let's find the positive. I have seen exceptional development taking place during this time with staff embracing the technology to communicate with other educators, fellow staff members parents and learners. I have received messages from parents sharing their appreciation to what the staff are doing to assist them during this time and learners stretching themselves as they are forced to collaborate, interpret and create new content. I am extremely proud of our staff and community at large.

Until we see one other again, please keep safe and remember to stay at home so that we can beat this disease quickly.

Regards,

Brian O'Neil

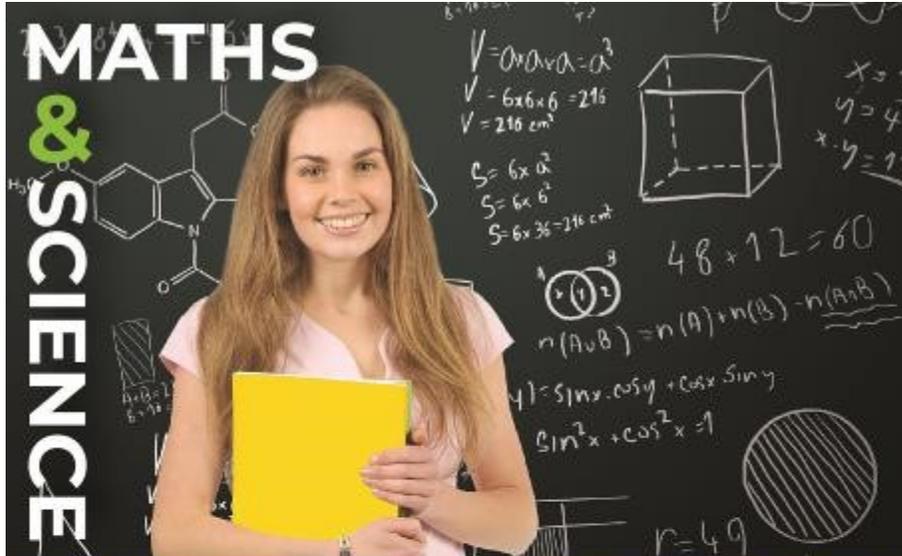
Executive Head

**Curro Rivonia**





## From the PTA



### EXTRA LESSONS

MATHS FROM GR 4 - 12

PHYSICAL SCIENCE FROM GR 10 - 12

**Enrolling early has many benefits for YOU!**

Contact us to find out more:

MORNINGSIDE  
**072 597 3531**

✉ morningside@mastermaths.co.za



[www.mastermaths.co.za](http://www.mastermaths.co.za) | [www.masterscience.co.za](http://www.masterscience.co.za)

## Newsletter Classifieds

The 2020 PTA is launching the Classifieds section of the Newsletters. The first Issue of Classifieds will run on Thursday, 27 February.

Any person who is interested in advertising in our Castle and Primary/High School Newsletter can do so by following this process:

1) Send a request to Mrs Natasja Kruger

(natasja.kruger@gmail.com) with the preferred sizing of your ad.

2) Specify the Newsletter/s you want your ad to run in (Primary/High School newsletters are issued every two weeks and Castle Newsletters are issued once a month. These Newsletters have a collective reach of more than 1000 people. They are also pinned up on our notice boards in the school).

3) Confirm the number of issues in which you want your ad to run.

4) Make the relevant payment into the school's bank account with the reference "YOUR NAME-PTA NEWS".

5) Send the proof of payment as well as your artwork through to Mrs Kruger no later than 3 days before the next issue.

6) Mrs Kruger will forward you a copy of the Newsletter once it has been sent out.

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# The MyHUB mobile app is now available



## through Google Play store and iStore.



The mobile app allows you to:

- Receive notifications when an email or SMS is sent to your mobile number or email address
- View all communication related to your child/ren based on the profile you provide
- Access GRIT for online uniform orders
- View up-to-date statements
- Make school fees and event payments online quickly and easily
- View calendar events scheduled for your child/ren

### CURRO

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=za.co.curroholdings.myhub>

<https://itunes.apple.com/za/app/myhub-guardian/id1299057887>

## Contact us:

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**Tel: 087 287 9551**