



# Alexander Road High School

Private Bag X34377  
Newton Park  
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Gqeberha

26 March 2021

Dear Alex Family Members

## **Look to the east at dawn.**

The steady approach of autumn with later sunrises could tempt us to allow the gloom associated with the prospect of winter to encroach on our lives. If you have not had the opportunity to see the sun rise lately you should make sure that you catch one. We have been treated to some spectacularly beautiful dawns this week with stunning arrays of pinks and orange.

Don't allow the opportunities to pass you by. Make an uplifting comment or say a kind word. Cherish the opportunity to engage with your loved ones. There are always going to be times when it seems that life is conspiring against us, but we must never miss the chance to appreciate each other and the beauty that surrounds us.

We would like everyone to be back in uniform on 6 April. If you are still struggling to get some uniform items, please contact your child's Grade Head and they will provide a letter for your child to explain the situation to teachers who may ask them.

Next week is not a test week. We are back to normal times, Tuesday 30 March will be an 08H20 start but the following week, after the long weekend will be our second test week and as a result Tuesday 6 April will start at 07H45 for the test to be written.

Please be reminded about the importance of traffic flow in Alexander Road in the mornings and after school. It is essential that we do not block the flow of traffic in the road at these peak times. It may seem sensible that everyone would want to stop in the road to wait for school to end. The reality is that we are not the only ones who need to use the road. We have neighbours and there are other road users who just want to pass through between Second and Third Avenue. Please do not stop in the road at any time. There is parking in Van der Vyver Street or you can arrange to fetch your child in King Edward Street. If at all possible, avoid a peak time pick up or drop off to ease the demand at these times. If we all make a concerted effort, then our collective frustration levels will recede.

This is a long-term notice about Friday 23 April, which is the last day of term 1. We would not normally have a full school day on the last day of the term, but we have scheduled a full day for the Green group on 23 April because we cannot afford to miss any more of our already depleted contact time. If you are planning an early escape, and your child is in the Green group, please plan for a 13H45 escape so that we can see all our classes on that day.

Please remember to be acutely aware of your family's state of health. Monitor for symptoms that are associated with the Coronavirus disease. We are still having some pupils arriving in the mornings and not passing our screening test. Historically, we would be encouraging everyone not to miss school. We need to be very cautious now and rather err on the side of caution. Even if you are convinced that the symptoms are probably sinus or the common cold, you need to keep your child at home until the symptoms have abated.

My deep gratitude to all the Alex families who have paid their school fees this year. Your commitment to Alex is very much appreciated.

Our applications for Grade 8 for 2022 are drawing to a close next week. We have had well over 1000 applications so far. Some offers were made at the end of February; they will expire next week and the final batch of offers will be sent. Everyone who has applied for 2022 will receive feedback next week after the closing date. We have a large number of very high-quality applicants; I am very excited about the prospect of adding them to our family.

We are running low on stock for our table of sharing. For those who do not know, we collect tinned food and dry food products so that when we have Alex families who face difficult circumstances, we can send home some food to help tide them over. We have been getting regular contribution from all of you and this has helped us meet the need. Currently our stocks are quite low. If you are able, when you next shop, please drop an extra item into the trolley and send it to school for the table of sharing.

Please keep yourself and your loved ones safe this week and remember to look to the east at dawn.

Yours faithfully



Matthew Ridgway  
Principal