

25 augustus 2020

## Start school year 2020-2021

### A few general rules for a coronavirus-proof environment

Dear parent,

The new school year starts on Tuesday 1 September. We are looking forward to welcoming your child again.

In order to make sure that we start safely and to give the coronavirus no chance to propagate at school, the Flemish Government has worked out a few scenarios that schools must adhere to. Today we are in "phase yellow", which means there is a low risk at the moment. Depending on the spread of the virus, a stricter or more flexible scenario may apply in the future. As soon as something changes, we will inform you immediately.

This way we can ensure that pupils, parents and staff can meet in a safe environment. In spite of these extraordinary circumstances, we will strive to create an optimal learning environment for your child every single day.

Below we will provide an answer to a few questions about this "yellow phase". For more information we advise you to consult the school management.

#### **Can all pupils go to school at the same time?**

- yes. Everyone is welcome at the school at the same time, there will be no rotations.

#### **How many days can my child go to school?**

- The pupils will again go to school from Monday to Friday. There will be no more distance learning, but we expect all pupils back at school.

#### **Who will have access to the school?**

- Not only pupils and the school team will once again be allowed at school, but also the parents and other people. The parents must always wear a face mask when bringing and picking up their children.

#### **What about pupils or staff members who return from a country or region where code red applies?**

- Pupils and staff members who return from a red zone must immediately go into quarantine after their return to Belgium and undergo a test. Only if the test is negative will they be welcome at school again. In case of doubt, the CLB physician of your school will be consulted.

**Can pupils go on excursions outside the school?**

- That is allowed within the limits of the applicable general safety measures.

**Are graduation celebrations, parent-teacher meetings, school parties, etc. allowed?**

- That is also allowed within the limits of the applicable general safety measures.

**Can the classrooms be used to teach?**

- That is allowed. We will teach classes outdoors whenever and wherever possible.

**What about lunch breaks?**

- Lunch breaks will be completely normal again. The school will also offer warm meals again.

**What about recess?**

- Recess will be normal again as well. Before and after playing, the children have to wash their hands. The equipment does not need additional cleaning.

**Will the transport of children in special needs education still be organised?**

- Yes, all pupils who are entitled to transport will be driven to and from school.

**What other safety measures will apply at school?**

- The school supervises the hand hygiene of the pupils and the school team. A sufficient number of washbasins and sanitary facilities are provided.
- The classrooms will have sufficient ventilation.
- The school staff will ensure that the 1.5 metre distance is observed in case of contact between adults.
  - Pre-schoolers do not need to observe this distance, neither among themselves nor in their contact with the school staff. The school staff do not need to wear face masks in their contacts with pre-schoolers. The school staff will wear face masks in their contact with each other if the safe distance of 1.5 metres cannot be guaranteed.
  - Primary school children do not need to observe the safe distance of 1.5 metres in their contact with each other. However, they do need to keep this distance in their contact with the school staff. Face masks are not obligatory during class if sufficient distance is kept. Only in cases where the required distance cannot be guaranteed does the staff have the obligation to wear face masks.

We wish your child a safe and smooth start of the new school year!

Best regards,

Inge Dellaert

Manager Municipal Education Ghent