

LAERSKOOL CHARLO PRIMARY



Dear Parents

As a precaution against COVID-19, the Department of Education has laid down certain precautionary measures which schools must adhere to. One of these measures is that of maintaining social distancing. In a school environment, this poses an enormous challenge. To address this challenge, the Department of Education has suggested three models between which schools must choose. These models are designed to create an environment where the learners feel welcomed, included, respected and supported, while still trying to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. A normal size school should never have more than 50% of its children at school at any given time.

1. **Platooning** – Half of the class attends school in the morning until 12:00, while the other half attends school in the afternoons between 13:00 and 17:00. The problem that this causes is that it leaves a very limited amount of time for the classes to be disinfected between the two groups and it also means that we will need to scan learners at the entrances for a second time in one day, which will lead to academic time being lost. The day will become exceptionally long, especially for the second group of learners and we know that children are able to concentrate better in the mornings. This too will cause a problem for working parents with regards to the drop-off and collection times.
2. **Attending school on alternative days – This is the option which Charlo Primary School will follow.** We will draw up a ten-day roster and the classes will be divided into two groups. Group 1 will come to school in week 1 for three days (Monday, Wednesday and Friday), while Group 2 will come for only two days (Tuesday and Thursday). In week 2 these days will swap. In this way, we can ensure continuity with both the teaching and assessing of learners. The classrooms will be thoroughly cleaned in the afternoons once the learners have been dismissed and no academic time will be lost by having to scan learners for a second time at the entrances.
3. **Learners attend school every second week** – These learners will have to stay home for a whole week without any assistance or supervision. It will become a problem when learners need to be assessed, as by the time their teacher sees them again, they will have already forgotten what they were previously taught.

WHEN DO MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL?

Gr RR, Gr R, Gr 1-3 and Gr 6 will return on 6 July 2020. We have applied for the Gr 4 and 5 learners to return earlier than prescribed by the Department of Education. We would like to start 20 July instead of 3 August, but we are still waiting approval. We will inform you as soon as we receive feedback from them.

PROVISIONAL MORNING ARRANGEMENTS

Each grade has been assigned a specific time and entrance gate to arrive at. The learners will wait outside on the pavement while the scanning process takes place. There will be a staff member

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outside to assist with the supervision of the Gr RR, Gr R and Gr 1 and Gr 2 learners. They will ensure that the learners stand on the 1.5m line; which has been painted on the pavement; as well as ensuring that the learners do not run into the road. Upon reaching the gate, the learners' temperatures will be scanned and their hands will be sanitized. We are working on a computer program where parents will receive a short questionnaire in the morning which will need to be completed on behalf of their child. This will prevent the need of asking the learners these questions when they arrive. Learners whose parents do not complete this, will have their names flagged in the office. Once a learner has been scanned, they must proceed directly to their line where their class teacher will be waiting.

Entrance	07:15 to 07:35 drop-off	07:35 to 07:55 drop-off	Who in charge of scanning the learner
Foundation phase gate (Miles Road)	Gr RR and Gr R (approximately 50 learners)	No entering – gate will be locked	Ms Joubert, Mrs Williams and 2 aftercare staff members
Gate behind Hall (Old Supporters Club entrance)	Gr 1 and Gr 2 (approximately 45 learners)	Gr 6 (approximately 34 learners)	Ms Pretorius, Mrs von Berg and 2 aftercare staff members
Aftercare entrance	No entering – gate will be locked	Gr 4 and Gr 5 (approximately 60 learners)	Mr Hughes and aftercare staff members
Garage's small gate	Gr 3 and LSEN Gr1-4 (approximately 32 learners)	Gr 7 and LSEN Gr 5-7 (approximately 70 learners)	Mrs Bellingan, Mrs Nitt and a aftercare staff member

SCHOOL HOURS

To prevent overcrowding at the gates before and after school, the following school hours will be followed. The learners will use the same gate for entering and exiting the schoolgrounds:

Gr RR	07:35 to 12:00
Gr R	07:35 to 12:30
Gr 1, 2, 3 and LSEN Gr 1-4	07:35 to 13:05
Gr 4, 5, 6, 7 and LSEN Gr 5-7	07:55 to 14:05

WHAT MUST MY CHILD BRING WITH THEM WHEN THEY RETURN?

There will be no tuck-shop facilities this term. Thus, please ensure that your child has enough food for the day.

Each learner must bring a plastic bag with them to school in which they must dispose of their rubbish. This bag must then be taken home to be disposed of there. They will need to also have a toilet roll as well as a small bottle of hand sanitizer with them in their bags. No learner will be allowed on to

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the school grounds if they are not wearing a cloth mask. No gloves or blankets will be allowed at school.

Due to the Gr RR to Gr 6 learners attending school every second day, they will not be allowed to leave any personal or school belongings in their classrooms. The classrooms are sprayed with a disinfectant from top to bottom in the afternoons. This disinfectant moistens all the surfaces, which will cause damage to any books that are left on or in their desks. Thus, the learners will need to take their books home with them each day. The Gr 4-7 teachers have purchased electronic versions of the textbooks to use on their interactive whiteboards, therefore learners will not need to bring their heavy textbooks to school every day. They will only need to pack their classwork books according to the days' timetable.

Once the learner returns to school on their first day back, they will need to submit the following forms: (available on D6)

1. The indemnity form
2. The risk assessment form
3. The scanning permission form

AFTERCARE

There will be no morning care as scanning begins at 7:15 for the younger learners.

After much consideration, we have decided that aftercare will be a place of supervision only. For the time being, there will be no food being prepared at aftercare. The use of cutlery, preparation of food, as well as maintaining social distancing while the learners eat, may become a problem. You will therefore need to ensure that your child has enough food packed in to last the whole school day. Learners will not be allowed to bring a change of clothes with them for aftercare due to the lack of space and supervision available in the bathrooms.

MAY MY CHILD STAY AT HOME?

As you are probably aware of, the Minister of Education has shown concern with the Department's policy regarding the safety of learners. Her latest stance is that if a parent wishes to continue with distanced learning at home, their child's enrollment may not be evoked. You are therefore allowed to keep your child at home and if you keep up to date with your school fees, you will still receive work from the school. The work you will receive, will be in the form of a work schedule indicating the work that will be covered during the week. This format will differ from that which has been sent during the lockdown period. We do, however understand that this poses a problem specifically when it comes to assessing learners in our Foundation Phase (Grade R to 3). These learners need to be assessed daily. We are still awaiting instruction from the Department regarding how to assess Foundation Phase learners whose parents choose to rather keep their children at home. At this stage, no reports will be issued to any Gr RR or Gr R learner whose parents choose to keep them at home. The Intermediate Phase learners do not pose a problem, as they can come in once during the week to complete all the assessments that will happen in class that week.

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Before the rest of the learners, that are suppose to return on the 6th of July, return to school, we would request that they to come to school the week before for orientation. It will work as follows:

DATE	DAY	TIME	GRADE	GROUP
29 June	Monday	7:30 to 10:00	3 and 6	1
30 June	Tuesday	7:30 to 10:00	3 and 6	2
1 July	Wednesday	7:30 to 10:00	1 and 2 LSEN Gr1-3 and 4	1 -
2 July	Thursday	7:30 to 10:00	1 and 2 LSEN Gr5-6	2 -
1 July	Wednesday	7:30 to 8:30	Gr RR and Gr R	1
2 July	Thursday	7:30 to 8:30	Gr RR and Gr R	2

Each class will be divided into two groups (mainly alphabetically), paying close attention to sibling groups to ensure that they attend school on the same days. Each class teacher will notify the parents, via their WhatsApp group, regarding how the class will be divided. Once teaching begins, **learners may not change the group they have been placed in.** If you therefore have a problem regarding the group your child has been placed in, you need to discuss this with their class teacher before 6 July.

Along with this newsletter, there are two surveys which you need to complete.

1. Will your child make use of Aftercare?
2. Are you going to send your child back to school, or will you be making use of the homeschooling option?

Learners with comorbidities will still be required to send medical proof to the school. Parents who choose to keep their children at home for different reasons, will need to complete an application form to ensure that both you and the school are protected against an issues in case the Department of Education once again changes their minds regarding this option.

[Click here for the survey.](#)

LATE ARRIVALS OF LEARNERS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED. THIS WILL BE STRICTLY MONITORED AT ALL TIMES AND NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.

ONLY IF YOU MADE AN APPOINTMENT VIA THE OFFICE, WILL YOU BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE SCHOOL PREMISES. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.

DRESS CODE

Since Gr 7 learners only have 150 days left of school, they will be allowed to wear civvies to school. For the remainder of term two, Gr 1 learners will be allowed to wear civvies to ensure that parents have enough time to purchase the correct uniforms. The rest of the grades (Gr 2 – 6) must wear

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their school uniform. No parents will be allowed to come into the school to go to the clothing bank. Sonette will call learners from class to come down to the clothing bank to do fittings. The necessary COVID-19 precautions will be adhered to. Learners whose school uniform no longer fits them, will be allowed to come to school in civvies for the first week until they have had an opportunity to go to the clothing bank. If a parent is not satisfied with the size of the item Sonette has issued, you may return this item the next day. All returns will be steam-cleaned before being placed back on the shelves.

SICKNESSES

If a learner is not feeling well or shows any COVID-19 symptom, by law, the parent must keep the child at home and not send them to school.

Regards

Almorie Daniell