



# SETTLERS' PARK PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL

(INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION NOT FOR GAIN)

Reg. No. 1972/014384/08

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Lat: S29°34'32"

27 Allerton Road

Northern Park

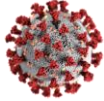
Pietermaritzburg

3201

Long: E30°21'47"

10 August 2021

Dear Parents,



## COVID MATTERS:

Many thanks for your support and cooperation on Thursday and Friday. We have had no positive Covid cases prior to last week since the pandemic came to South Africa in March 2020. For your reassurance, please see our protocols below.

## Introduction

**All staff are trained in the correct procedures.**

### General Hygiene Measures

- **Distancing:** All adults keep 1.5 metres apart and children are encouraged to do the same. Children are reminded not to have physical contact such as hugging or touching hands.
- **Hygiene:** Hand washing for 20-30 seconds is encouraged at regular intervals throughout the day. Wash basins with liquid soap are provided. Paper hand towels are thrown away in the lid-bins provided and these are emptied and sanitized throughout the day.
- To prevent groups congregating in the toilets, children are sent individually when using toilets.
- **Hand Sanitizer:** Each staff member has a large dispenser and a hand dispenser. Dispensers are available in different areas of the school.
- Coughs and sneezes are encouraged in the crook of the arm, heads are turned away from other people.
- Doors and windows are left open for circulation. Fans are on. Open doors also mean handles are not touched.
- Face masks or visors are worn by all staff members and children over 2 years of age, except when there are regular mask breaks or snack is being eaten.

### School Cleaning

School cleaning is maintained at a high level throughout each school day, with special care taken to sanitise all surfaces in all areas of the school, including the following:

- Door handles and handles (e.g., drawer and window handles),
- Stairs and handrails
- Light switches
- Toilets and washing facilities
- Classrooms, desks, tables and chairs
- Courtyard: tables, chairs, poles, pillars, boards
- Administration Offices, staff room, kitchen and sick room: desks, phone, computers, copiers, appliances, taps, thermometers
- Passages
- Toilet seats, fittings, wash basins and floors.

**Deep cleaning:** Sanitising foggers are released every mid-term break and every school holiday. In the event of a positive case in the school, the entire school is deep cleaned.

### Movements around the School

The location and layout of classrooms ensure that all children can proceed to their classrooms on arrival in the mornings by using the three separate entrance points – small garden double gate (Fireflies and Crickets), front door (Caterpillars, Butterflies and Bees), alleyway (Ladybirds and Ants). Routing plans are in place to keep classes apart and 1.5 metre distance markings are placed on the floor or walls. All movement around the school is strictly controlled by school staff. When walking in the passages, all people keep to the left and walk in single file.

### School Entry

Staff members have their temperatures taken as they arrive at school. Children maintain the necessary social distancing until their temperatures have been taken. Any child with a temperature over 38 degrees is sent home.

Apart from the staff or children, visitors i.e., parents, couriers and delivery services etc. are not allowed to enter the school without following our stringent procedures.

### Snack time:

- Social distancing is maintained between eating areas
- Tables, chairs and bins are cleaned regularly.

### Teaching and Learning:

- All school bags are left in crates outside classrooms. Each crate has your child's picture or name on. These are sanitised regularly.
- Children maintain social distancing, both indoors and out. **Indoors** there are clearly demarcated areas when children sit on the mat. These include using coloured lines, laminated A3 individual mats, small carpet squares, chairs and hoops. Each child has a chair with their name or picture on. These items are cleaned regularly.
- Soft toys, cushions (items which cannot be sanitized) have been removed from classrooms. Other toys, blocks, books etc get sanitized throughout the day. Library books and bags are separated and sanitized.
- There are demarcated lines at play areas.
- Children's hands and feet are sanitised before they climb on playground equipment. All playground equipment is sanitised after use.
- Classes play in the outside areas on a rotational system and classes are kept separate.
- An additional member of staff supervises the class if the teacher is unavailable due to illness.
- Social distancing is maintained when moving around the school. Each class uses a rope with knots that the children hold onto.

### Aftercare:

All the above health and safety procedures apply to aftercare as well. In addition, children who have a nap at aftercare are required to bring their own blanket and pillow, which are sent home once a week for washing. Children at aftercare do not wear masks when napping, but beds are spaced apart and there is more than one area allocated for sleeping.

**N.B:** Parents who fetch their children from aftercare must please bring their own pens to sign their children out when fetching.

### Birthdays:

Children's birthdays are celebrated in the classroom by making a special fuss of the birthday boy / girl and singing happy birthday. Parents may send cupcakes which are hygienically sealed and the children hand these out to their friends and the staff. Please do not send more than one wrapped item.

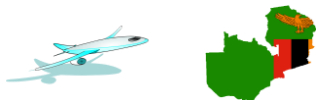
**An important reminder:** In case of signs of illness (e.g. fever, dry cough, breathing problems, loss of taste/smell, sore throat, lethargy): children must stay at home and seek medical advice/treatment if necessary. The rules for sick absence still apply. Please let us know why children are absent from school. In the event that there has been contact with someone who has tested positive, please inform us immediately.

### Summary

The measures put in place are there to protect the school community; therefore, I ask for your support, understanding and proactive compliance. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support to the school and commitment to the education of your children in these challenging times. Please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or the class teachers should you have any questions or concerns.

### Grandparents' Day (Friday, 10 September):

Please pass the attached invitation on to your children's grandparents (This function will take place provided that the prevailing COVID regulations permit)



### Goodbye Mrs Reeves!

Butterfly teacher Mrs Kallen Reeves leaves us on Thursday to go and live in Zambia. We thank her for her commitment to Settlers' Park Pre-Primary, and to the pupils in her care during her time with us. We wish Kallen and her husband, Marcus everything of the best and trust that God will bless them in this new phase in their lives.



Congratulations to the family of Zisanda Ngubane (Ant Group) on the arrival of a new baby boy!

Stay healthy and best regards,

**Ellen Borain**

PRINCIPAL

*"If you want your children to turn out well, spend twice as much **time** with them and half as much **money**."*