

4 July 2022

Dear parents

Welcome back to the second session of the winter term.

### Condolences

Our deep condolences are extended to Lara and Jan Hofmeyr and their family on the passing of Benjamin, Gr1L, on 23 June 2022, after he put up a brave and inspiring fight against AT and HLH, (Ataxia-telangiectasia / Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis). In his short and happy time in Grade R and One, Ben stole our hearts at Bellavista School, teaching us more about grit than we've understood before.

Lara and Jan have asked that gifts be made to DKMS Africa in lieu of gifts to the family so that Benjamin's legacy lives on in both the awareness he has brought to the need for stem cell donation and the lives that will be saved as a result of donations made in his honour. All donations received will go directly towards recruiting donors for a global stem cell registry and supporting patients in need with the costs of transplant. All donations made to this campaign will be met by RMI.



To make a donation and support this cause: <https://www.givengain.com/cc/honouring-benjamin-hofmeyr/>

### COVID protocols update

In keeping with the recent changes scrapping the mandatory use of masks and the lifting of restrictions at events and gatherings, we have considered our protocols and make the following adjustments with effect 4 July 2022:

- The **wearing of masks at school is optional**.
- For the winter term, we strictly require that your child should **stay home if he/she is presenting with any sickness** or brewing symptoms of any sort. The children and teachers are all emerging from an unusually sterile environment, and COVID or not, all the environmental contagions are rife and we seek to avoid extended teacher/therapist/learner absences due to ill health.
- **Sanitiser** will be provided at school and strongly encouraged on site.
- We will revert to **one access gate** for Grade Two - Grade Seven at the start of day and at home time. This will create some slow traffic and short-lived congestion and we call upon your patience. Please do come a few minutes earlier or arrive a few minutes after the actual close of daytime to assist. 'Park left and pass right' will serve us well.
- **Grade One access** and departure remains at their playground.

- Parents will be invited to **attend assemblies by invitation** of the class teacher, should your child be getting an award or acknowledgement.
- **Spectators at sports matches** resumes without specific invitation.

After winter, and once the children are settled into their new routines, we will revisit free flow access to the property.

### Winter School



You may notice a bevy of visitors on our property – these are children enrolled to the five-week reading intervention we call 'Winter School'. At Winter School, we work an intensive phonics and RAVEO programme to get that reading going! The children are here from 08h30 – 13h30 and wear blue, branded hoodies for easy identification.

They attend Monday to Thursday and while there is no daily interaction with the enrolled Bellavista children, they will join us for any fun event.

### Dates to diarise

11 July 2022: Grade Seven exams begin; please refer to the class teachers for timetables and other plans involved.

### Important Admin for Grade Six and Seven parents

Please be alerted to separate correspondence for Grade Six and Seven parents pertaining to Sex Education and Digital Citizenship programmes.

Enjoy the week,  
Alison M Scott (Mrs)  
Executive Principal