

PARENT INFORMATION 2019

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Foreword

By Robert Fulgham

Most of what I really need to know about how to live, and what to do, and how to be, I learnt in Kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the post-graduate mountain, but there in the sandpit.

These are the things I learnt: Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt someone. Wash your hands before you eat. Live a balanced life. Learn a little and think a little. Draw and sing and dance and play and work a little every day.

Take a nap in the afternoon. When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup. The roots go down and the plant goes up, and nobody really knows why, but we are all like that. Bugs and beetles and snails and even the little seed in the plastic cup- they all die. So do we.

And then remember the book about Kathy and Mark and the first word you learnt, the biggest word of all: Look. Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The golden rule about having fun, love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and sane living.

Think of what a better world it would be if we all had a basic policy in our nation and other nations always to put things back where we found them and cleaned up our own messes. And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world it is best to hold hands and stick together. And where did I learn this:

PRE-SCHOOL!

Introduction and Welcome

The Country Readiness School is an independently owned pre-school, situated on the Dainfern College Campus. The school caters for children aged-two-and-a-half to five years of age, and is a proud member of ISASA.

Country Readiness School is managed by Carolyn Bowden, with Principal Jenny Marques at the helm. Teacher Jenny has almost 28 years experience in the Foundation Phase. She taught at Dainfern College before joining Country Readiness School and is renowned for her progressive thinking and understanding of children. Her passion for education and her vivacious energy make her an exceptional headmistress for the pre-school. Children simply love her imaginative and positive approach!

We would like to welcome our new parents of 2019. We thank you for placing your trust in the CRS staff and allowing us the opportunity to share in the lives of your precious children. We look forward to being part of this amazing learning experience, while we prepare your little one for 'big school' and grow their confidence. The Country Readiness School's methodologies and values are aligned with those of Dainfern College and we are exceptionally proud to be part of the Dainfern family.



About our School

A Brief History

It is hard to believe that our very beautiful school originated from 'humble beginnings' in the countryside just down the bumpy dirt road, over the bridge and up the driveway to the little thatched cottage. Jennifer Hindle began the school at her home in 1990 with 9 children. Word soon spread that there was a delightful little school in the country and before she knew it, Jen had 36 children and a new teacher on board, her sister Carolyn. The school was so successful and every year the 'waiting list' just seemed to get longer and longer. Jennifer realised that there was a need for a larger school and began the task of building a new school that would accommodate five classes. Great care was taken to continue the existing ethos of being an outstanding, caring school that endeavored to meet the individual needs of every child entrusted to our care.

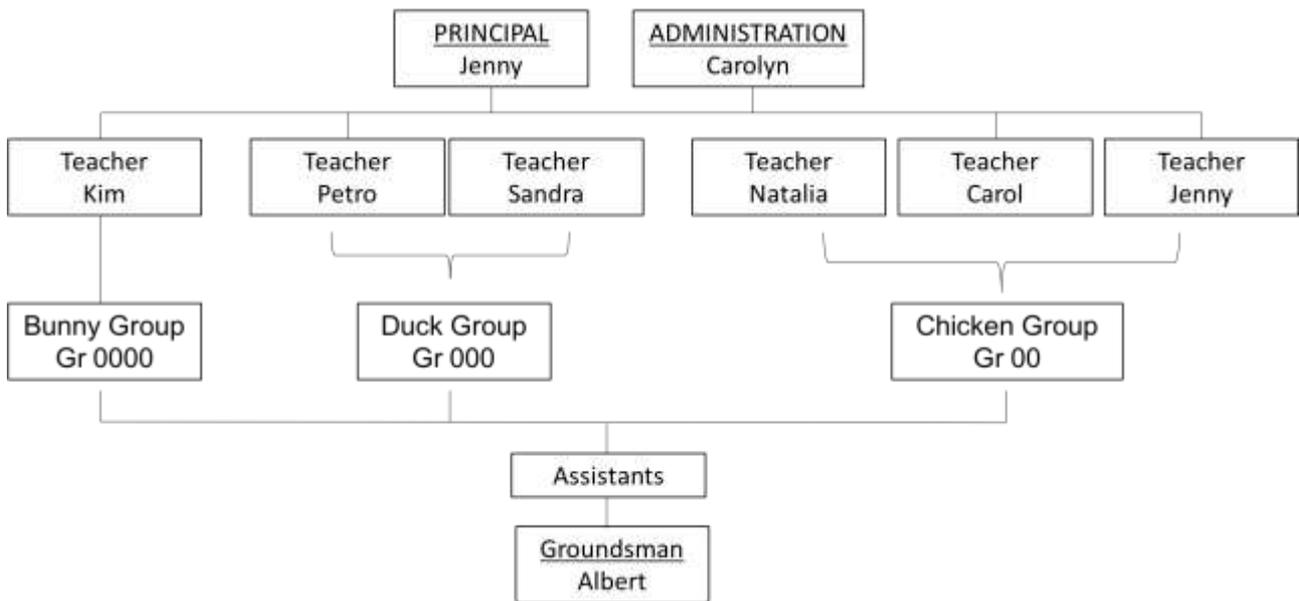
In August 1999, the foundations were laid, the school was blessed by Father Gerald from the All Saints Anglican Church and all the preparations were made to start anew in the new millennium. Since the doors opened at the new CRS, the school has gone from strength to strength.



Our Team

A warm welcome to The CRS Family. We look forward to being part of the exciting journey we are all about to embark on in preparing your precious child for life. Every life skill and life lesson will be learned right here at CRS. Together in Partnership.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the CRS Team:



Our dynamic and energetic teachers are well qualified and experienced. Their main aim is to develop in your precious child a love for learning.



An Explanation of our Groups

In recognition of the humble, farmyard beginnings of The Country Readiness School, we continue our group names of Chicken, Duck and Bunny.

Chicken Group	Children turning 5 during the course of the year.
Duck Group	Children turning 4 during the course of the year.
Bunny Group	This is conceived as a bridging group for children between 2 and a half and 3 years of age (at the beginning of the year), in recognition of those who have begun to outgrow the playgroup environment and are ready to confront the social adjustment of nursery school. In no way is it intended to bypass the very important stage of a nurturing playgroup environment.

The Chicken Group has three classes, the Duck Group has two classes and the Bunny Group has one class. Each class also has their own assistant. Each of the individual classes fall under the responsibility of their home teacher. Teacher Jenny, Teacher Carol and Teacher Natalia each teach a class of the Chicken Group, while Teacher Petro and Teacher Sandra teach classes of the Duck Group. Teacher Kim teaches the Bunny Group.

All matters concerning your child are to be discussed with your home teacher. Should you need to speak to us, please try to ensure that it is outside of teaching times. Please come that little bit earlier to school if possible, or arrange an appointment for after school. The same applies for telephone calls to the teachers. Please try phone before school begins (7:30 – 8:15) or alternatively after 12:15.

Please be aware of discussing sensitive issues in front of your child. We would rather you make an appointment to see us or telephone after hours.

School Calendar 2019

As recommended by the Independent Schools Council

Please note the starting days for each group:

GROUP	TERM 1 STARTING DATE
Chicken (Gr 00)	Monday 21 st January 2019
Duck (Gr 000)	Tuesday 22 nd January 2019
Bunny (Grade 0000)	Wednesday 23 rd January 2019

TERM 1

Starting Date (See above table) – 10:00 Friday 12th April

Half Term

11:00 Thursday 21st February – 7:30 Tuesday 26th February

Public Holiday

Thursday 21st March (Human Rights Day)

Friday 22nd March (School Holiday)

TERM 2

Start: 7:30 Tuesday 7th May – 10:00 Thursday 8th August

Half Term

11h00 Friday 28th June – 7:30 Monday 8th July

Public Holiday

Sunday 16th June (Youth Day)

Monday 17th June (Public Holiday)

TERM 3

Start: 7:30 Tuesday 10th September to 10:00 Tuesday 3rd December

Half Term

11:00 Thursday 24th October – 07:30 Tuesday 29th October

Public Holiday

Monday 23rd September (School Holiday)

Tuesday 24th September (Heritage Day)

Administration and Fee Schedule 2019

Carolyn is in the office every morning from 8:15 until 13:00. School fees and other matters requiring her attention can be discussed with her in the reception area.

Please note school fees are payable at the beginning of each term. Monthly fees will be payable by arrangement only. Fees paid monthly are due by the 1st of each month and are payable each month for 12 months (i.e. January and up to and including December). A full term's notice is required of the intention to withdraw a child, failing which the parent is liable for fees in lieu of notice.

STRUCTURE	No. OF PAYMENTS	FEES DUE	LESS DEPOSIT	PAYABLE	TOTAL PAYABLE INCLUDING LEVIES of R1 500
<u>ANNUAL</u>	1	R57 240	R1800/annum	R55 440	R55 440 + R1 500.00 = <u>R56 940</u>
				R55 440 less R4 160 (7.5% discount if paid by 25 th November 2018) = <u>R51 280</u>	R51 280+ R1 500 = <u>R52 780</u>
<u>TERMLY</u>	3	R19 080	R600/term	R18 480	<i>First term</i> R18 480 + R1 500= <u>R19 980</u> <i>2 terms @ <u>R18 480</u></i>
<u>MONTHLY</u>	12	R4 770	R150/month	R4 620	<i>First month</i> R4 620 + R1 500 = <u>R6 120</u> <i>11 months @ <u>R4 620</u></i>

Please Note:

- Deposits will be payable in advance to secure placement.
- Levies are to be paid up front with your first payment whether annually, termly or monthly.

- For administrative reasons, fees are to be paid on the first day of each new term. However, a payment structure is included for those who wish to pay monthly.
- Fees are due termly and a full terms (4 months) notice is required, so should you leave in the middle of the term payment is still due for the entire next term.

Direct Banking Details:

THE COUNTRY READINESS SCHOOL

STANDARD BANK, FOURWAYS CROSSING

BRANCH CODE 00-99-53-00

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 402087607

SWIFT Code: SBZAJJ

Please fax a copy of the transaction to CRS: 0866363609

Addendum to the Fee Structure – 2019:

The entire deposit is refundable over the time period the child is expected to be at school and reimbursed pro-rata according to the payment structure you have selected. In the event of a child being withdrawn from the school the balance of the deposit is forfeited.

Invoices:

Invoices are only printed on request. Please speak to Carolyn should you require an invoice.

Car Stickers

Car stickers must be displayed on your vehicles. For security reasons, we are required to keep a register of all stickers handed out. Please ensure that you remove the sticker should you change car ownership.

We sincerely appeal to you to heed Dainfern College traffic rules, especially the speed regulations and to be most courteous to the gate security and all those associated with the College and grounds. Please ensure that you follow the direct route to CRS when reaching the Grade 0 Department. It is clearly signposted and you need to follow the road to the left.

Bunny Group children must please be accompanied to their classroom using their own entrance on the East Side of the building for the first two terms. In term three the children from the Bunny Group are to use the entrance through the front doors. This paves the way for the transition from the Bunny Group to the Duck Group.

Collection Routine

All Groups: 12:15 TO 12:30
Bunny Group: FIRST HALF OF FIRST TERM - 12:00 TO 12:15
thereafter 12:15 TO 12:30

There is a 15-minute collection period and we would appreciate your cooperation in this regard. We cannot take responsibility for children on the property after 12:30 (unless your child is doing an extra mural activity) and it is unfair on your child to be collected late. On the same account, please avoid collecting your child before school ends as this disrupts our story and can spoil this special time for the children. We ask that you remain out of sight until you see the teacher dismiss the children.

The exit is monitored at home time and no child will be allowed to leave the school grounds unaccompanied. Please do not send your child to your car or to run an errand without you. Should you wish to chat to the teacher or to the other moms or dads, please do so within the fenced areas to avoid the children adopting a lax attitude about the 'out of bounds' areas (e.g. car park).

Please note: **LIFT ARRANGEMENTS, HAPPENINGS OR EVENTS OUT OF THE ORDINARY** must please be made known to the teachers. Should your arrangements change during the course of the morning, due to unforeseen circumstances, please telephone the school (Tel 010 228 0000).

Waiting Class

A waiting class is only available for siblings of Dainfern College, or for children waiting for an extra mural class. Since the staff is involved in preparation activities after school, children will be taken to the Bunny area and will be supervised by the assistant staff members on duty. Children must be collected from the Bunny classroom by 13:30 as there will **NOT** be a staff member in attendance after this time.

We do have an extended waiting class from Monday through to Thursday. This however only applies to those children waiting for the aftercare or who have siblings (Grade 0 to Grade 2) at Dainfern College. Once again, we ask for your cooperation in this matter. We ask that you collect your child promptly by no later than 13:50. Waiting class on a Friday is only until 13:30.

Aftercare

Antionette de Jong runs a private aftercare and holiday care service from Dainfern College. All arrangements are to be made with Antoinette directly on 082 887 7441.



Dress Code

Please dress your child in play clothes only. The children are encouraged to participate in all activities and should not have to concern themselves with keeping clean. You will be notified in advance of special days when a different dress code may apply.

Please try and encourage your child to take responsibility for his/her own belongings. Labelling clothes, lunchboxes, hats, raincoats etc. does make it easier for all concerned especially seeing that a lot of the children have identical items.



*Teachers are like the old women in the shoe,
We have so many children we don't know what to
do.*

*When children wear jerseys, jerseys all look the
same,
So every single jersey should have a name.*

*Please go down town or some place like that,
And buy some name tags to sew in each hat.
Each top, each sock and in tracksuits too,
This is a very wise thing to do!*

*Then in rain or hail, in sun or frost,
We'll send children home with no clothes lost.
And a great big thanks will come to you,
From the happy, happy family who live in the shoe!*

What to Bring

Please supply your child with a small suitcase or bag (to fit inside the locker) in which to carry a lunch box and extra clothes for weather changes/toilet accidents.

Your child will need a labelled **OUTSIDE HAT** with his/her name clearly marked, to be brought to school each term and to remain in their locker. The sun hat is compulsory and must be worn at all times. Personalised embroidered sun hats can be arranged at Reception. The sun hats are R120 each. If you wish to order a sun hat, please complete the form which is also available at Reception.

We also require a **LABELLED FACE CLOTH** which will remain on their hook in the cloakrooms.

Although not compulsory, the following items go a long way towards helping us with our budget and allow us to place our resources into more meaningful and worthwhile activities for the children. We would so appreciate receiving these items at the beginning of the first term:

- 6 boxes of tissues
- 12 rolls of toilet paper
- 2 bags of flour (for baking/playdough)

Lunch

Please supply your child with lunch that may consist of a sandwich and/or biscuits and a fruit. **Please do not send sweets.** We do encourage children to bring their own juice that they are permitted to drink at lunch/snack break. Bees become a major problem if juice is left out and we have aqua coolers so that water is available during the remainder of the day.

Library

Each child needs a library folder to assist in carrying library books, newsletters and other correspondence to and from school. A small picture or photo placed on the bag as well as his/her name will help with identification. Library books are to be returned on a Monday and new books will be re-issued on a Tuesday. Children will only be allowed to take a new book when there is no other book outstanding.

Library is not only a wonderful way of introducing your child routinely to reading and the pleasure to be gained from books, but the first real opportunity to learn how to handle material on loan. Please do help your child to take this responsibility to heart.

Weekly Activities

	WHAT TO BRING	AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITY
MONDAY	Return library book	
TUESDAY		Soccer
WEDNESDAY		Audiblox Taste Buddies
THURSDAY		Ballet Rugga Kids
FRIDAY	Show and Tell/ Bicycle	

Show and Tell/ Weekend News

Bunny Show and Tell

Bunny Show and Tell takes place on a Friday morning. Please encourage your child to bring something interesting to show and discuss with the others. These items should as far as possible be of educational value and linked to the theme. We do encourage books to read from home especially if they cover the weekly topic. **Please label all items to be returned.** The teacher will advise you if their Show and Tell is run differently.

Duck Weekend News

Weekend News takes place on a Monday morning. Please discuss your child's weekend with them before they arrive at school on a Monday. Weekend News is an impromptu approach to public speaking. It encourages memory recall, expansion of vocabulary and confidence to speak in front of an audience. It is a valuable part of their language development and a less formal manner to encourage public speaking.

Chicken Show and Tell

Chicken Show and Tell takes place on a Friday. In the Chicken class, we take a more formal approach to Show and Tell. We discourage the children from bringing toys but rather the teacher chooses different themes for the child to present to the class.

We encourage our parents to assist the children in their preparation for their special Show and Tell occasion. Please lookout for more information in the weekly newsletters. Preparation sheets will be placed in the library folders.

Bicycles

On Fridays, children may bring their own bicycles/scooters from home. Please do not send skateboards or roller skates.

Newsletter

These are sent out on Tuesdays and discuss any events that may be happening at school. Please take the time to read these.

Tuesday is also a very good day to send out party invitations/special notices as these are all placed in the library folder. Our newsletter is also available on our website – www.crschool.co.za.

Birthdays

On the child's birthday, we do a special ring at school to celebrate. We find the easiest party treat is for the mom to provide cupcakes, where the birthday child can hand them out. A tradition we have established is the Birthday book where a child may present a book to school on his/her birthday. Please write a note on the inside, stating whom it's from, which birthday is being celebrated and the date. It is a lovely way to remember the children passing through the school. Please arrange a time suitable to you and your child's class teacher.

Facebook

We have recently started a Facebook page. Please follow us at www.facebook.com/CountryReadinessSchool/ as it is a lovely way to keep abreast of the themes, topics and activities, almost on a daily basis that the teachers are working on with your child.

After School Activities/ Private Lessons

Bunnies only start extra-mural activities in the second term.

<i>Day of the Week</i>	<i>Extra Mural</i>	<i>Class Times</i>	<i>Instructor</i>	<i>Contact Details</i>
TUESDAY	SOCCER STARZ	Duck – 12:30 to 13:00 Chicken – 13:00 to 13:30	Wayde	083 384 0337
WEDNESDAY	TASTE BUDDIES	Duck – 12:30 to 13:00 Chicken – 13:00 to 13:30	Tracy-Lee Seear	082 305 2199
	AUDIBLOX	Chicken – 12:30 to 13:00 Chicken – 13:00 to 13:30 Grade 0 – 14:15 to 14:45	Teacher Jenny	084 402 4668
THURSDAY	BALLET	Bunny –12:15 to 12:35 Duck –12:35 to 13:00 Chicken –13:00 to 13:30	Colleen Theys	011 462 2815 083 270 4074
	RUGGA KIDS	Bunny – 12:15 to 12:35 Duck – 12:35 to 13:00 Chicken – 13:00 to 13:30	Keagan	082 924 8033

Arrangements for private lessons are made directly with the instructors and to whom you appoint the responsibility of your child from the commencement of the lesson. Although the school carefully screens instructors, we cannot accept responsibility or take liability for any child during this time. The instructor taking the lesson is responsible for the children until they are collected.

Audiblox

The Audiblox programme is only available to the Chicken Group. Classes are small with one qualified, audiblox instructor and one assistant. Children are given a folder with examples of work that they can practise at home. We ask that the folder is brought to school with your child on Wednesdays. Each term consists of no more than ten lessons, which have been thoroughly prepared for the term. Audiblox prepares the child with all the necessary skills for reading, mathematics and writing. The child gains confidence, while learning, and lessons are fun. It teaches the child how to concentrate, cross their midline, eye tracking exercises etc. Please note that this very worthwhile programme has limited space and we can only accommodate a small class of children. Children will be taken on a “first come, first serve basis.”

Unity

By Ray A. Lingenfelter

I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there,
The clay they used was a young child's mind
And they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher;
The tools she used were books and music and art;
One was a parent with a guiding hand
And a gentle, loving heart.

And when at last their work was done
They were proud of what they had wrought.
For the things they had worked into the child
Could never be sold or bought.

And each agreed she would have failed
If she had worked alone.
For behind the parent stood the school,
And behind the teacher stood the home.

