

NEWSLETTER



South East Coast International School

NO. 1 | JULY 20

Dear parents/sponsors/guardians,

What a year 2020 turns out to be! After having to close the school so abruptly in March because of Covid19 and enjoying much more quality time with our children at home than previously planned, we are very happy to open the school again!

1. RE-OPENING THE SCHOOL

A lot of discussions and plans went into the re-opening of the school since the beginning of May and the new parent board has been very active in finding the best way to re-open the school considering the global pandemic, parents concerns, individual staff situations and most importantly, the students' well being. Not knowing how many students will return, how many parents support the online teaching and which parents prefer the normal operations of school, having great uncertainties regarding the budget and what salaries can be afforded, teachers being out of country or on maternity leave, government announcement regarding Covid19 and/or school openings, etc ... a lot had to be considered and there were daily changes and updates. It is not perfect yet but we managed the best possible for now.

2. SCHOOL OPERATIONS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

As previously communicated, the school opens for **3 days per week for now**. Since the parent board/school management was worried regarding the exact requirements of opening the school within the ongoing Covid19-pandemic, we thought the best option to open pole pole with reduced operations at reduced fees to allow us all to assess the situation. The "soft" opening also took into consideration that a few families are struggling financially, not being able to plan long-term and/or still wanting to travel. We will monitor the situation throughout the month of July, but are already making tentative plans to return to full operations after the August break. **Office hours** had to be reduced and currently Sine will be in office in the mornings only, **from 8-10.30am**, please take the reduced hours into account.

Drop off and pick up are now operating differently: parents are asked to drop the children at the gate in the morning and only to come into the school if they have an appointment in office. At pick up time, parents are also expected to wait outside the gate while their children are called out. As we have **no more line-up** in the morning, the **classes now start at 8.30am – please make sure that your children are on time!!!** In addition, teachers have incorporated regular **handwashing** into their daily teaching routines, and the **school ground has been divided** into two areas and the children are having different break times so that there is less crowding at break times. *(Please note that we are still waiting for the official government document regarding Covid19 related hygiene and safety measures and more/other measures might be introduced in the future).* We have not resumed our fruits and chapati order yet and there will be no sharing-Friday for the foreseeable future – please remember to pack healthy snacks and lunch as well as a full water bottle for your child. *(If you wish to order lunch from Maria – 0674308082)*

www.seczanzibar.com

Teacher phone: 0774 108 455

School hours: 8.15am - 2.45pm

admin@seczanzibar.com

Office phone: 0776 914 788

Office hours: 8-10.30am

NEWSLETTER



South East Coast International School

NO. 1 | JULY 20

3. WHERE ARE ... ?

Kelsey is in Canada but with us online and in spirit. We are in communication with her to make sure she can return the earliest possible while dealing with travel restrictions. She is working very hard online to facilitate the teaching of Year 4/5 together with the teaching team here at school. **Naomi** also returned home for health reasons and is expecting her child in August – the maternity leave and travel restrictions make it impossible for her to return for now. While we are keen to have her back and she is keen to return, we have no exact date for her return yet and we will keep you up to date. **Toni** had her baby boy Kareem at the beginning of June - she is expected (and looking forward to it) to return after the August break to take on Year 1 again.

Due to the current situation, contracts for teaching assistants **Rehema**, **Lightness** and **Salama** were not renewed (yet) and changes in staff may occur again.

4. CURRENT TEACHING STRUCTURE

Early Years sees Teacher **Maryam** in Nursery while Teacher **Brenda** continues in Reception and Teacher **Laurence** is teaching Year 2 together with Teacher **Butter**.

Teacher **Laura** is the maternity cover for Teacher Toni in Year 1. She volunteered before the break as a teaching assistant and agreed to help us out until mid-August– which is amazing AND she is a fully qualified teacher! Unfortunately we cannot keep her on long time as she has a new teaching post in Angola from beginning of September.

Year 4/5 has had Teacher **Jastina** joining the Upper Primary to support Teacher **Kweli** temporarily, and we were lucky to have another volunteer joining the teachers in this team: Teacher **Anna** is a qualified primary school teacher originally from Slovenia and offered her volunteering for July & August. She got stuck on the island and is looking to relocate to Zanzibar in the future. Her input in the upper primary helps the SEC a lot and we are very grateful to have her on board.

As Year 3 students are still benefiting from Teacher **David's** presence, he is supported by Teacher **Kazimili**, who joins the team at SEC with an education degree and a lot of enthusiasm. Having an all-male teaching team within a classroom must be a first at SEC! We are busy looking into a more permanent solution for the maternity cover of Naomi and will keep you up to date as soon as we have more news to share.

As we still have a generous donation from last year that was specific to arts/crafts at SEC, we have added **Raffael** to assist the SEC team. He will do arts classes with all Year groups as well as assisting with projects and supervision at break times.

5. SCHOOL FEES

www.seczanzibar.com

Teacher phone: 0774 108 455

School hours: 8.15am - 2.45pm

admin@seczanzibar.com

Office phone: 0776 914 788

Office hours: 8-10.30am

NEWSLETTER



South East Coast International School

NO. 1 | JULY 20

As already outlined above, term 1/July&Aug has been set up differently to allow for some flexibility when reopening the school. Since we only offer three days of teaching the fees were reduced and we offer monthly payment options. Please be reminded that the next due date for the **August payment is 22nd July** – a kind reminder to pay in the office before or on the due date. We still encounter problems with late payments that make the financial organisation of the school even more difficult within the current constraints and challenges, and any payment not realised during that week will automatically be subject to the late fee of \$25. At the moment any payment of salaries and other important payments directly depends on the payment of fees and once you delay your payment (for whatever reason) you are affecting the payments of salaries, so please remember the contract that you signed with the school and take into account that your fees finance the teachers' lives! Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

6. AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Unfortunately, the afterschool clubs were not on the priority list for opening up the school (mainly because of the social distancing challenge). However, once we are in full operation mode, we will organize these clubs again. Please let us know if you are interested in one of these afterschool activities so we know which ones to prioritize – acrobatics, performing arts, music, ballet, capoeira, home work tutoring. Please contact the office on admin@seczanzibar.com or 0776 914788.

7. UNIFORMS

We are still working on getting new uniforms in – another thing that got upheaved by Corona. At the moment we are investigating different shirt suppliers and we will be ordering new shorts/skorts/skirts with our tailor soon so please let Sine know if you would like to have any uniform bottoms made.

8. FINAL WORDS FROM OFFICE AND PARENT BOARD

We are happy that you are all back at school. Thank you! It was a long hard way for us, facing many challenges and having hard decisions to make, but we did our best and we are happy to receive all your feedback and ideas - please share anytime with any board member (Jose, Ale, Silvia or Leonie) or in the office. At the same time, we are asking your understanding regarding the current challenges that SEC is facing just like any other educational institution, and we are also asking you to respect the rules and policies when it comes to attendance and payments. We also ask for help and input from the parents to make the education of your children possible, and we are extending this call again:

- **Donate toys/books/EY materials?** We have had some inconvenient guests staying in our new building over the holiday, who destroyed a lot of lesson materials of the

www.seczanzibar.com

Teacher phone: 0774 108 455

School hours: 8.15am - 2.45pm

admin@seczanzibar.com

Office phone: 0776 914 788

Office hours: 8-10.30am

NEWSLETTER



South East Coast International School

NO. 1 | JULY 20

nursery and reception class. If you have anything that your child doesn't need any more but could benefit our early years students, please let us know!

- **Sponsor the acrobatics/music/swahili teacher?** We would love to offer the acrobatics teachers to come in once or twice in school or for the after-school club, give a local music teacher a chance or extend our curriculum with Kiswahili lessons.
- **Sponsor a student?** We know that everyone has to look at their finances but even a part-sponsorship could help some students to get back into school until Zanzibar's economy is back on track
- **Donate material?** If you saved/bought some material for arts and crafts that you can donate, please let us know. Or going to your home country where some materials could be found that we cannot get on the island (or a lot cheaper), please contact us for much needed materials!
- **Offering/volunteering** for an after-school club activity, home work club, workshop, etc.
- Help with **fundraising** to be able to finalize our new playground, to get more sponsored children to the school or to raise funds for future classrooms.

Please **contact the office on admin@seczanzibar.com or 0776 914788.**

From all of us at SEC:



www.seczanzibar.com

Teacher phone: 0774 108 455

School hours: 8.15am - 2.45pm

admin@seczanzibar.com

Office phone: 0776 914 788

Office hours: 8-10.30am