

ENGAGE
ENLIGHTEN
EMPOWER

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TRIDENT
PREPARATORY
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09:30hrs

Dear Parents,

RE: We are ONLINE! #weareinthistogether

Let us put our disappointment aside, we need to get our pupils engaged with their learning as soon as possible. This is going to require a great deal of energy and commitment from everyone involved, not least the children. We have done this before TPS, and we will manage to do it again! We sincerely hope that we open on the 1st Feb; as we all know that face to face learning with their peers is what children need. Let us be positive and let's get started! I will be your cheerleader, pop in or drop me a line if you are feeling down, frustrated or you just need a sticker! (I have shiny ones!)

MS Teams: This will be used for all the live meetings and interactions between pupils and staff. We encourage children to be as independent as possible and to use this to access support from their teachers. If you are new and feeling overwhelmed, please remember that we are here to help. Technical support is available from school, and you can call your child's class teacher at any time between 9am and 12am.

Attendance: Please note that we will be contacting you if you are not viewing messages on Class Dojo. Formal attendance registers will be taken from Wednesday 20th January; however, it is important that you and your child engage with the school before this. Many of you have already, including portfolios from the Nursery class! Well Done! We know that some of you are working and will only be able to upload work after hours. Staff are prepared to be flexible on when they mark work just agree this with them. Please remember that staff have their own children, husbands, pets and other demands.

Support: We are in this together and we are here to help. Please get in touch with Miss Mulenga, with myself or with your child's class teacher. Online learning is an incredibly vital home-school partnership, that can work if we communicate clearly and support one another.

Timetabling: Most of you are familiar with setting a timetable for your children during home learning. This should include a wake-up time, certain chores, snack time, lunch time, quiet reading time, assembly times and class meeting times.

Home Learning Space: Whether this is in the dining room or your child's bedroom, it is important that this is not a play area. Bookworld and the Chinese shop next to Pick and Pay have lovely posters and stationery. Shoprite has puzzles and games that can be used as time fillers.

Art, Music and PE: It is important that your child engages with these lessons, please encourage them to do so. These teachers are available on Teams and Class Dojo for support. The school is not actively pushing to offer swimming lessons for KGE residents. If you live on the KGE you are free to take your own children to the pool. If this changes I will let you know.



Early Years: This is the most challenging age for online learning and I really do empathise with yourselves and with the children. However, it is imperative that we get them engaged with their learning. Our EY teachers are innovative and I have every reason to believe that they will put together valuable lessons and workbooks

Workbook and Textbook Pick-up: This will take place tomorrow. It will be staggered so that not too many people are in the class at the same time. and we must stay at a safe distance from each other. Please mask up and sanitise when necessary. You will need to sign for textbooks.

Safeguarding: Giving children access to a device and the internet is fraught with safety issues and concerns. Please ensure that you have an internet safety talk with your children and that you have all the safety measures that you can, in place. Some pointers to include in the talk:

- If you want to talk to your teacher, set an appointment first and agree a time. Teachers will record 1:1 or small group meetings.
- Children must be **fully** clothed in online meetings (NO swimming costumes)
- Use kiddle not google. You tube is a useful learning tool, but it can go so wrong.
- Check your child's browser history every day! Children need guidance from you. Trust them but check on them.
- Check what they have been doing every day. Check that assignments are submitted (do not take their word for it)
- Screen time is increased during home learning – encourage breaks from the screen.
- Class teachers will monitor and encourage good online etiquette and behaviour. Children must address their teachers as they would in the classroom. I am constantly monitoring their online conversations and so are the staff.

I hope that this helps and supports you.

School has begun: As I said some of you have not yet engaged with the school on class dojo. We need you to do so as soon as possible. I am open to ideas for assemblies, if you need to children to hear a certain message, just get in touch with me. TPS Ambassador certificates will be given out on Fridays.

Lastly, I know that this is not easy on anyone, but we can do this, and we are a great team! Let us keep safe and get our children learning.

Thank you for your support.
All the very best of luck.

Stay safe!



Kirsten Lightfoot

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