



Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers

Welcome to all in the Foundation Phase!

We have started the school year on the 11th of January 2023 and have hit the ground running! It was really wonderful to see all our pupils so excited to begin school and all ready to see what the academic year has to unfold. Our theme for this year is "Rise Up", and this should be an encouragement to all us to not undermine or look down on ourselves and just "Rise Up".

We had a smooth, but busy start to the term with the Grade 2s and 3s happy to be reunited with their friends after the long break and Grade 1s excited to meet their new teachers and friends. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the pupils new to PEPPS, we hope you're already feeling at home and part of the PEPPS team.



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, which is unfortunately beyond our control. 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 on 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 evening coming up this Thursday, 26 January 2023 (an invitation has been sent out).

Don't forget
parents'
evening!

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 be used for swimming items (inside a plastic packet) and there is 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 2022, please continue to use the **blue book bag** 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.

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:

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)
- Cooking (Chef Prodigies 079 380 7335)

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

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 the correct class for your child on **Google Classroom**. Contact your child's class teacher if you are unsure of which to join but they are labelled with each grade. Also join the **2023 Prep Correspondence Communication class** as it will keep you informed of whole-school activities. It is our primary means of communication.



Google Classroom

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.

As the Foundation Phase team, we look forward to working with you in making sure that this year we can all "Rise Up" to our full potential and do the best that we can for our pupils which we building to become "Tomorrow's Leaders"

Yours in excellent education

Ms Nombali Mahlangu
Head of Department