

What's happening this term?

Online teaching and learning to continue until Friday, 6 August.

School will reopen for our third term on Tuesday, 30 August



ST JAMES NEWS

29 July 2021

Dear Parents

Message from the Headmaster

We have been teaching and learning online since Monday, 21 June. Our teachers have progressed very enthusiastically and steadfastly in this programme thus far. I do however, have a responsibility to inform you that our younger children in grades R to 3 have been struggling with some areas of our virtual lessons. My heart really goes out to them when they lose focus; press the wrong button on the computer, distracted by their pets, wave to one another on the screen, and do all sorts of funny things while the teacher tries her/his best to keep their attention. They are children after all!

In view of the above, and monitoring news from the National Institute for Communicable Disease, South Africa's third wave of COVID-19 infections has surpassed previous surges and its peak. As a result, we have made the decision to continue with online teaching and learning until end of term, which is Friday 6 August. As a result of a lot of missed in person teaching, we will re-open school one week earlier to begin the final term this year. School will commence on **MONDAY, 30 AUGUST**, and continue as per the third term calendar. This one week will compensate for online revision and assessment.

At St James, we have both young and seasoned teachers. I have worked with many young teachers over the years. At St James, I have the pleasure and opportunity to work with a young man, Mr Gregory Jones our Grade 5 teacher. Mr Jones joined our school about 10 years ago as an assistant to our teachers, today through his efforts and the love for teaching children is a qualified teacher. His commitment and passion in engaging with students in science, technology and GP, continues to flourish, he elaborates further.....

What it's like being in the Science Classroom

Science, is a subject where the children are not only encouraged to express their natural curiosity and dive into a space that encourages examining the world around them and questioning everything about it, but they are guided to think like a scientist whilst constructively asking every question which comes to mind.

The child's scientific inquiry is truly a wonder in itself, with the right guidance the children discover many aspects of Science by just having constructive discussions within the class. By making group observations the children connect with their shared scientific enquiry and discover so much about their surroundings and how Science is present in everything around them, this is where a love for the natural world is developed and passionate young scientists emerge.

In the classroom laboratory or when we're in the home space as we learn online, a Science lesson begins with allowing the children to express themselves, we have some fun from the get go, then we dive

Quote:

Creativity is intelligence having fun!

Albert Einstein

into the world of Science by looking at the topic within Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

You may walk in on a lesson and find the children staring out of the window thinking about bird adaptations like their four toes and specialized beaks; you may see your child playing with shadows and realizing that a simple shadow stick can be used to study the Earth's movements; you may see your child researching organisms in various food webs as we learn about feeding relationships and trophic levels; or even find your child making an apple fall from a tree as we learn about Newton, gravity, and his Laws of Motion.

Trust that in the Science class the children are having fun while developing their scientific knowledge and understanding and are given a space to allow their curiosity to be explored while thinking like a scientist.

Talent Show, Thursday 5 August

Where staying home can lead to showcasing some serious talent, all children are invited to create a short video clip of something fun, creative, mind blowing, pure genius or funny. Last year we had some incredible talent displayed, what will the children show this year??

Our talent show will be on Zoom where video entries will be viewed by all, encourage your children to add to the talent show with their own talent show video. Videos need to be sent in by Monday 2nd August



St James website



Please note that our website is being refurbished and will be up and running with a new and improved look soon.

Keep a look out for the announcement of the big reveal.

Weekly study material, assessments and reporting

Please be reminded that parents are **ONLY** to come to school when their grade/form teachers ask you to pick up something.

Giving the gift of warmth: Knit-a-square

Thank you for all donations of squares and blankets so far. Please be reminded to send in your knitted or crocheted squares to the school by Monday, 2 August. Mr Khanya or the security on duty will take them up to the office.

Fogging machine

Reminder: Fogging machine available for hire. Please contact Mr Jones for availability and costing.

NB:

School will close for term break on Friday, 6 August and return for the start of our third term on Tuesday, 30 August.

2022 School fees and registration

Our new fee structure for 2022 is under review. The Chairman of Board, Mr Murray Burt will present the revised fees shortly.

Parents who have younger siblings ready to join St James in 2022 are to please contact Mrs Jones for registration. Our montessori classes range from age 3 - Grade 0000 – 0.

PLEASE NOTE: parents who intend enrolling their children elsewhere in 2022, are reminded of the '**FULL ONE TERMS NOTICE IN WRITING**' period that is required. All notice / resignation letters must be handed into the office during the first week of the new term, from 30 August until 3 September, 2021. Any notice handed in after this date will be liable for the first terms fees of 2022.

Stay safe, stay healthy and stay home. Let's stop the spread of the virus.

Regards

The St James team.