

14 February 2022

Dear parents

This week, please note the following:

**As protocols change to accommodate new, looser regulations, the following gate changes apply as of today:**

- All Gr4-7 learners access the property via the Wingfield Pedestrian gate:
    - 07h30 for an 07h40 start of day
    - Late comers will be held at the gate and taken up together after a 10 minute grace period whereafter the gate will be locked. Please do all you can to be punctual as we shift routines
    - Screening at the gate is sanitiser only
    - Temperatures are taken in the day at school
    - Health declarations via the app are mandatory
  - All Gr2-3 learners' gate access arrangements (gate and times) are unchanged.
    - Gr2 home time visit to class: 14 and 16 February
    - Gr3 home time visit to class: 14 and 16 February
  - GrR and 1 may collect from the classroom from 16 February 2022. Drop off protocols remain unchanged.
    - Access to the property must be direct to the venue.
    - No mingling and meeting *en route* please.
    - Adult health declarations must be completed each day, as per the staff and all visitor protocols
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- This Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> February is the **Gr3 Sweetie Tuck**. Please note that R10-R20 is more than suitable spend. The Grade Sevens had a very successful Valentine's Day celebration last Friday – thank you to all involved.
  - Friday is also **Flip Flop Day** in support of CHOC. R10 gives you license to add flip flops to your dress code! The event is organised by our JHB Mini Councilors. Let's come out in full support.
  - Tomorrow morning, you will be offered a free unit of **NoBuzz**, a long lasting (10 hours) insect repellent. The product is derived from the Eucalyptus Citriodora plant and is safe for the whole family. It is 100% natural, has no plasticising effect and repels ticks, mosquitoes, midges and flies. The product will be sold via the Uniform Shop going forward. If you love it, you'll know where to buy it. Thank you to African Applied Chemical for the donation.



**MySchool:**

There is an icon on the Bellavista school app which allows parents and staff to update your beneficiaries to Bellavista school, should you already have a Myschool card. Should you not have one, you can apply for a new one on the school app or directly on the Myschool Website as follows:



Help Bellavista School to raise funds by signing up for a MySchoolMyVillageMyPlanet card. Visit [www.myschool.co.za/download](http://www.myschool.co.za/download) the MySchool app or call 0860100445 to get your card today.

### **Can we talk about our children's lives?**

Last week, with the violent thunderstorms experienced, I was astounded at the challenge and fury from parents and au pairs (ostensibly under parent instruction) who pressurised staff to release their children while we were under lightning alert. On both days, the closest ground strike was within 6km. In the last week, our property had a direct strike more than twice. It is reckless to risk your life, the life of your child and the life of another child when a matter of 30 minutes might mean all risk is abated. Every child carries a device, which is a conductor in the event of a strike. You must understand the extent of the risk you are taking when overriding the safety rules on the property.



#### *Our protocol is:*

- The Africa Weather system alerts us per siren and SMS that the property is at risk (14km strike distance).
- We bring everyone into the building, safely under roof cover.
- After 30 minutes, the alert is either cleared or not.
- In the office, we track the storm on the screen and attempt to communicate per SMS with parents that some delay at the gate is likely. When the alert is still at play 15 minutes from the planned fetch time, we advise that we will not likely be able to release the children on time.
- As the storm moves away, we may release classes per alternative gate arrangements where minimal open space is traversed.
- The sensible option: circle out to complete other chores and return in 30 minutes or when the alert is lifted, or wait safely in your car. Message the teacher to communicate your plan.
- No teacher or member of support, security or administration staff is authorised to override this protocol.

#### *What happens:*

- abuse at the gate – our team are outrageously bullied;
- abuse in the office per telephone or per au pair, even delivered to myself;
- harassment of the teachers charged with your child's care;
- pressure to release 'at the parent's risk'.

Last week, all of the above went down and it was not even close of day.

#### *What I will need if you insist on defying the protocols in the instance of lightning alert:*

- Name of your preferred next of kin to call when you or your au pair are struck;
- Instructions for handling of your body/preferred ambulance provider;
- Commitment in writing that you decline the school's duty of care to your child before entering the property.

Histrionic? I think not. I have sat with two heads of school not five kilometers away who dealt with the trauma and tragedy of such loss of life on the property in front of their eyes. I have heard the eyewitness accounts. The storms are a Johannesburg feature each summer. The actual incidents of inconvenience are 4-5 times a season. Please let's work together to keep our children safe.

Alison M Scott (Mrs)  
Executive Principal