



Welcome

Welcome to Cherise Jordan, our new Group 2 teacher. We are delighted to have you at Curro Castle Waterfall. Cherise comes with loads of experiences and buckets of enthusiasm. I am confident that the children in her care will continue to flourish.

We would also like to welcome Kitty Smit who will be joining us as our Bursar. Kitty will be starting on Monday, 6 June and we look forward to her joining our team.

Street Store

*Thank you for the wonderful response that we have had to the request for clothes for our **Street Store**. If you have not visited the **You Tube clip**, please do so as it is very inspiring.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDwoItwQU8A>

Please ensure that items are washed and neatly packed. We are also appealing for tinned food to assist the less advantaged people in our country.

Our last day for collections is 20 June.

Extra Murals

In the last letter, I enquired about the interest in yoga. We only received 4 positive responses. This is therefore not a viable option. The extra mural activities that we offer at school are ballet, soccer, music and playball. If you would like to enrol your child in any of these activities, Visha has the application forms.

Please be aware that this is an agreement between the parents and the service provider and not the school but we will assist you where we can.



© Can Stock Photo - csp376152



Holidays

A reminder that the Curro school holidays are from Friday, 24 June till Tuesday, 19 July. During this period, the school will run a holiday programme and no academic lessons will take place. Written reports will be sent out on Friday, 24 June.

An invitation has been sent out inviting all Dads to our Father's Day function.

Please advise Visha if you will be attending.

Library

Both Group 2 classes have moved to classrooms with inter-leading toilets. The Group 4 class has moved next to the Grade R classroom and the old Group 4 classroom has been converted into a library.

Each week, children from Group 2 upwards will visit the library and take out a book, for reading at home. Please ensure that your child has a waterproof library bag. These are available from most stationery shops. In order to ensure that our books are well cared for, we will be implementing a no bag, no book policy. Please help us maintain our library books by adhering to this.



Contact Details

On a couple of occasions over the past few weeks, due to incorrect details on file, I have been unsuccessful in contacting some parents.

Please ensure that we have your correct contact details, especially if your phone number has changed since registering your child at Curro.

Correct contact details are vital in the case of an emergency.

Study Leave

A number of our staff are in the process of writing UNISA exams and are therefore on Study Leave. Most of the staff will be off for 2 days at a time but Melissa will be off for a full week as she is doing her final teaching practice. We will either use one of our qualified teaching assistances or will get in a locum for the week that Melissa will be away.

Good luck to all our staff. It is encouraging to see so many of you embracing **Life Long Learning!**

Hearing Screenings

Hearing screenings will be conducted on the 7 & 10 October by a qualified and experienced audiologist. More information will be provided closer to the time

Please be aware of the terms and conditions of WhatsApp groups set by Curro.

- In terms of WhatsApp groups, it is of utmost importance for parents to understand that the administrator of a WhatsApp group is, by law, responsible for every single word appearing on that particular group. WhatsApp groups are not under any circumstances to be used as a forum for voicing gripes, as this leads to reputational risk for the Curro brand, as well as the individuals concerned.
- Should WhatsApp groups be used, parents must at all times take the Curro brand and individuals into account. Misuse of WhatsApp groups can have legal consequences.

Curriculum

A few years ago I attended a school conference where many speakers spoke about performance in the early learning years, leadership and coping later on in life. There were two very interesting workshops - one '99.5% is not enough', and the other 'Please, let our children play'.

This puts so much pressure on schools to try and find a happy balance between the two. We live in an increasingly competitive global world. Understandably, parents are reacting. Educators are too. Everyone wants their children to keep up. The result: increased pressure on children to achieve better grades and realize greater academic outcomes.

Many are turning to outside sources to help their children succeed. Additional academic businesses are booming as parents rush to enrol their children in courses to increase academic performance. One company boasts, "Our ultimate goal is for all students to study above their grade level..."

Children may perform better in school and feel more confident about themselves if they are told that failure is a normal part of learning, rather than being pressured to succeed at all costs.

More children learning to read or do math sooner must be good. But these achievements may come at the expense of other skills children need to learn, such as self-reliance, problem-solving, and spatial thinking. When we replace the block centre with a math centre, what do we gain? Only pressure on the children! Blocks are all about math, except they are more fun.

While young children's reading and math scores are soaring, there is little assessment of the effect of the intensified academic focus on children's motivation to learn, creativity, motor skills, social skills, or self-esteem.



Play is how young children learn.

-  Imaginative play is the catalyst for social, physical, emotional, and moral development in young children. With guidance, young children can use imaginative play to make sense of the world around them—and lay the critical groundwork for understanding words and numbers.
-  Play facilitates the growth of children's reasoning abilities. Through classifying objects and through experimentation, children learn to make inferences and draw conclusions. It is the primary vehicle that children use to explore their world, learn critical social skills, and grow emotionally.

-  Play is a vital part of language development in children—and it also establishes a foundation for reading and comprehension.
-  By embedding math, science, and literacy skills in a fun, meaningful context we can successfully integrate play into the classroom. Teachers can facilitate play in all children by asking questions, using new vocabulary, and encouraging social cooperation with peers.
-  At home, children have less time for unstructured play. Children are used to being entertained by media by relying on television, movies, internet and video games, children are pulled away from real imaginative play.

It is important that each child is recognised as an individual and their individual strengths and weaknesses are taken into consideration. If learning happens through play in the early learning years and the more formal learning when the child is ready to learn, perhaps we will be able to marry the two schools of thought together: let the children play while at the same time getting them ready for 99.5% of their individual best!

And finally, if you have any concerns with our school, please discuss them with us directly and not with the other parents as we are the ones who can address them. However, if you have positive feedback about our school, please share this with all your friends and the other parents.

