



# The Birches Pre-Primary School

1 Oribi Crescent, Sarnia, Pinetown, South Africa, 3610. Tel: +27 (31) 7084764

[principal@birchespreprimary.org](mailto:principal@birchespreprimary.org)

[secretary@birchespreprimary.org](mailto:secretary@birchespreprimary.org)

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Dear Parents

## YEAR END NEWSLETTER

It seems like it was only yesterday that I welcomed many new faces in our school and watched them latch on to their parents tearfully. This is most certainly not the case as I write to you now. We have a school filled with happy and confident children who are ready for the next challenge.

## TERM 4 HAPPENINGS

Your children and all our teachers worked over two terms to put together pieces of artwork that surprised and delighted all who came to view it at our Art Exhibition in October. I am so proud of our children for giving of their best.



The pair of Woolly Necked Storks that settled and built a nest in our Camphor tree at the front of the school, laid an egg and on the 12<sup>th</sup> September it hatched. We have watched with great excitement as the chick grew, was ringed by UKZN researchers and this morning, we found that it had fledged as it was walking in the parking lot.

We hosted a fun Pyjama Day in lieu of raising funds to Polio Vaccinations in Africa. Your generous donations raised just under R1000 for which Rotary was truly grateful.



Our end of year school concert ensured that each and every child in the school was able to get up onto the stage and perform, no matter how long, or short, that time was. I was blown away by everyone's performance. They all certainly rose to the occasion.



Our fourth and final Recycling Competition was won by a very determined Blue Group. Most of the plastic has been collected by Eazi-Waste, but we are yet to receive our payment for it.

**CONGRATULATIONS BLUE GROUP BUTTERFLIES!  
YOU ARE AMAZING!**

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

We bid farewell to **Miss K. Mwelase** at the end of 2024. We wish her nothing but the best for all her future endeavours.

We will be re-opening the Purple Group for the first time since Covid. **Miss S. Chandony**, who we have come to know through her locum work at the school, will be teaching this group. She comes to us with a Bachelors Degree in Education.

**Mrs P. Baai** joins us from Hatton Estate Pre-Primary. She will be assisting the Junior Groups during the course of the day and will assist with aftercare for a portion of the afternoon.

I hope you join me in wishing both these ladies a warm welcome in 2025.

## AFTERCARE

In 2025, parents will need to send a pre-packed lunch from home if their child is going to attend aftercare. The price of fulltime aftercare has been dropped to R750 to accommodate this. Unfortunately, this has come about due to the disregard for paying aftercare fees, and our groceries bill and two salaries we need to pay, exceeding the income generated from the payment of aftercare fees.

The full time aftercare children (everyday) will be billed and must pay in advance. Those who use the service on a casual basis will be charged based on the number of days your child attends school.

## **FEES FOR 2025**

- **R3 400** per month for 10 months (payable on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan to 31<sup>st</sup> Oct)
- Should you wish to settle your account in full before the 31<sup>st</sup> January, the fee will be **R32 300**
- Full time aftercare will be charged at **R750** per month for 11 months.
- Children who stay for aftercare on a casual basis will be charged **R50** (until 2.45pm)

## **REPORTS**

I wanted to offer some guidance on how to read your child's report.

### ***Juniors:***

First and foremost, many of the symbols given, are comparison based and opinion based. The teachers do have guidelines based on their training but all children develop at their own pace. The Juniors and Intermediate Phase Reports have symbols out of 5. If your child scored a 3 or above, they are doing great! 2 and below means some attention could be paid to these areas at home, to support your child.

### ***Seniors:***

The Grade RR and Grade R reports have many scores based on one-on-one observation and assessment. The teachers also use their workbooks to allocate marks that show their understanding of a concept. The symbols given to your children for their social and emotional skills are largely opinion, experience and comparison. These are all scored out of 7. If your child scores a 4 or above, they are doing great! 3 and below means they could use some help from home in mastering this skill.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Christian families a Merry and Blessed Christmas.

May everyone have a safe and restful holiday and if you are heading out on the roads, please drive safely. You are carrying very precious cargo.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Aiston

**PRINCIPAL**