



Clavis International Primary School

Montagne Ory, Moka, Mauritius

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The Clavis Chronicle

PREPARING TO RETURN

Dear Clavis Community,

This is an important Chronicle issue with critical information all families must know and understand regarding the restart of learning at the school on 5 July. We have been granted permission from the ECCEA to open Pre-Reception and Reception classes five days a week. Please see page 3 for more information. We are awaiting a response from the Ministry of Education on our request to do the same with Years 1 to 6. At this time, year groups will attend on an alternate day basis until we get approval to do otherwise. Please see page 4 for more information.

With the return to school while active cases of COVID are still present in Mauritius we do have much concern for the safety and well-being of our staff and students. When we return we will be implementing changes to who can be on campus, how students will be separated inside and out of their classroom, and how arrivals and dismissals will be modified. The updated safety protocols that everyone must adhere to are found on page 5.

Even with more stringent systems in place to protect everyone on campus, there can never be a 100% guarantee that a positive case will not happen. Some parents who have the choice may be debating whether to send their child to school and we need to know how many this could be. Please see page 3 for information on an important survey on if your child will be in school or not on 5 July.

We are all excited by the prospect of working with our students again on 5 July. Distance learning has had a positive impact on our students to continue elements of their learning but it does not replace face-to-face learning.

Sincerely,

Jeff

R. Jeffery Hart

Head of School

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WHAT'S COMING UP?

- **5 July:** Pre-Reception and Reception start full-time
- **5 July:** Years 4 to 6 start alternate days at school
- **5 July:** Years 1 to 3 start alternate days at school
- **26 July - 13 August:** End-of-Term Break, no school
- **16 August:** Possible Parent-Teacher Conferences (TBC)
- **23 August:** Possible report cards available (TBC)
- **9 and/or 10 September:** Possible school holidays for upcoming Ganesh Chaturthi celebration

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING AT CLAVIS?



Shuttle Bus to Bagatelle - As explained when we brought in the service last year and again this year, Clavis has been covering the full costs of the service but this would be temporary. Beginning in July, parents who want to use or continue with the service will need to pay Rs500 per month. This amount does not cover the full shuttle costs so Clavis will pay all remaining costs to ensure the service remains available to families. If there are only a few students using the service, we will have to discontinue it. Notices will go out to current riders. If anyone is interested in using the shuttle, please contact Naseemah Sumodhee at naseemah.sumodhee@cips.me.

School Calendar - At this time, the holidays planned from 26 July to 13 August remain as is. Once we have a clear confirmation on how the return to school will happen we can issue a firm calendar on some individual days that can be moved around and used as needed.

Parent-Teacher Conferences / Reports - Discussions are ongoing to determine our new dates for report cards and conferences. While teachers try to give ongoing feedback to students on their progress and attainment, our reports are their record of this and is the documentation to parents to ensure everyone has a shared understanding of our students' development. For it to be useful it also has to be accurate. We are considering moving reports to come after the Term 2 holidays, either in the third or fourth week of August. This will give teachers enough time to assess and understand our students' strengths and areas for growth as we refocus learning goals during Term 3. Parent-Teacher Conferences will likely take place at the beginning of the week when reports are issued.

School Fees - The accounts department will be available at school to accept cash/cheque payments every day next week, please email Gail at gail.rault@cips.me to set up an appointment in this regard. Please double check that your standing orders are up to date and most importantly, that school fees are not in arrears. Thank you for your usual co-operation.

A Message from School Bus Drivers - We would like to bring your attention to the payment of school bus fees so that parents are also informed about our concerns. It may seem unfair that school bus owners are still charging the transport fees despite school not resuming. However, we must take into consideration the following factors:

- Prior to the Covid -19 situation, school bus owners and parents had a mutual verbal agreement to pay the monthly transport fees on a 12 months basis (irrespective of school holidays) and post Covid – 19, we maintained the same principle;
- Despite the inactivity period, bus owners still incurred fixed costs such as road tax, vehicle insurance policy (covering both driver and passengers) and leasing fees while no exemptions were provided by the government;
- As per government policy, the mandatory employment of a School Bus Assistant has been imposed and the salary is currently borne by bus owners despite no school;
- School buses are also subject to depreciation due to tear and ware and owners are not provided with any paid duty from the government which would have facilitated renewal of vehicles;
- Irrespective of petrol price fluctuation, transport fees remained the same since the last 3 years;
- We are also responsible people who earn our living honestly and need to cater for our family. It will be unfair towards us for not being paid despite the above costs incurred. Hence, our kind request is to make parents understand that we are all suffering in one way or the other during this crisis period and highly count on their usual collaboration.

On behalf of Raveen Sooklaul, Transport Coordinator

FAMILY SURVEY ON RETURN TO SCHOOL

As mentioned on page 1, even with more stringent systems in place to protect everyone on campus, there can never be a 100% guarantee that a positive case will not happen. The web of interpersonal connections that everyone has outside of school means that there is potential for any of us and those we interact with to have contact with anyone else on the island. There is a risk no matter where we go and what we do to protect ourselves. Some parents who have the choice may be debating whether to send their child to school and we need to know how many this could be. In the case where families do not want their children at school, we will find ways to support this. We cannot maintain a full distance learning programme and an in-school programme simultaneously. What we are doing in school will take precedence. How each programme will operate will depend on how many are at home. If we know a large number in a year level will stay at home, then we can make arrangements to record or Zoom some lessons, and send some of the work being done in class to students through Seesaw.



It is important that we know how many students will stay at home over the three weeks prior to the holiday, whether we have a 5-day model or a alternative-day model. This information will allow us to plan for occasional distance learning in a year group, regular distance learning, or no distance learning. The survey only asks for your child's year level and if they will attend from 5 July to 23 July.

[Survey Link](#)

PRE-RECEPTION AND RECEPTION STARTING FULL-TIME

We had a representative from the Early Childhood Care and Education Authority (ECCEA), who oversees all pre-primary learning in Mauritius, visit Clavis on 22 June. The purpose was to review our protocols and complete a health and safety checklist to ensure we can open on 5 July. These items range from water tank cleaning, to classroom setup, to COVID response measures, to staff vaccinations, and everything in-between. We are pleased to say that they were impressed with the system we have in place and have given their blessing for us to open these year levels with their classes as they were. Guidelines for class sizes were listed as being 15 or less in a class; however, due to classroom space and our ability to distance children as needed in the class, they said we can maintain our classes as they are. Hurray!

Pre-Reception & Reception

What does this mean to you?

- We will return to a normal school day and children can be brought to the classroom between 08:00 and 08:30 when classes start.
- Parents will not be able to access campus beyond the gate (please see updated safety protocols on page 5 to understand why). Early Years staff will collect and bring students to and from the gate during arrival and dismissal.
- Students in Pre-Reception and Reception are not required to wear a mask but the school will maintain whatever expectation you have for your children when they are at school should you require it.
- The canteen will operate as normal and food ordered will be delivered to the classrooms for snack and lunch.
- Buses and school vans will operate; however, please speak to your driver to know about any conditions or changes for them.
- At the moment, Years 1-6 go on alternate days. If that does not change then we will **not** have early dismissal on Fridays. Dismissal on Fridays will be at 14.15.

5 JULY START FOR YEARS 1 TO 6 - ALTERNATE DAY SCHEDULE

While Pre-Reception and Reception have permission to return 5-days-per-week, the rest of the school does not yet (please see “Full-Time Return to School in Years 1 - 6?” in box below). Currently, year groups will alternate their days at school as per the ministry’s requirements. In this situation, students will participate in their regular week schedule but it will be spread out over two weeks.

On alternate days, when students are not in school, they will continue with a blended distance learning programme without a specialist lesson each day. We will not be able to offer specialist classes on those days since these teachers will be teaching the other classes at school. Teachers will be sending home learning engagements to do for the distance learning days. These may be complemented with Zoom sessions but it will depend on student needs and how the work was shared and explained the day before at school. More information about the work and Zoom expectations will be sent home by year levels once we have finalised the school schedules.

Finally, please be aware that if we are doing alternative days then Fridays will be full days, finishing at 14.45 (14.15 Early Years). There will not be early dismissal on Fridays during the three weeks leading up to the Term 2 holiday unless we return on a 5 days a week basis. Here is the proposed schedule:

FULL-TIME RETURN TO SCHOOL IN YEARS 1 TO 6?

We are currently working on approval for Years 1 to 6 to be full-time, five days a week, at Clavis.

At the moment, the government has stated that these year levels must attend on alternate days to allow for greater spacing of students in the classrooms. In government schools, when Year 1, 2, and 3 are in class, they will be separated into two smaller groups of less than 20, and the Year 4, 5, and 6 teachers would co-teach the other half of the class. Then the opposite would happen with the other half of the school. We are requesting that we have our students attend every day because we can make arrangements for less than 20 in a classroom. With our additional classrooms attached to most year levels, we can accommodate an average of around 17-18 students per room.

We are waiting for the ministry’s response and we are hopeful they will allow us to proceed with this system provided all of the safety measures are in place.

Until this scenario happens, we will continue with the staggered system with students coming on alternate days.

Date	Face-to-Face (school) - Years	Distance Learning (home) - Years
Mon, 5 July	4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3
Tues, 6 July	1, 2, 3	4, 5, 6
Wed, 7 July	4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3
Thurs, 8 July	1, 2, 3	4, 5, 6
Fri, 9 July	4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3
Mon, 12 July	1, 2, 3	4, 5, 6
Tues, 13 July	4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3
Wed, 14 July	1, 2, 3	4, 5, 6
Thurs, 15 July	4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3
Fri, 16 July	1, 2, 3	4, 5, 6
Mon, 19 July	4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3
Tues, 20 July	1, 2, 3	4, 5, 6
Wed, 21 July	4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3
Thurs, 22 July	1, 2, 3	4, 5, 6
Fri, 23 July	4, 5, 6	1, 2, 3

UPDATED HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

As we have informed everyone already about the new requirements to have been vaccinated or have a negative PCR test. This extends to all adults coming on campus (past the gate). Nobody over 18 can be admitted to the school grounds unless they show either their Covid-19 vaccination card or negative Covid-19 test results that are not more than seven days old. They will also be required to show their ID card or passport. All staff have registered their information with our nurse; however, parents and visitors will need to show the security the above mentioned documents upon arrival.

In addition, we are strictly enforcing access to the campus to only those people who have an appointment and have pre-arranged their visit. Any items needed to be dropped off or collected can be done at the security booth. Drop-off and pick-up of Early Years' students will only be done at the gates and staff will bring students to and from the classrooms. Meetings that can be done over Zoom or phone must be done that way.

Please take careful note of the following:

- All adults and students in Years 1 to 6 must wear masks at all times. Allowances will be made in some situations like eating, but students will be expected to keep a safe distance if masks need to come off.
- All students in Years 1 to 6 must bring an extra mask. The school cannot supply free masks to students who lose or damage their masks.
- Students in Pre-Reception and Reception do not require a mask.
- No parents will be allowed on campus unless they have made pre-arrangements, this includes canteen and shop visits. Early Years students will be picked up and dropped off at the main gates. The gate near the canteen will not be open for families at any time.
- Everyone coming on campus must get their temperature checked and hands sanitised. For families that do not approve of the sanitiser being used, children must show that they have an effective alternative and that it is used prior to entering the school.
- Children who have any symptoms of illness including, fever, cough, nasal congestion, headaches, or any other symptom that could be present with COVID-19 will not be permitted on campus. The same is true for adults.
- Anyone who becomes unwell at school will be isolated in the infirmary and the Ministry of Health and Wellness must be informed.
- The canteen will be open but it will operate under strict distancing guidelines. We are currently seeing if logistics would allow delivery to classrooms rather than canteen pick-up.
- As far as possible, students will remain with their year level peers and will not have contact with other year levels during the school day. This includes separate play areas during break times. We understand that this cannot be maintained on school vans and this is a decision for parents to make.
- Parents and guardians who are collecting or dropping off students at the gates must not gather or congregate together. Parents and guardians will not be able to wait inside the school fencing during pick-up times.
- Classroom windows will be kept open to allow for ventilation. Please ensure children have adequate clothing for cold weather which they can wear inside as needed.



- Students arriving after 08.00 will go directly to their classroom and not to the assembly terrace. We must avoid any large groups of students being close together.

We will update the community next week as to any additional or changed requirements.

We try to organize our students' learning through a backwards design. Students do many assessments which give us valuable data and information to base our teaching, but we need to be able to clearly know what learning goals we want for our students and work backwards to our assessment data to create a plan for reaching those goals.

BACKWARD DESIGN

The premise of backwards design is simple: planning starts with the focus on the end product. As educators, we cannot decide which materials or methods to utilise during instruction until we have pinpointed specific concepts and skills we want our students to learn. By focusing on the required end result, Backwards design allows the educator to address what the student needs to learn and what data can be collected to show that the “end goal” has been achieved, while thinking about how to ensure students learn effectively.

The process is logical – if teachers focus on the desired learning then the appropriate teaching methods will follow. With backwards design, teachers shift their thinking from a content-focused design to a result-focused approach. In this way, the integration of different subject matter and the use of technology becomes organic in the design of the unit. Backwards design focuses on the destination and then plans the route, rather than the other way around.

([reference link](#))

We should be always looking at what is needed for our students to be successful when they leave us. What are the skills, understandings, attitudes towards learning, and personal attributes student should embody to set them up to have choices in their lives? From these, we plan backwards to where they are now.

As reviewed last year and in our Family Handbook, entrance to Le Bocage (if that is your goal), is not guaranteed. Every year, for different reasons, we have applications that are denied or waitlisted. In most cases, this was not unexpected and families were prepared for it. What we cannot have happen is families learning about this well into Year 6. We do not want any surprises. As a result, we have begun discussions with LBIS to clarify criteria and what we can do to ensure our students are set up for success. This will mean examining our expectations in the four areas listed earlier for goals we work back from.

Our first meeting this week was very productive and we are learning about some of the issues that LBIS are contending with. In general, the academic levels of Clavis students are not an issue. Students from the four feeder schools that flow into LBIS do not have significant differences. The number one problem is space. The number of applicants continues to rise (this year saw 30-40 applications more than available seats) and LBIS is also trying to lower their intake to have smaller cohorts in their younger years. This will allow them to better support and meet more individual needs.

In the coming months, we will be working with LBIS on two things for our students. The first is making sure we are doing everything we can to set our students up for success and so they can have choices. Additionally, we need to be clear on how we can give opportunities for our girls and boys to demonstrate what they are capable of. The second is ensuring that Clavis and LBIS can provide information to parents much earlier to help them know their children's options and where they stand with choices.

As Nelson Mandela once said, “May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears.” We will work for your child to make sure that they may be able to choose what they want rather than having to make choices just to avoid what they do not want.

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