

Michael Oak Waldorf School



4 Marlow Road
Kenilworth
7708
Cape Town
South Africa

Telephone: (021) 797 9728
E-mail: info@michaeloak.org.za

25 July 2020

Dear Michael Oak community

We hope that this letter finds you, our school families, strong, determined and positive.

By now, everyone is aware of the Cabinet decision to close public schools until the end of August. The College of Teachers and the Board of Trustees wish to share the decision Michael Oak has made regarding this. As the joint school leadership team, we have discussed the implications of such a decision deeply and thoroughly.

Our school is represented by the SA Federation of Waldorf Schools which, in turn, is a member of NAISA (National Association of Independent Schools of South Africa). NAISA has been integral to the discussions with the Department of Basic Education over the last week. Their representatives have met with the Minister and it has been confirmed that the decision to close public schools does not pertain to our school. As a smaller, independent school adhering to strict protocols, we have been authorised to continue with our schooling as planned.

This means that our school will remain open and we will continue with our scheduled phasing in of classes. In-classroom schooling will continue according to this plan and online work will be offered to those who cannot return to school at this time. We will maintain our adherence to the protocol guidelines required to keep the community safe including, wherever possible, co-ordinating lifts for those who would normally use public transport.

In making this decision, we have taken into account the many factors which influence the healthy life of the school: financial, pedagogical and social.

We remain vigilant of the ever-changing health and safety situation and, should this change dramatically, we may need to revisit this decision. We will keep the school community updated in this regard.

In deciding to keep the school open we are aware that our privileged, well-resourced position allows us to do so. We hold with full consciousness the inequities and inequalities that exist in our country and our schooling system. The school will be working with our students through age-appropriate programme, as a commitment to encouraging reflection and understanding of these critical issues in our country which are currently contributing to further widen the gap between us. Now, more than ever, our understanding and reflection on these matters need to lead to action.

We would like to express deep gratitude to you, our parents, for your unwavering support for our school, and to all the school staff who have been working tirelessly to care for the threads of the beautifully woven tapestry that is Michael Oak. We wish you all good health, and offer thoughts and prayers to those who are experiencing ill-health or loss.

Yours sincerely

The College of Teachers and Board of Trustees