

Saam bou ons 'n nalatenskap ~ vandag!
Building a legacy together ~ today!



Laerskool
VAN RIEBEECKPARK
Primary



Riebie Chatter

Edition 25 | CORONA EDITION | 28 January 2021 | d6 Communicator

www.riebie.co.za



Headlines

“START positive – STAY positive”

**Life is 10% what happens to you and
90% how you react to it.**

~ Charles R Swindoll ~

WELCOME BACK

A warm welcome to all the teachers who will be back on school terrain, next week Monday, 1 February 2021. I trust and believe that everyone enjoyed the festive season with their loved ones, despite the restrictions.

THIS MAKES YOU THINK.....

We all yearn for “normality”, but with the pandemic that is not letting go of its grip, the focus should be on the safety of our community.

The well-known Corrie ten Boom, who endured a lot of suffering in a Nazi concentration camp during the Second World War, said the following about worrying (translated):

“Worrying today does nothing to alleviate tomorrow’s problems; it only robs us of our strength we could have had today. Worrying does not help us escape that which we fear. It only makes us too weak to handle that fear when we are faced with it. Worrying is the interest a person pays on problems before it even appears”.

Soren Kierkegaard said the following: “Life must be lived forward; it can only be understood backwards”.

From there our THEME for 2021:

Learn from yesterday
Live for today
Work for tomorrow

As was the case last year, the school again put several measures in place to ensure that the school is as safe as possible for everyone. The aim is to offer all our learners the maximum opportunities, within the framework given to schools from government level.

The latest directives determine that the school should function within the framework as announced by the government:

- The school management, finance and admin staff already resumed duty on 25 January 2021.
- The rest of the staff will resume on 1 February 2021.
- 4,5 and 8 February 2021, learners will be invited to the school to receive academic material and also for orientation.
- Learners will return on 15 February 2021 and will be allowed to come to school in their school PT clothes.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

With regards to the academics, the management team went and looked at all the advantages and disadvantages derived from the 2020 experience.

According to the latest regulations, the school is still compelled to let learners in certain grades attend school on a rotation basis. The school will however be adjusting the rotation basis to the extent that learners can get the maximum opportunity of receiving full academic advantage.

Please take note of the addendum at the bottom of this newsletter.

(Since the school regularly receives new stipulations from government level, this rotation schedule may be revised in the near future. The school will again on 1 March 2021, consider possible new directives, to determine whether we can revise the rotation schedule. The **end goal** is to welcome back all learners on the terrain at 100% capacity).

THE SAFETY OF OUR RIEBIES

It is very important not to lose sight of the fact that a school building with children, or a departmental building with workers, is not more (or less) unsafe or dangerous, than a shopping centre or local shop where South African citizens have to do their daily shopping. It is therefore not possible to give guarantees for safety.

The measurements that have to be in place is therefore aimed at prevention and not to guarantee or ensure safety.

The Department of Health nevertheless determines that our school must adhere to certain conditions:

1. The school has already been sanitized and disinfected. It is however important to remember that it has already been proved, medically and scientifically, that the virus can only survive on surfaces for 72 hours, outside of the body, in ideal circumstances.
2. The staff are in possession of a face mask and a face visor. It is also compulsory for learners to wear a face mask. Parents can purchase masks from the school. (See more information regarding masks in this Riebie Chatter). The wearing of a face mask, during level 3 of restrictions, is compulsory. The masks supplied by the school is within the guidelines as prescribed by the Department of Health.

3. The Riebie terrain staff, responsible for the daily cleaning of the school, receives the necessary clothing and equipment to carry out their duties.
4. The school has enough liquid soap and paper towels for the ablution facilities.
5. Spray bottles with hand sanitizer are made available in each classroom, in the reception area, as well as in other areas used by the staff, learners (and visitors where applicable).
6. Classrooms, surfaces, staircase railings, teachers' desks, school chairs, benches, etcetera, are thoroughly cleaned with sanitizer on a daily basis.
7. The school has electronic temperature scanners at all entrances, in order to ensure that the temperature of all learners and staff are scanned every morning before commencement of the school day.
8. The school has two quarantine rooms ready, to accommodate staff and/or learners with a temperature higher than 37.5°C or who shows any other possible covid related symptoms.

(All products used are within the regulations and stipulations as required by the Department of Health).

Concerns / Questions?

1. Can a parent decide not to send a child back to school, due to the Covid-19 pandemic?

The Government Gazette, number 33150 of the Department of Basic Education, stipulates that it **is compulsory** for learners between the ages of 7 and 16 years old (Grade 1 to Grade 9) to attend school. (See: *Policy on learner attendance*).

Should a parent decide not to send a child to school, who is legally required to attend school, the following scenarios/consequences need to be considered:

1. According to the provisions in respect of school attendance, contained in the South African School's Act 84 of 1996 (SASA), a parent who does not want to comply to the mandatory stipulations, must obtain permission from the Provincial Education Department.
2. Should permission be granted, a parent can consider registering a learner for home schooling with a curriculum supplier, who will certify a learner for the relevant grade at the end of the year.
3. Non-registration with a curriculum supplier implicates the following:
 - 3.1 That the learner has been withheld from attending school, in contravention with the SASA, and that the parent can be prosecuted;
 - 3.2 That the child may have no proof for the year's education;
 - 3.3 That no formal certificate (report) for the year will be issued; and
 - 3.4 That the parent must be aware that any school will have the right to determine what the standard of home schooling was, regardless of whether a certificate was issued or not.

2. Which equipment is available and what will my child need to operate in a healthy environment?

1. Infrared thermometers will be available at the following points:

- East side and West side of the school
- Admin entrance gate at the North side of the school
- In the foyer
- In the school hall

2. Protective wear for staff

Each staff member of the school will receive a transparent face shield, as well as a face mask. The face shield or face mask must be worn at all times, while on the school premises. The mouth and nose must be covered. General Assistants and Administrative workers will also receive gloves.

3. Protective wear for learners

Each learner must have at least two face masks. Each learner must wear a face mask at all times, while on the school premises. The school will supply face masks to our needy learners.

4. Hand sanitizers

Hand sanitizers with at least 70% alcohol will be available in the following areas:

- Administrative Block entrance
- Each classroom
- Each restroom
- Staff Room
- School Hall
- Entrance Hall
- Each office

5. Hand soap

Available in all restrooms, as well as all taps on the premises.

6. Information posters regarding hygiene will be placed at strategic points on the premises. It includes, among others: *Do not touch your face; Wash hands regularly; etcetera.*

7. An informative video, regarding the washing of hands and general hygiene, will be broadcasted on the interactive boards every morning.

8. Psychological services, together with the School's Department of Educational Guidance, will be available to learners and staff for emotional support.

9. Social distancing of at least 1,5 meters **must** be maintained by all persons on the premises.

10. Dustbins

A sufficient number of dustbins, in which all refuse and garbage are to be deposited, will be placed at strategic areas on the school terrain.

3. What will the morning routine look like when the school re-opens?

1. Staff will be assigned, per schedule, for duty at entrance gates and on the school terrain. The relevant staff must report at the school hall at 06:30, where their temperatures will be scanned, after which they will report for duty at the entrance gates and on the school terrain.
2. Entrance gates will be open in the mornings from 06:30 to 07:30. Staff on duty will scan the learners' temperatures. If a learner's temperature is below 37,5 °C, the learner will be allowed to enter the school premises.
3. If a learner's temperature is higher than 37,5 °C, a member of the school management team will immediately be contacted by cell phone to escort the learner to the school hall foyer, which will be used as a quarantine area. A member of the school management will immediately contact the learner's parents to come and fetch him/her and take him/her for further testing.
4. Learners enter the school by making use of the following entrance gates:
 - Entrance gate on the West side of the school at Hasie Kwassie; and
 - Entrance gate on the East side of the school at the Foundation Phase.
5. As soon as learners have arrived at the school, had their temperatures scanned and sanitized their hands, they must immediately proceed to the specific grade's designated areas ("rhino camps").
6. Learners entering the school premises after 07:30, must make use of the administrative entrance gate on the North side of the school. *(Please note that this should be the absolute exception, and we make a friendly but serious request to parents to please ensure that their children report to school on time and use the entrance gates, as mentioned in point 4 above).*

4. How will visitors to the school be dealt with?

1. No person will be allowed on the premises, without wearing a face mask.
2. Parents will only be allowed on the premises for the payment of school fees at the financial office, or if a parent was contacted by the school to fetch a learner during school hours.
3. If a new learner is enrolled at the school for the current school year, only one parent per learner will be allowed on the premises.
4. Visits by District officials, or any other institution, must be communicated in advance to the School Principal.
5. Hands must be sanitized at the entrance to the administrative block.
6. Scanning of temperatures will be administered by one of the administrative staff members.
7. Only one person at a time will be allowed at the counters in the administrative and financial offices.
8. Other persons will be requested to wait on the cordoned off areas, with a distance of 2 meters in between, as indicated by posters and stickers.

5. What process is followed if a person tests positive?

1. The Department of Basic Education, as well as the Department of Health, must be informed immediately.
2. The school will immediately be closed by the District Office. Parents will be informed to come and fetch learners.
3. The school will only be allowed to re-open with permission from the Department of Basic Education and the Department of Health.
4. Emergency numbers for support services are available in the Administrative Office.

6. Is the school disinfected before learners return to school?

1. The school premises will be disinfected in accordance with guidelines from the Department of Basic Education and the Department of Health.
2. Restrooms, school furniture, handles, staircase handrails and other essential areas will be disinfected by General Assistants daily.
3. Learners supply their own *Wet Wipes* to clean their work surfaces, stationery, books, and textbooks throughout the day.

7. Are restrooms cleaned regularly?

1. As the grades are phased in, the various grades will have different breaktimes to avoid having a congestion of learners in restrooms.
2. No learner may be refused to use a restroom outside of breaktime.
3. Hand soap and sanitizers are available in each restroom. Hands must be sanitized upon entering a restroom, and again when leaving the restroom.
4. Hands must be washed with soap and water after using the toilet.
5. When hands are washed with soap, a paper towel must be used to dry the hands.
6. Learners returning from the restroom, must again sanitize their hands upon entering the classroom.
7. General Assistants will clean restrooms every hour, with the focus on the following:
 - Wiping of taps and basins;
 - Flushing toilets and ensure that there is enough toilet paper available;
 - Mopping the floors; and
 - Reporting any shortcomings or problems to the factotum, for immediate attention.

8. Is the school's After-School Centre open?

1. The school unfortunately had a positive COVID-19 case and closed the After-School Centre for the week. Staff have been placed in isolation. Staff with symptoms have been tested. The After-School Centre was sanitized by an external company and the After-School Centre will be ready to open again on 1 February 2021 from 07:00 – 17:30 daily.

2. The After-School Centre will also again accommodate learners who are at the school on rotation, with effect from 15 February 2021, from 13:00 daily. After-School learners who are not at attending school according to the rotation schedule, will be accommodated from 07:00 on those days. We offer this service especially to accommodate working parents.

- Costs amount to R785.00 per month.
- Warm lunch is prepared and served daily.
- Learners also attend a homework class daily, to do their homework under the supervision of a staff member.

HASIE KWASSIE PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Hasie Kwassie learners already started on 27 January 2021! A special welcome to the little ones. We trust and believe that the “little Riebies” will soon understand the heartbeat of the Riebies and that they will leave special footprints in our hearts.

SPORT

The latest directives indicates that all types of contact sport may not go ahead. We however thought it might be good to give learners the opportunity to take part in fitness exercises. Staff will be available to accommodate learners from 16 February 2021 between 14:15 and 15:15.

Please be part of the opportunity that the school offers.

“Take Care of your Body.
It’s the only place you **HAVE TO LIVE.”**
~ Jim Rohn ~

RIEBIE MASKS

The safety of our learners is of utmost importance and therefore each Riebie must wear his/her own mask when the school re-opens. You are welcome to purchase a second Riebie mask for only R30-00. There are two designs to choose from:

- Riebie Mask 1 (**RM1**) - Big rhino in the middle
Riebie Mask 2 (**RM2**) - Lots of small rhinos

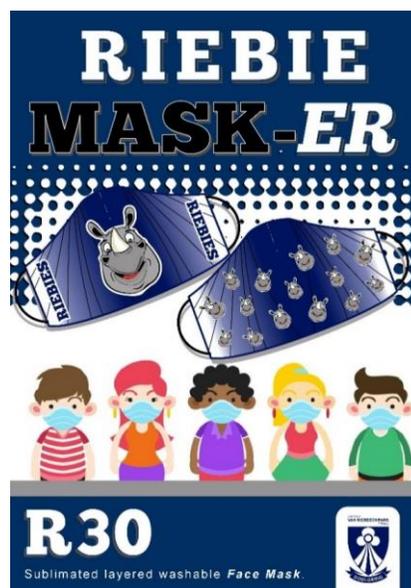
If you would like to order a Riebie mask, please use the following particulars:

Account Name : Laerskool van Riebeeckpark
Bank : FNB
Account Type : Cheque Account
Branch Code : 205 609
Account Number : 6274 913 4243
Reference Number : 9701 + Your child’s name,
surname and grade + (RM1 or RM2)

We request parents not to send cash to the school, as we would like to avoid the physical handling of cash.

“Gratitude makes sense of your past,
Brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.”
~ Melody Beattie ~

V Botha | School Principal



ADDENDUM TO THE RIEBIE CHATTER

We request Riebie parents to **please** read the following information thoroughly.

Rotation Schedule

After discussions with interested parties, the school decided to commence with a two-day rotation for Grade 2 to Grade 7 learners this year. This means that learners will be at school for two days and then work at home the following two days.

Some reasons for this decision are as follows:

- Academic work can be presented in a more structured manner;
- Learners are stimulated academically on a more regular basis and are thus more motivated to work;
- During the two days at school, academic work can be presented and explained more intensely by staff, so that it will be easier for learners to complete activities independently at home during the following two days;
- It is easier for learners who do not have access to TEAMS and WhatsApp groups, to stay up to date with the schoolwork;
- Staff will be able to identify academic failures in specific subject areas quicker, and will be able to address it immediately; and
- The socialising (with distancing) of learners is very important during this time that we currently find ourselves in.

COLLECTING OF ACADEMIC MATERIAL

- To ensure that we can start the academic program in full, from 15 February 2021, there will be three collection opportunities on which learners must come and pick up, what we call “*starter packs*”.

4 February: Grade 2 and Grade 5

5 February: Grade 3 and Grade 7

8 February: Grade 4 and Grade 6

Parents bring learners to school between 07:00 and 09:00, as it suits the household. No school clothes or schoolbags.

**** UNFORTUNATELY, NO PARENTS ARE ALLOWED ON THE TERRAIN ****

- The following process is followed:

The learner’s hands are sanitized, and temperature scanned, at the gate.

The learner receives his/her nametag on which the learner’s class and classroom is indicated.

The learner proceeds to the specified classroom where the teacher will receive the learner.

Grade 4 to Grade 7 learners hand in their book lending form, to the teacher, which they have received together with their school textbooks during December 2020.

Grade 4 to Grade 7 learners receive the following “*starter pack*” from the teacher:

- A Teams letter in which the learner’s sign-in information is indicated -
(NB: Please keep this letter in a safe place);
- DBE books for Language and Maths as received from the department;
- Subject roster;
- Parent information session arrangements;
- Hard copies for baseline assessment for Language and Maths, which learners must complete independently without the assistance of their parents, and which they must return to school the day on which they attend according to the rotation schedule;
- Two-day rotation schedule which must please be stuck on the fridge door;
- A profile information form that must be completed at home and handed in on the day that the learner returns to school;
- A list of subject teachers; and
- A hard copy of the school’s newsletter: The Riebie Chatter.

Learners leave the class and immediately proceed back to the parent’s vehicle.

Grade 2 to Grade 3 learners receive the following “*starter pack*” from the teacher:

- A Teams letter in which the learner’s sign-in information is indicated -
(NB: Please keep this letter in a safe place);
- DBE books for Language, Maths and Life Skills, as received from the department;
- Subject roster;
- Parent information session arrangements;
- Two-day rotation schedule which must please be stuck on the fridge door;
- A profile information form that must be completed at home and handed in on the day that the learner returns to school;
- A colour grouping; and
- A hard copy of the school’s newsletter: The Riebie Chatter.

Learners leave the class and immediately proceed back to the parent’s vehicle.

Gates for entrance and exit for the collecting of academic material

- Grade 1 gate: Junior playground gate on the North side of the school.
11 February 2021
- Grade 2 gate: Drive-through lane gate on the East side of the school (at the long jump tracks).
4 February 2021
- Grade 3 gate: School Hall gate on the West side of the school.
3 February 2021
- Grade 4 gate: School Hall gate on the West side of the school.
8 February 2021
- Grade 5 gate: School Hall gate on the West side of the school.
4 February 2021
- Grade 6 gate: Drive-through lane gate on the East side of the school (at the long jump tracks).
8 February 2021
- Grade 7 gate: Drive-through lane gate on the East side of the school (at the long jump tracks).
5 February 2021

Grade 1 parents

Communication regarding the “Meet Your Teacher” and the Parent Information Session, will be communicated to parents by email and d6 Connect.

“Meet Your Teacher” will take place between 16:00 – 18:00 on 11 February 2021.

The Parent Information Session will take place on 13 February 2021.

Further arrangements for the week of 15 – 19 February 2021 will follow in the Riebie Chatter, dated 9 February 2021.