

17 January 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians/Caregivers

Welcome to all in the Foundation Phase!



We have started the school year on the planned date and have hit the ground running! How wonderful that feels and how grateful we are that this is the case. With our theme of "Attitude of Gratitude" this year, this is a great beginning.

We had a smooth start on Wednesday with Grade 2s and 3s happily greeting their friends after the long break and Grade 1s taking it all in their stride. A very warm welcome to all the pupils new to PEPPS, we hope you're already feeling at home.



A reminder that pupils come to school Monday to Thursday from 07h25-13h30 and on Fridays from 07h25-12h30. Please ensure that you take into account the heavy traffic on the roads in the mornings (beyond our control unfortunately) and allow time for Covid screening before school starts. Punctual collection of pupils is also very important for their safety. Any pupils left behind at 14h00 (13h00 on Fridays) can be collected from the outdoor classroom at Plot 1.

Please refer to the General Foundation Phase Information Booklet for more details. Grade 1 parents received this at the information evening in November, also available on the website. Grade 2 and 3 parents please look out for the information evenings coming up soon.

Important information



1. Stationery and Supplies

The school provides all **stationery** used at school except a **pencil case** to keep it all in.

If you have not done so already, **please provide** your child with the following items for an organised school life.

- **Soft material pencil bag**

This must be big enough to hold a 30cm ruler, a glue stick, scissors, Twisties and pencil crayons. **No space cases** please as they take up too much space! (There are some ideal, reasonably priced pencil bags at Checkers to save you searching.)

- A reminder - All school stationery STAYS AT SCHOOL. It may NOT be taken home daily. Please have some **basic stationery at home** for any homework set by the teachers.

- **School bag/backpack**

We allow any design of bag or back pack provided it meets the following:

It must be big enough to hold the blue book bag as well as a jersey/ track suit top. It must have straps as we will be hanging them from hooks. The best, we have found, are bags with two divisions inside. This can then be used for swimming things (inside a plastic packet) and there is then no need for a second bag on swimming days. Otherwise please pack a separate swimming bag as a wet costume and towel don't mix well with school books!

- If your child was at PEPPS in 2021, please continue to use the **blue bookbag** issued in the previous grade. This needs to be brought to school daily. New pupils joining PEPPS this year will be issued with a bag. Should you need a replacement bag due to damage or loss, please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible.
 - **2 boxes of tissues** for use throughout the year.
 - **Extra mask** packed into the school bag daily in case the one worn needs replacing.
- 2. Swimming** during PE lessons has already started for some classes and the rest will start this



week. Please ensure that your child brings a suitable costume, cap and towel in a separate bag to the school bag or in a plastic bag within the school bag on swimming days. Your child's teacher will inform you which days the class will swim.

Please send the kit even if the weather looks poor in the early morning. It often clears up before it is time to swim. ALL ITEMS TO BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME AND SURNAME.

3. Extra Murals

Incorporated into the school day, these are compulsory. Sport on Mondays and Wednesdays, Culture Clubs on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The following **external service providers** will be enrolling pupils and will start classes from Tuesday 18 January.

Please contact them directly if you would like to enrol your child. They will run at the same time, so you may only choose one. These are NOT compulsory and DO charge an additional fee.

Ballet (Melissa Gilfillan at 079 490 9529)

Karate (Pieter Bronkhorst at 082 962 8592)

Pottery (Edna Grobler at 072 267 4824)

If your child is not involved in one of the above they choose a school club to join. (No charge)

This year the clubs fall under four main areas:

Eco Club – Science, Gardening. Eisteddfod – Drama, Debate. Creativity Club – as the name suggests, all things creative. Rhythm Club – Dancing.

- 4.** Please ensure that you have joined ALL relevant classes for your child on **myHomework**. Contact your child's Class Teacher if you are unsure of which to



join but they are labelled with each grade. Also join the *PEPPS Prep School General Communication* class as it will keep you informed of whole-school activities. It is our primary means of communication.

Additional Information

A note on our Grade/Class naming system

It was brought to my attention that a parent was concerned the other day that her child had "moved down" from the A class in Grade 2 to the B class in Grade 3. She was worried that her child's standard may be slipping.

To clarify and reassure – Our A, B and C labels are purely that, a label or name for the class, standardised throughout the school. The classes are NOT streamed or graded in any way at all. The classes are deliberately shuffled a little at the end of each year so that children get to widen their circle and mix with a variety of pupils. Variety is the spice of life as the saying goes!

Developing your child's independence and organisational skills

Although we wish it were so, your child won't just learn to be organised on his or her own. They obviously need help and guidance from the adults in their life. However, if you do something for your child that they could do themselves you are delaying their independence and their sense of responsibility.

We are teaching and encouraging responsibility for their belongings and their immediate environment at school. Please support our efforts and do the same at home. We will all benefit from children who can control and organise all the "stuff" that surrounds them.

Get them into a routine around homework and packing their own school bag. Show them, do it with them and gradually let them do it on their own. It will be a slow process but give them a chance to have a go, it's the only way to learn.

We look forward to a more "open" year with more activities being possible within our Covid protocols. We continue to hope for safety, health and stability for all of our families.

Yours in excellent education



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