



SETTLERS' PARK PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL

(INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION NOT FOR GAIN)

Reg. No. 1972/014384/08

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NEWSLETTER NUMBER 2 / 2021

22 January 2021

Dear Parents,

Although we were thrown some unexpected curve balls late last week with the changes of dates for the resumption of schools, I appreciate the positivity of all staff and parents to be COVID compliant as per government regulations. It certainly is a roller coaster ride for all of us to negotiate the unknown challenges of this pandemic. This is the seventh year that I have had the honour of being the principal of Settlers' Park. I know our new pupils and families will enjoy being part of such a supportive school family and I trust each person will soon feel at home despite the difference in our usual routines. Despite a few tears and the odd school jitters (which is to be expected for a first-time school experience and after a long holiday) our first few days have gone smoothly. Generally, the children were excited start a new year and to explore our school environment. The playground and classrooms were soon filled with singing, laughing and chattering. These happy sounds and positive feelings are indicative of contented children. (If you are unsure of anything, please speak to your child's teacher or to me.)

A warm welcome back to all staff, especially Mrs. Siobhan Redinger who had several operations at the end of last year. We are so grateful that Siobhan is back at school.

A BIG welcome to our new staff member, **Mrs. Kallen Reeves**. Kallen is our teacher in the Butterflies class.

Our Settlers' Park staff members are:

Administration:

Our school secretary is Mrs. Lyn Kriel. Lyn organises the administration in the school, the collection of fees and accounting of all income and expenditure amongst her other duties. We work closely together, and she liaises with the Treasurer of the Governing Body. Please e-mail her on settlerspp@telkomsa.net if you have admin related queries or if children are sick. It is important that we are informed when a child is absent, particularly during COVID. Mrs. Siobhan Redinger has been appointed to assist Lyn with some of the admin. **Class e- mail addresses are only for teachers to contact parents with class related matters.**

Class teachers:

Fireflies: Mrs. Heather Teichmann. (Mrs. Teichmann is in charge if I am not at school.)

Crickets: Mrs. Tanya Valentine

Butterflies: Mrs. Kallen Reeves

Caterpillars: Mrs. Charlene Dinkelman

Ladybirds: Miss Melissa Wood

Ants: Mrs. Isa van Heerden. Isa is also our music teacher. (We hope to start Music later in the year.)

Bees: Mrs. Carrie Erikson. Carrie is also our Psychomotor teacher. (These lessons will hopefully also start later in the year.)

Intern and assistant teachers

Mrs. Som Ries is our assistant teacher in the Fireflies class. Our two intern teachers are: Miss Lisa Pitout (Crickets) and Miss Liana van Rooyen (Bees). Miss Pitout is studying for her B.Ed. degrees. Miss Peyton Marnies assists in the Butterflies and Caterpillars classes; Peyton is in her first year of study for her B. Ed (Foundation Phase). Mrs. Siobhan Redinger has been helping in the Ladybirds and Ants classes.

Aftercare:

Mrs. Siobhan Redinger is the Aftercare Supervisor. Mrs. Redinger is studying for her B.Ed. (Foundation Phase) degree. The assistants at Aftercare are Miss Peyton Marnies and Miss Lisa Pitout. The Aftercare facility is an important part of Settlers' Park.

Support Staff

Ms. Veronica Ngcobo, her daughter Miss Emmaculate Ngcobo, Ms. Maureen Ndlovu and Mrs. Mavis Dlamini are the full-time staff members who keep our school clean.

We are blessed to have such committed staff members at our school. Their hard work in all the various areas is much appreciated. Your children are certainly in very capable and nurturing hands. They are without a doubt, the unsung heroines of this momentous stage in all our lives.

Gardens:

Jayson Schultz and his men work in our gardens. We are grateful for all the hard work they do to keep the school looking good.

Maintenance:

Mr. Simon Dinkelman has kindly attended to all the various maintenance tasks. We appreciate his willingness to be of assistance.

OUR THEMES FOR 2021:

TERM 1 – ME AND MY WORLD

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DURATION</u>	<u>THEME</u>
18/01 – 05/02	3 weeks	Me & My Family
08/02 – 19/02	2 weeks	Healthy living & senses (<i>including sport & recreation</i>)
22/02 – 05/03	2 weeks	Where we live (<i>including Pietermaritzburg, KZN, South Africa</i>)
08/03 – 19/03	2 weeks	My pets
22/03 – 26/03	1 week	Easter

TERM 2 – MY FRIENDS, THE ANIMALS

19/04 – 23/04	1 week	Easter
26/04 – 07/05	2 weeks	The Farm
10/05 – 21/05	2 weeks	Wild animals & patterns in nature (<i>Including conservation</i>)
24/05 – 04/06	2 weeks	Creepy crawlies
07/06 – 18/06	2 weeks	The sea and pirates

TERM 3 – EXPLORING MY WORLD

12/07 – 23/07	2 weeks	Dinosaurs
26/07 – 06/08	2 weeks	Transport
09/08 – 20/08	2 weeks	People who help us
23/08 – 03/09	2 weeks	Space
06/09 – 17/09	2 weeks	Little Scientists

TERM 4 – BEYOND MY WORLD

27/09 – 08/10	2 weeks	Seasons
11/10 – 22/10	2 weeks	Once upon a time
25/10 – 05/11	2 weeks	Big School: I can read, Numbers all around & Opposites
09/11 – 26/11	3 weeks	Christmas



FUNCTIONS FOR TERM 1

We arrange several events during the year, but these will depend on COVID restrictions. The possible events for this term are:

1. Reunion for 2020 past pupils
2. Annual General Meeting
3. Teacher / Parent Interviews

FUNDRAISING:

Fun Friday Treats: These take place on Fridays throughout the year. The cost will be determined per term depending on the number of weeks. Please note that children may only receive Friday treats if the form has been returned and a commitment made for the term. No late orders will be accepted. The cost will be charged to your account each term. Unfortunately, we cannot customise orders. The order form was sent out with Newsletter 1/2021, but **a copy is attached to this letter for you to complete if you have not yet done so.**

Term 2: A major fundraising event for the year is our **Mini Comrades.** (*Details will follow closer to the time*)

Other Fundraising Initiatives:

2. "My School" Card: Many stores, restaurants etc. will contribute a percentage of what you spend with them towards school funds; it does not cost the cardholders anything. We would really appreciate your support - *please* apply for a card. Cards may also be given to grandparents and any other family members or friends who would like them. Please register on-line if possible at <https://www.myschool.co.za/supporter/apply/?beneficiary=5504> . For those without internet, a **"My School Application Form"** is **attached.** Please complete and return it to Lyn. This is the easiest way to raise funds – you just swipe your card as you make a purchase.

3. Recipe Books: Past Settlers' mums' favourite recipes – on sale from the office for R50.00 each.

4. Settlers' Park T-Shirts:

Short sleeved: R95

Long-sleeved: R100

Navy old logo long-sleeved: R50. (Size 7-8 only)

6. Sunshine Bakery Competition and Fundraising Initiative: We collect empty Sunshine Bakery bread bags, for which we receive 10 cents per bag. The school which collects the most bags on average per pupil stands to win a substantial cash prize for the school and for a charity of their choice. We would really appreciate your support.

Library books and bags:

In due course your child will bring a library book home each week. Please look after these books and read them to your children. Please purchase a bag from Lyn. These are R110 each.

Environmental Awareness

Glass Recycling

As part of our environmental awareness campaigns, we have a glass recycling bin opposite the school entrance. Please remove all lids and liquid residue before bottles are placed in the bin. We can win monthly and termly prizes as well as receiving payment for the glass collection. Each time the bin is emptied, we receive about R120. Your support is appreciated.

Eco-bricks

Another of our recycling and community outreach projects is to collect eco-bricks for Singakwenza. If you would like to contribute, please fill your empty 2-litre plastic bottles with plastic bags until the bottles are absolutely full (over 500gr – the test is to stand on them and they must hold their shape), and then drop them off on the verandah. When permissible the collection point for these will be in the school courtyard.

SOME IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

Masks and face shields:

As requested in my previous communication, your child needs 2 fabric masks and 2 face shields. The masks must be labelled and in sealed Ziplock bags.

Classroom and toiletry requirements:

Please send these if you haven't yet done so.

Birthdays:

If you would like to send treats for the class to celebrate your child's birthday, please take note of the following items that you may send:

Wrapped items – e.g., a small packet of chips, popcorn, or a fizzer. Small cupcakes that are individually placed in a wrapped package with a cellophane cover are also fine. – e.g., Woolworths, Pick 'n Pay, Checkers or Spar. Please place items in a plastic bag or sealed box. **Please do not send a big cake or any unwrapped items.** These cannot be accepted at school. Items will be placed on a table with the necessary COVID protocols in place. Children will then sit at a specific place and be given the treat by their teacher.

Please contact the teacher at least a week before. If your child has celebrated a birthday during the holidays, you are welcome to contact the teacher for a belated celebration.

When your child has his/her birthday, we would really appreciate a game or puzzle to be donated to our school. Please speak to your child's teacher if you would like to donate.

Communication:

The class notebooks are for you to communicate with the teacher. There is a book at each entrance gate. Please bring your own pen. You are welcome to write a note for the teacher at home and attach it to the clip on the book. Reminders are written on the board outside the front door regularly. – It is a good idea to take a photo of any reminders on this board.

Extra Murals: To provide our children with additional stimulation and enrich their skills in various areas, professionals coach pupils after our school programme ends. **These lessons will commence when lockdown restrictions allow.**

Fireflies and Crickets don't participate in these activities.

PLEASE NOTE: All queries regarding times, payments etc. are to be made directly to the extra-mural providers. Please pay extra-mural fees directly into their respective bank accounts. These payments **must not** be deposited into the school bank account, nor should cash or other communications be left with staff members.

N.B. GRADE 1 2022:

Please note that applications for children going to Grade 1 in 2022 should be made to schools as soon as possible, as applications generally close very early in the year.

To ensure that your child has a place, it is advisable to apply to more than one school.

PAYMENT OF SCHOOL FEES: NB. A copy of the "Fee Commitment" form is **attached**.

If you have not previously done so, please complete and return this form without further delay.

Note: Statements are usually e-mailed on the 25th of each month. There will be a slight delay in mailing the first fee statement for 2021 as there are still many Fee Commitment forms outstanding; these indicate to us whether to charge monthly or annual fees, what to charge for aftercare etc.

To avoid large amounts of cash being held at the school and in the interests of your child's and the staff's security, we request that payments be made by EFT or by debit order. Please note that we discourage cash deposits into our bank account as they attract high bank charges, which we in turn charge to your fee accounts where applicable.

Our bank details are:

Nedbank (Cascades), Current Account number 1343 017 068; Branch code 134 325.

[These details are shown on the fee statements.]

We have an excellent record of payment of school fees. Please help us continue this tradition by paying school fees promptly, before the due date. We have a strict procedure for late payers, which is rigorously enforced but unpleasant for all concerned.

Should you experience a financial problem, please approach me before I need to contact you.

CONSENT FOR PUBLISHING PHOTOGRAPHS:

We post photos on our website, on the Settlers' Snaps board in the foyer, and on our Facebook page. Also, occasionally photographs of our school and the children appear in the press. If you do not want your child to be photographed, please inform me in writing if you have not indicated this on your form.

SCHOOL TIMES:

At this stage with COVID restrictions in place, school is from 8 a.m. – 12 mid-day for Fireflies, Crickets, Butterflies and Caterpillars. (This will change when restrictions are lifted)

For Ladybirds and Ants, the times are from 8 a.m.- 12.15 p.m. Gates are closed at 8 a.m.

If your child has not been collected by 12.30 p.m., he/she will be sent to Aftercare at a cost to you.

The teachers have meetings and are tidying up and setting out for the following day from 12.30 p.m.

If there is an unavoidable situation or an emergency, please call and let us know.

SUN PROTECTION:

Please apply sun cream and send a hat on very hot days. We are part of the Sun Smart programme, but it is advisable to teach children sun safety from an early age.

SEAT BELTS:

As per national legislation, your child needs to be strapped into a SABS approved car seat in the back of a vehicle. Please teach them this valuable life lesson and avoid anything tragic happening. Please ensure you ask anyone who gives your child a lift to do the same. Too many parents allow their children to sit in the front seat. *"One click saves a life"*

LUNCHES:

Please provide your child with a healthy lunch. Sweets, cake, chips and fizzy drinks are not permitted. Water is a very good option.

Please remember to pack an extra lunch in a second container for Aftercare.

AFTERCARE REMINDERS:

- ✓ Please pack a healthy lunch, extra juice and water.
- ✓ Children who sleep, must bring their own blanket and pillow in a clearly, marked bag. These will be sent home on Fridays to be washed and must be brought back each Monday,
- ✓ Please send a change of clothing and underwear – make sure there are clothes for a hot day and for a cold day.
- ✓ When fetching from Aftercare, please park outside, enter via the pedestrian gate and ring the Aftercare bell at the front door once. Please be considerate of our babies sleeping until about 3 p.m. and allow someone time to answer the bell.
- ✓ Please bring your own pen to sign out and record the time your child leaves.
- ✓ Please close the pedestrian gate when you leave.
- ✓ Please inform us of any lift changes. Your child may not leave with someone who is not known to the staff.

Term dates and holidays 2021:

1st term: See **attached Timetable for Term 1**

Wednesday, 20th January – Friday 26 March (**Easter fun day**)

Mid- term break: No school from Friday 19th February to Monday 22nd February (school starts on Tuesday 23rd February)

Public holiday: Please note -Monday 22nd March- Public holiday (Human Rights Day)

2nd term:

Tuesday, 20th April – Friday 18th June (**Pirate fun day**)

Public holidays: Tuesday 27th April (Freedom Day) and Wednesday 16th June Public holiday (Youth Day)

Mid-term break: No school on Friday 21st May and Monday 24th May (school starts on Tuesday 25th May)

3rd term:

Tuesday 13th July – Friday 17th September (**Science fun day**)

Public holiday: Monday 9th August (National Women's Day)

Mid- term break: No school on Friday 13th August and Monday 16th August (school starts on Tuesday 17th August)

4th term:

Wednesday 29th September - Friday 26th November

Mid -term break: No school on Friday 29th October and Monday 1st November (school starts on Tuesday 2nd November)

We are all looking forward to a less disruptive, fulfilling year with your child and getting to know you, our partners in your little ones' education. Thank you for entrusting your most precious possessions to our care.

Kind regards,

Ellen Borain
(Principal)

"Children are great imitators, so give them something great to imitate"

