

March 2016

Dear Parents

As Kermit the Frog said, "Time flies when you are having fun!" It is hard to believe that the end of the first term is nearly here. I am aware of the hiccups that we have encountered to date and would like to thank each and every one of you for your patience, good humour and understanding as we have embarked on our journey.

We are still having intermittent difficulties with our network and telephone lines, but we are at the stage that they are working more often than not! The traffic is not an internal problem, but we are trying to make the left lane

available for school traffic only (during peak school times.) Despite these difficulties, all the teachers, parents and children have settled and it is amazing to see the learning that is taking place.



Our extra curricula activities are proving to be very popular. If you would like to enrol your child for any activity, please speak to Visha and she will give you all the details. We would like to commence Yoga on a Friday. Please

could you let the school know if you would be interested in this activity.



Monday	Ballet
Tuesday	Little Kickers
Wednesday	Kindermusiek
Thursday	Playball
Friday	Yoga 4 U



The teaching staff will be attending a curriculum development workshop on Saturday 12 March. We look forward to new ways of stimulation the children. Siobhan v d Walt has attended 3 very exciting workshops on the Grade R curriculum. Our learners are certainly being prepared for 21st century learning!



We would like to start using recycled waste for creative activities. Please would you collect boxes, egg boxes, yoghurt containers, egg shells and anything that could be used for art. Please ensure that everything is washed – including eggshells.

School closes for the holidays on 18 March at the normal times. Please note that we are open for the Group 1-5 and Grade R Aftercare children during the holidays but there will not be any formal curriculum and there will only be a few staff members on duty each day. If you have any queries, please speak to your child's teacher.

As the holidays approach, we encourage you to spend quality time with your children and engage in meaningful games and activities. These develop knowledge, listening skills, focus, and your relationship. It's harder to do than 'plonking' them in front of the television, but the rewards are worth the small effort.

You can teach your child to listen by having good listening skills yourself.' Monkey see, monkey do.' Here are some ideas to help you:

- **Do not interrupt** – hearing what your child says improves their listening skills by encouraging them to not interrupt.
- **Be together** – just by interacting with your child and building a relationship, they are spending more time with you. The more time you have in their lives, the more influential you become, and the more you interact and talk to them, the more your effective listening skills run-over onto your child.
- **Honesty** – just like adults, children can see when you are not listening. You need to be attentive and honest in your listening by not tricking them into thinking that you are listening.
- **Have patience** – you cannot expect your child to be patient and attentively listen to you when you cannot be patient yourself. Understand that children take longer than adults to say what they want.

As a parent you have the opportunity to build your child's communication skills through your influential power. By teaching your child how to listen, you are teaching them vital communication skills that many adults go through life without. You are giving your child the skills to develop better relationships later on in life with not only friends and family, but also with future co-workers and managers. Teach your child listening skills now and it will improve your family's relationship and will even help the child get through many obstacles later on in life.



To all of you who are going away, we wish you a safe holiday filled with happy, family time and lots of 'face to face' communication.

Kind regards

Judy Wearne

