



The Birches Pre-Primary School

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3 October 2025

Dear Parents

END OF TERM 3 NEWSLETTER

Our Eco-School has continued to teach children about the environment in which we live and to care for it accordingly. This term we celebrated World Elephant Day, Arbor Day and River / Coastal Clean-up Day. We also took our children on excursions to the African Raptor Rehabilitation Centre and The Harvestry. These excursions create long lasting memories for the children. The 3-4 year olds were visited by The Menagerie where they were shown a wide variety of live animals from domestic kittens to reptiles as well as farm animals to birds.



Our Eco-Clubs draw to a close now and our focus turns to end of year concerts and assessments. The seeds of curiosity have been planted though, as just today, two very excited children called me over to have a look at some snails that had reproduced in-between layers of bark on a tree. They also love counting how many bags of plastic we have removed from littering our environment on the graph at the entrance to the school.

100 DAYS OF SCHOOL

One hundred days of school marks the half-way point of the school year and our teachers asked if we could celebrate it with the children this year. I said, "If we can turn it into a learning opportunity for the children, then absolutely!" I want to thank you, the parents for going all out to make your little ones look 100 years old. The children in the younger groups did a role-play drama ring and the seniors counted to 100 and made medals with 100 fruit-loop "beads". It was such a joy filled day that we might just do it again in 2026!



TEACH A MAN TO FISH SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE



The school has entered this challenge and Miss Chandony and Miss Jensen have taken up the task to lead it with many ideas and lots of enthusiasm. They invited children from Grade R to participate, where they have been learning about money and business, but most importantly how to make money from recycled products. The "Trash Transformers" final test will take place at school on Saturday, the 18th October where they will be selling their handmade goods at a small market with the other ECD's that have entered the challenge. You are most welcome to pop in and support them.



HERITAGE DAY



Working in a school like the Birches, it is an obvious fact that children do not see skin colour. They see a class mate, a friend. As friends and classmates, we celebrated each other's backgrounds and cultures on Heritage Day. My dream for a South Africa of the future is that people view others like our pre-schoolers do, without pre-conceived judgement and have a genuine concern for one another. At our celebration we paraded our cultural dress, we shared food from different cultures and lastly, we sang and danced to a variety of music genres. To finish off the day, we sang our National Anthem as a school.



YOU TUBE



We have seen, and heard, an alarming number of children speaking about, and acting out scenes from material viewed on this platform. As a principal, I have a deep concern for the wellbeing and healthy development of our young children. At this age, (6 years and younger) children are highly impressionable, and the content they are exposed to strongly shapes their understanding of the world.

Unfortunately, platforms such as YouTube, while containing *some* educational material, also expose children to adult themes, inappropriate language, violence, and advertising that is not suitable for their developmental stage. Even with parental controls, it is difficult to filter out harmful content entirely. Prolonged exposure to such material can negatively affect your child's social skills, emotional regulation, and ability to engage meaningfully in age-appropriate play and learning.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage parents to provide safer ways to view the age-appropriate content, for example, by downloading shows that you have watched from beginning to end, that you are confident do not have any ads or pop-up adult content or use guided alternatives that nurture curiosity, creativity, and imagination without the risks posed by unmonitored online platforms.

TERM 4

Please save the following dates for Term 4 in your calendars, as you might be required to take a little time off work

- Eye Screening – **Thursday 16 October** (R100): during school morning
- Art Exhibition – **Thursday 23 October** (free): 5.30pm to 7.30pm
- Inflatables Fun Day – **Friday 31 October** (R100) *date subject to change*
- Orientation for children joining Birches in 2026 – **Thursday 20 November**: 1-2pm
- Year-end concert (Purple, Blue, Red group parents to watch) – **26 November**: 9-10am
- Year-end concert (Orange, Green, Yellow group parents to watch) – **27 November**: 9-10am
- Grade R Graduation (Green and Yellow only) – **27 November**: 10.45-11.30am
- Teaching and Learning ends: **5 December** at 12.00pm
- Aftercare available until **11 December**, 5pm

TERM 4 CONSUMABLES

The **donation of consumable items** once a term really assists us in keeping our costs, and therefore, the school fees down. Could the following groups help us next term?

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Purple/Blue Group | 10x Toilet Paper |
| Red Group | Box of Tissues |
| Orange Group | 2 x Bath soap (eg: Lifebuoy/Lux) |
| Green Group | Handy Andy |
| Yellow Group | Domestos |

Term 4 starts on the 13 October 2025.

If you are travelling these holidays, please keep safe on the roads. We hope the children enjoy their rest, and that they have many exciting stories to share, of the places they visited and the adventures they went on, when they return.

God Bless.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs B. Aiston

PRINCIPAL