

*The
Country Readiness School*



Parent Information
2017

THE COUNTRY READINESS SCHOOL

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THE SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2017
As recommended by the Independent Schools Council

Please note the starting days for each group:

GROUP	TERM 1 STARTING DATE
Chicken (Gr 00)	Monday 23 rd January 2017
Duck (Gr 000)	Tuesday 24 th January 2017
Bunny	Wednesday 25 th January 2017

TERM 1

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

Half Term

10:30 Thursday 23rd February – 7:30 Tuesday 28th February

School Holiday

Monday 20th March 2016

Public Holiday

Tuesday 21st March (Human Rights Day)

TERM 2

Start: 7:30 Wednesday 3rd May – 10:00 Friday 4th August

Half Term

12h15 Friday 23rd June – 7:30 Monday 3rd July

Public Holiday

Friday 16th June (Youth Day)

TERM 3

Start: 7:30 Tuesday 5th September to 10:00 Wednesday 6th December

Half Term

10:30 Thursday 19th October – 07:30 Tuesday 24th October

Public Holiday

Sunday 24th September (Heritage Day)

Monday 25th September (In lieu of Heritage Day)

AN EXPLANATION OF THE 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 has its own assistant. Each of the individual classes fall under the responsibility of the home teacher.

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.

Come that little earlier to school if possible, or arrange an appointment for after school.

The same applies for telephone calls to the teachers.

Please try to phone before school begins (07:30 – 08:15) 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.

ADMINISTRATION

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 that 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.

SCHOOL HOURS

The school will be open from 07:30 for your convenience. Children are not to be left without a staff member in attendance.

Please do your best to adhere firmly to the school hours as the school programme has been worked out accordingly.

Chicken & Duck Groups: 08:15 to 12:15

Bunny Group: 08:15 to 12:15

Please Note that up to half term in the first term, Bunnies are to be collected from 12:00 to 12:15 from the entrance directly leading into the Bunny classroom. Thereafter Bunnies are to be collected at the usual finishing time (12:15) and the parents are to use the side gate next to the Bunny Class.

All children are to be collected from the waiting area in the Bunny playground. Please use the side gate next to the Bunny Class.

CAR STICKERS

Car stickers must be displayed on your vehicles. You will be allocated 2 car stickers for your convenience. Should you require a third sticker, please collect one from reception. 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.

MORNING ROUTINE

For the Chicken and Duck groups, we would like to encourage as much independence as possible. As soon as your child is ready to take this big step, you may drop him/her off at the front doors. We do welcome the occasional visit from parents (before 08:00) to watch their little ones show off some work that they may be proud of, but we do ask that you leave by 08:15 to allow the class to settle into its routine.

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.

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.

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. 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 each term according to groups:

GROUP	CHICKEN	DUCK	BUNNY
TERM	First	Second	Third

- 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 which 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 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.

STATIONERY

You will be required to pay a stationery levy at the beginning of each year. This levy enables us to reduce our overall costs as the children share resources.

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

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.

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.

TOYS

The children will be allowed to bring their favourite toys to school on special occasions (e.g. Birthdays) when they can be monitored and looked after. Please do not allow them to bring toys to school at any other times.

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 or 082 252 2626).

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 13:25 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 co-operation in this matter. We ask that you collect your child promptly by not later than 13:50. Waiting class on a Friday is only until 13:30.

AFTER CARE

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

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES/PRIVATE LESSONS

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

<u>Day of the Week</u>	<u>Extra Mural</u>	<u>Class Times</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Contact Details</u>
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.