



Steve Vukile Tshwete Education Complex \* Zone 6\* Zwelitsha \* Private Bag X0032 \* Bhisho \* 5605 \* **REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**TO: PRINCIPALS OF PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS  
TEACHER UNIONS/ORGANISATIONS  
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES**

**FROM: SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL**

**DATE: 17 MARCH 2020**

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR LEARNERS DURING MARCH APRIL HOLIDAY**

Dear Principal

As you know by now, schools in South Africa will close from 18 March to 14 April 2020. In this period, we would like our learners to continue reading and writing and so not lose the important learning gains made in the first school terms of this year.

Please provide the following support for our learners in this extended holiday period:

1. Encourage all learners and parents to ensure learners **spend at least three hours every day on reading and writing.**
2. **Provide all learners with books to read.**

**All Grade 1 to 3 learners** in the province received Graded Readers in January 2020. Foundation Phase learners must take these books home with them on 18 March. Provide learners and parents with guidance on how to use the reading books. See attached suggestions.

**All Grade R to 6 learners** received two workbooks in January 2020. These learners must take these books home on 18 March with clear instructions on how to use them and which pages to complete over the next month.

**All Grade 7 to 12 learners** should be allowed to take their textbooks home with them on 18 March with clear instructions on which sections to read and which assessment tasks to complete. Learners in these grades should read 30 to 50 pages a day and write 200 to 250 words per day.

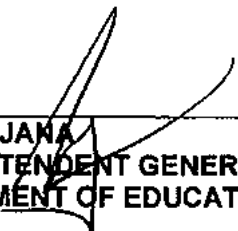
All learners should be given two to five reading books, magazines, reading or library books to take home for reading pleasure.

3. Provide learners with simple tips on how to address the Coronavirus.

4. Provide your learners with information on radio and TV broadcasts related to their subjects. The ECDOE will post these on its website on Tuesday 17 March 2020.
5. The ECDOE has a large number of assessment tasks, past exam papers and learning material available on the website. Please inform your learners of these.

I would like to thank you most sincerely for your dedication to your learners. Let us work together to ensure that learning continues during the weeks and months ahead.

Best wishes



**MR T. KOJANA**  
**SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **TIPS FOR PARENTS AND FAMILY/ COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

1. Read aloud with children and let children read to you every day for about 30 minutes.
2. Encourage reading of all text types. Comic books, newspapers and magazines can provide an enjoyable reading experience.
3. Discuss the books / texts.  
*Ask questions:*  
**Before reading the text, for example:** What do you think the text is about?;What do you see in the pictures?  
**During the reading of the text, for example:** What do you think will happen next?  
**After reading the text, for example:** What did you learn from the text?
4. Give books as gifts.
  5. Create a reading culture at home by reading regularly. Children imitate their parents or caregivers.
  6. Make reading time FUN!
  7. Talk to children about new words and help them to connect them to words that they already know.
8. Buy a dictionary and learn new words with your children.
9. Develop children's vocabulary. Play word games.
10. Start or join a Book Club.



## **TO PARENTS / CAREGIVERS OF GRADE 1, 2 and 3 learners**

The Vula Bula Reading Book is a collection of stories at the right level for your child's grade. The stories at the beginning of the book are easier to read than the stories at the end. Your child and you should read from it at home every day. The more children read, the better they get at reading.

Encourage your child to read aloud from this book to you or any family member every day. They can also read the book silently on their own. Alternatively, you or another family member can read the story to them. Make reading a fun daily activity in the home. Even ten minutes of reading a day can make a big difference to your child.

Reading well takes time and practice so encourage your child to read often. Making mistakes is a normal part of reading, so encourage and praise your child and help them when they get stuck. Take an interest in what the story is about and what happens in the story. Ask your child lots of questions and encourage them to talk about what they have read. It is important that your child understands the meaning of what they are reading.

It is important that your child is able to read most of the words in the story. If the story is too difficult, they will struggle and not enjoy reading. If they are struggling, find an easier story. The idea is to build confidence by getting them to read at the right level.

It is good to get your child to re-read the same story a few times before moving on to the next story.

Make sure that your child's name is written clearly on the book cover. If possible, cover the book to protect it. It is important to teach children how to care for books. They should not bend the covers or pages backwards, and they should always wash their hands before handling a book.

If the book gets lost or badly damaged, please speak to the teacher so that she can see if she has any extra books. It is really important that your child takes care of their book and does not lose it. Enjoy reading with your child!