

Amersfoort, April 3, 2020

Subject: news about going to school

Dear parent(s)/caregiver(s) and student(s),

The press conference of Prime Minister Rutte (on the 31st of March) has provided us with much clarity. The schools will be closed until the 28th of April. After the May holidays (20th of April - 3rd of May), our school starts on Wednesday the 6th of May. We will use Monday the 4th as a preparation day for the teachers in order to get the students up and running again. Tuesday the 5th of May is a holiday (Liberation Day). If the situation changes, we will send you a letter with updated information as soon as possible. In this post I will inform you about important issues that are currently at play.

Daily education from 9 am to 1 pm

All students collected their school supplies on the 19th of March (books, notebooks, laptop, timetable). The timetable shows which subjects students must work on. All students need to do their schoolwork on a daily basis (Monday - Friday from 9am to 1pm).

Agreements have been made (per class) about the means of communication (via teams/WhatsApp/phone calls). Students must contact their teacher(s), daily, at 9am and be available up until 1pm. During these hours the teachers are online to help, teach and answer questions and students upload their schoolwork for correction or as proof.

Activity

We are excited to see that many students are seriously doing their schoolwork. They take photos of their work, read it aloud via the webcam or hand it in via email. Teaching and being taught online is new to most of us; it is nice to see people progressing every day. I am also very satisfied about the commitment from the teachers to the students.

Parental guidance

We think it is very important that students maintain their school structure. That is why we gave the students a timetable and a work guide for the week. The teachers are very keen to help their students and that is only possible if everyone is available. We have noticed that some students are still in bed at 10 o'clock and some students do not work at school at all. We understand that there are circumstances that make working at home more difficult, however, school continues, and students are not free of school. It helps us a lot when you, as parents/caregivers, ensure that your son/daughter gets out of bed on time and logs in with his/her teacher(s) at 9am.

Variety

This is a difficult time for everyone. We must stay indoors as much as possible in order to avoid becoming infected or infecting others. Yet, it is also important to stay active and to go outside every day, even if it is just for a little while. You are allowed to go outside as long as you stay a meter and a half apart.

It is not good to be in front of a screen all day, that's why we want to motivate our students to stay active, besides working on Dutch, English and Math. Our sports teachers have recorded videos to help them with that (check out these videos about juggling and the handstand: [jongleren](#) [handstand](#)) The crafts teacher, Mrs. Hulshof, handed out a drawing assignment and soon there will be a follow-up. Via this link ([De vuurtoren deel 1](#)) you can also listen to a story, which is called the Lighthouse part 1 (read by Mrs. Hulshof).

School open to pick up necessities

The school is open to staff members. Sometimes students need workbooks or other schoolwork. These can be picked up at school between 9 am and 3 pm. Please call school to inform them of the time of your arrival. We will ensure that everything is ready on time for you to pick up and that there are no other people around.

Extra guidance

Some students work really hard, but it turns out that they need some extra help to get them going. That's why we invited a number of students to come to school for extra explanation and/or instruction. Of course, we adhere to the Corona regulations: no large groups, one and a half meters apart and washing hands.

Study day cancelled - 6th of April

Our annual calendar stated that the 6th of April was a day off. The teachers were supposed to have a study day. This study day is canceled and that is why Monday the 6th of April is a normal school day. The students already had 4 days off (16th of March - 19th of March), so we do not think it is necessary to give another day off. Monday the 13th of April is Easter, and this is a day off for everyone.

Being ill

We hope that everyone is and remains in good health. If your son/daughter is ill, please call the school to report this. We would like to stay informed.

Questions?

If you have any further questions, please contact the mentor of your son/daughter, the department leader or the school. In any case, I hope to have informed you sufficiently for now.

Kind regards,

Thalita van Basten

Language Center Department Leader