

## THE COUNTRY READINESS SCHOOL INFORMATION BOOKLET 2022 TO 2023

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION**





crschool@gwisa.com



### Address

Entrance through Dainfern College, 96 Broadacres Drive, Dainfern, 2055, Johannesburg, South Africa



### Website

www.crschool.co.za

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### Facebook

www.facebook.com/CountryReadinessSchool/

### **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 to always put things back where we find them and clean 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!





## WELCOME TO CRS

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

We would like to welcome our new parents. 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.

## **A LETTER FROM TEACHER JENNY**



### **Dear Parents**

Welcome to CRS! I am delighted to welcome you to **our family**, where our children are the **pride and joy of our school** and it's **talented and committed staff**. Over the decades we have taken immense care and effort to build a **nurturing environment** where our children are able to acquire critical social, emotional, physical and cognitive skill sets to prepare them for the world that is their oyster. Building relationships is a cornerstone of effective education and is the foundation of our programme. We encourage participation of all caregivers involved in the lives of our children. As the old adage goes **"it takes a village to raise a child"**, we at CRS are delighted to be part of that community and journey of growth with your little one.

The world is a big place and can be daunting no matter your age. With a collective, inclusive and progressive approach to education and development these precious people are given the greatest opportunity to flourish in a dynamic world.

It is with absolute gratitude that I thank you for allowing CRS to be part of your journey.

### **Jennifer Marques**

### **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 nine 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 endeavoured 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 grown from strength to strength.





originated from 'humble beginnings' in a little thatched cottage in the countryside





Jennifer Hindle

Our new school building.



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



## FIRST AID

Guaranteeing our **childrens' safety** in our school is one of our top priorities. Simple accidents, such as slips or trips, are a common element in the day to day hustle and bustle of school life. **First aid training** is therefore an essential, ensuring **all our staff** are equipped with invaluable life skills to empower them with the ability to assess and manage a medical situation. First aid training not only provides us with life-saving techniques in the event of a medical emergency, but it also highlights our responsibility for the welfare of others, and thereby strengthens the sense of community within our school.



## CRS IS A PROUD MEMBER OF ISASA

Country Readiness School is a proud member of the Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa (ISASA). ISASA is the largest and oldest association of independent (private) schools in the Southern African region. ISASA traces its origins to the Conference of Headmasters and Headmistresses, originally formed in 1929. ISASA is a non-profit, voluntary association and schools elect to apply for ISASA membership. ISASA's vision is of a Southern Africa in which **quality education is available to all learners**, the value of independent education in contributing to this goal is recognised, and a value-based, public-spirited community of diverse, high quality independent schools is developed. A minimum requirement for ISASA member schools is to undergo a core evaluation by a mentor appointed by the Independent Quality Assurance Agency (IQAA). IQAA is an independent agency who provides **quality assurance** of any school through the process it has developed. On completion of the evaluation, a full report on the evidence gathered in the evaluation process is provided. A copy of this report is presented here. More information can be found on the respective organisations websites:



Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa Quality Values Diversity

www.isasa.org



www.iqaa.co.za

### CRS EVALUATION REPORT FROM THE IQAA



Independent Quality Assurance Agency

PostNet Suite 63 Private Bag X 18 Rondebosch 7701 EB01 Tannery Park Belmont Road Rondebosch 7700 Tel: 021 6854258 Fax: 021 6854195 Mobile: 0846260704 Web: www.iqaa.co.za

Mrs Jennifer Marques The Country Readiness School P O 3656 2055 Dainfern

16 November 2017

Dear Mrs Marques,

### IQAA EVALUATION OF THE COUNTRY READINESS SCHOOL 2017

"It was obvious that the teachers are all dedicated and teaching was happening throughout the school in every area, whether outdoors in the garden or indoors in a more formal situation. The teachers must be congratulated for their hard work in assisting these young children to achieve fantastic results in every area of their development." - Mentor

I have read all the relevant documents and reports pertaining to the evaluation of CRS. The fact that parents are so positive about everything you do at the school and all who work there is testament to an extremely well-run school. There can be little doubt that the evaluation has reinforced the decision of parents to send their children to your school. As I read your report I was struck by the depth of organisation within the school from, inter alia, every teacher having their own storeroom to all reasonable policies being in place to a plethora of equipment available, both indoors and outdoors.

I was also struck by the fact that you encourage teachers to take personal responsibility for a range of issues from equipment, including ordering new when it is needed and, perhaps most importantly, taking responsibility for their own professional development. It is inevitable, even amongst a small staff, that every member of staff has different professional development needs and so making them personally responsible theoretically ensures that training or workshops they attend address their particular needs.

Following the theme of the above paragraph, I note that you are planning quarterly unannounced classroom visits by the headmistress. I concede this is necessary

Independent Quality Assurance Agency Directors: Samuel Isaacs (Chairman) Ebrahim Ansur • John Falconer • Stephen Lowry • Anne Oberholzer • Mark Potterton • Confidence Dikgole Vernon Wood (Executive Director) Lynne Rivett-Carnac (Mentor Representative) when a teacher is underperforming, but would you consider a differentiated classroom visit programme to fit the theme of encouraging teachers to take personal responsibility for a range of issues? To be more explicit, let me share with you a concept once shared with me by a colleague. They argued that the "power' in classroom visits should ideally lie in the hands of the host and not the visitor. This method presumes a teacher is operating at a satisfactory level or better. They will know the issues in the classrooms and lessons that bother them. They are usually not big issues, but tweaks they are looking to implement or advice on a child that is challenging them in some way. If the visitor asks the host what they would like them to keep an eye on in the lesson then the emphasis is on professional development and not on checking. The conversation after the lesson can then focus on sharing ideas and solutions. Where a teacher needs close monitoring or mentoring then this system is not ideal, but it is a process towards which they can aspire.

The school is clearly extremely well endowed with facilities and equipment, but the provision of staff is simply amazing with every teacher having a dedicated assistant. Our surveys did not particularly seek to interrogate the issue of diversity of staff, although the surveys we have prepared for use in 2018 certainly do as much. Having classroom assistants sometimes provides an ideal opportunity to provide space for them to study further and ultimately qualify as fully-fledged teachers able to hold their own in a professionally demanding school such as yours. I just wondered, as I read your report, whether you already have something happening along these lines in place or whether the possibility was on the cards?

When a school receives such a positive response to surveys from parents and the staff are generally extremely positive, there must be a temptation to pat yourself on the back and avoid any further self-reflection. I must compliment you and your evaluation team on doing nothing of the sort and as a consequence I believe you have a detailed and useful list of recommendations that come out of this evaluation. If you pursue these issues in the years ahead, I have little doubt your school will continue to go from success to success as already evidenced in the 27-year history of the school.

It is the stated aim of IQAA to "assist schools to **keep growing** quality". The methodology we teach schools to employ (School in a Mirror) reflects this aim as we hopefully leave you with the skills to make continuous evaluation a part of the fabric of your school.

It is clear from your report that you feel you have benefitted from this, your first, IQAA evaluation process. Because you are likely to have addressed most of your recommendations in the short term, can I encourage you to consider running a modified version of School in a Mirror, annually? This can either take the form of a focused survey on a selected issue that may be burning in the back of your mind. We can assist you with this as we offer snap surveys on a topic of your choice at a nominal fee. It may also take the form of Quality Circles to which members of staff belong and each group focuses on a particular issue.

Thank you for hospitality extended to our mentor, Cheryl Kindon. She certainly enjoyed her involvement with your school. Please pass on my congratulations to your entire Internal Evaluation Team for a job well done. Despite any concerns you may have had about producing the report, it is extremely well written and flows well. Please pass on particular congratulations to Carolyn Bowden in this regard.

You may proudly share your report, and my concluding comments, with whomever you choose in your school community. A certificate confirming the successful completion of this evaluation will be sent to you in due course, together with an IQAA logo to display on your website and promotional material.

Kind regards

VERNON WOOD Executive Director

T 021 685 4258 F 021 685 4195 M 084 6260 704 E ed@iqaa.co.za

http://www.iqaa.co.za





### Please note the starting days for each group:

GROUP	TERM 1 STARTING DATE
Chicken (Gr 00)	Tuesday 17th January 2023
Duck (Gr 000)	Wednesday 18th January 2023
Bunny (Grade 0000)	Thursday 19th January 2023

### TERM 1

Starting Date (See above table) Thursday 6th April at 10:00

Half Term Thursday 23rd February 12:00 Tuesday 28th February 07:30

### **Public Holidays**

School Holiday: Monday 20th March Human Rights Day: Tuesday 21st March

### TERM 2

Start: Tuesday 2nd May Tuesday 8th August at 10:00

Half Term Friday 23rd June 12:00 Monday 3rd July 07:30

### **Public Holidays**

Youth Day: Friday 16th June

### TERM 3

Start: Tuesday 5th September Tuesday 5th December – at 10:00 (TBC)

Half Term Thursday 26th October 12:00 Tuesday 31st October 07:30

### Public Holidays

Monday 25th September (for Heritage Day Sunday 24th September)

## ADMINISTRATION AND FEE SCHEDULE

### DEPOSITS - for new enrolments only.

The deposit is directly proportional to the contractual time of enrolment.

YEAR/S OF ENROLMENT	EQUIVALENT GRADE	GROUP	AGE	DEPOSIT
2023	Gr 00	Chicken Group	Turning 5 during 2023	*R1800
2023/2024	Gr 000	Duck Group	Turning 4 during 2023	*R3600
2023/2024/2025	Gr 0000	Bunny Group	Turning 3 during 2023	*R5400

STRUCTURE	NO. OF PAYMENTS	FEES DUE	LESS DEPOSIT	PAYABLE	TOTAL PAYABLE Including levies of R1 500	
				R65 400	R65 400 + R1 500 = R66 900	
ANNUAL	1	R67 200	R1800/annum	R1800/annum Less R4 905 (7.5% discount if paid by 25th November 2022) =R60 495		R60 495 + R1 500 = R61 995
TERMLY	3	R22 400	R600/term	R21 800	First term R21 800 + R1 500 = R23 300 2 terms @ R21 800	
MONTHLY	12	R5 600	R150/month	R5 450	First month R5 450 + R1 500 = R6 950 11 months @ R5 450	

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

- Deposits will be payable in advance to secure placement.
- Levies are to be paid upfront 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 term's (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 SBZAZAJJ

Please email a copy of the transaction to CRS: crschool@gwisa.com

### ADDENDUM TO THE FEE STRUCTURE:

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**

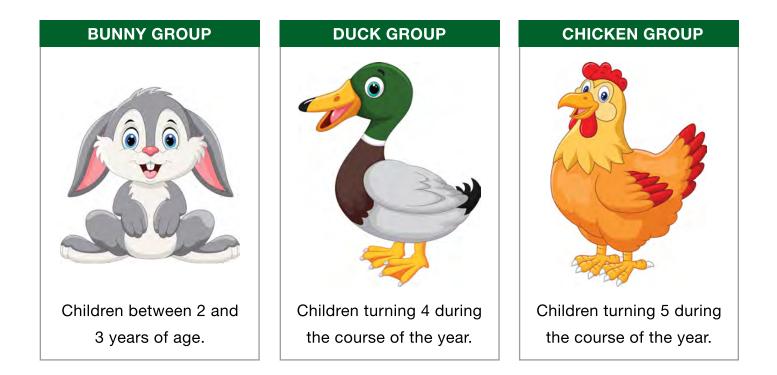
Car stickers must be displayed on your vehicles. For security reasons, we are required to keep a register of all stickers handed out. Please ensure that you remove the sticker should you change car ownership.



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.

## AN EXPLANATION OF OUR GROUPS

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



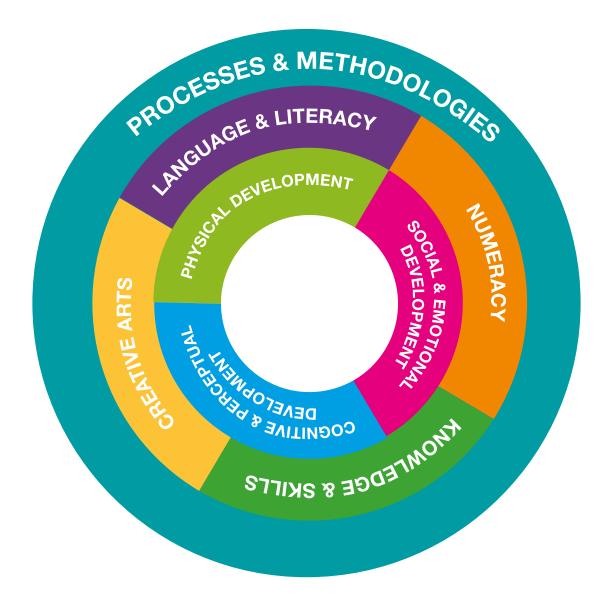
Each of the individual classes, comprising the respective groups, fall under the responsibility of their class teacher. All matters concerning your child are to be discussed with your class teacher. Should you need to speak to us, please try to ensure that it is outside of teaching times. Please come that little bit earlier to school or arrange an appointment for after school. The same applies for telephone calls to the teachers.

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.

# THE CURRICULUM

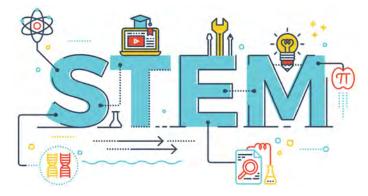
Country Readiness School follows the ISASA curriculum for Early Childhood Development. The ISASA curriculum guidelines have been drawn up using extensive research into best practice both locally and internationally. The model provides educators and schools with what is necessary to nurture the development of a child to be able to flourish in the modern world.

The core developmental areas are viewed as critical and the building blocks for all future learning. These include social and emotional development, cognitive and perceptual development, and physical development. The auxiliary learning areas include content that has been the centre of traditional curricula, including language and literacy, numeracy, knowledge and skills, as well as the creative arts.









### **STEM**

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and is a curriculum based on the idea of educating students in these four disciplines. The focus of STEM is to help gain skills to be able to think critically, solve complex problems, and advance in the areas of science and technology. Through the cohesive integration of STEM into our classrooms, real-world applications can be addressed.

### CODING

Coding is telling a computer what you want it to do and in the future, not only will our children need to understand technology, but also how to control and manipulate it. Coding not only teaches problem-solving skills but also helps children develop new ways of thinking. This is achieved by breaking big problems into smaller steps. Because young children learn best through play, coding is taught in a fun and hands-on way. By making it a game using a variety of hands-on toys, children are able to learn the steps to thinking like a programmer.



## **SCHOOL HOURS**

The school will be open from 07:00 for your convenience. Please do not leave children, without a staff member in attendance. The school day officially starts at 07:30.

07:00 TO 14:00*	Monday to Thursday		
07:00 TO 13:30*	Friday		
*School day officially starts at 07:30.			

## WAITING CLASS AND AFTERCARE

There is no charge for waiting class, and waiting class is available for all CRS children until 14:00 on Mondays to Thursdays and until 13:30 on Fridays. Antionette de Jong runs a private aftercare and holiday care service from Dainfern College. All arrangements are also to be made with Antoinette directly on 082 887 7441

## DROP OFF AND COLLECTION

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 classrooms using their **own entrances**.

**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).

Collection time is staggered amongst the three different groups (please see your child's collection time for their group in the table below). Parents who have more than one child to pick up in different groups, must choose the collection time that suits them and their personal circumstances best, but please communicate your chosen time to your children's teachers. The one-way drive through system through the CRS car park will be in effect, and on parents arriving at the school your child will be placed inside your car. Please note lift arrangements out of the ordinary must be made known to the teachers. Should your arrangements change during the morning, due to unforeseen circumstances, please message your child's teacher. To facilitate the smooth running of the drop and collection procedures, please be prompt for your child's arrival and collection time.

GROUP	AREA	COLLECTION TIME
CHICKEN GROUP (GRADE 00)		12:40pm – 12:55pm
DUCK GROUP (GRADE 000)	CRS Front Entrance	12:20pm– 12:35pm
BUNNY GROUP (GRADE 0000)		12:00pm – 12:15pm

## 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.



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# 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 R200 each. If you wish to order a sun hat, please complete the form which is also available at Reception.

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)







Please supply your child a **lunch**, that may consist of a sandwich and/or biscuits and a fruit as well as a full water bottle. Please do not send sweets.

## NEWSLETTER

These are sent out **bi-weekly** 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.



## 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** for the birthday child to hand 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.

If you would like to order cupcakes for your child's birthday ring, you are welcome to order from Cupcakes of Hope. Cupcakes of Hope is a Non-Profit Company and a community driven project aimed to create awareness and raise funds for children with life-threatening diseases. For more information or to order, please contact Lori at Latest Creations on 078 139 4930.

## 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**

In the Chicken class, we take a more **formal approach** to Show and Tell. We discourage the children from bringing toys, but rather choose different themes for them to present to the class.

We encourage our parents to assist the children in their preparation for their special Show and Tell occasion.

## FACEBOOK PAGE

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.

### **(f)** VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

# CRS WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

DAY	EXTRA MURAL ACTIVITY	
MONDAY	News Chicken Group and Duck Group Return Library Books	
TUESDAY	Library	
WEDNESDAY	Coding Chicken Group	
THURSDAY		
FRIDAY	Baking Activity or STEM Activity Show and Tell Bunny Group	







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.



# MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

Music and movement ignite all areas of **child development** and provide integral skills for school development. Therefore music and movement in the pre-school classroom cannot be underestimated. Research has shown that different aspects of music activates different parts of the brain, thereby stimulating areas which are important for both **language and motor development**. Likewise is the importance of movement and rhythm which like music, **stimulates the brain** and reinforces language concepts.

Music and movement classes form a vital part of our curriculum, helping children learn the sounds and meaning of words while **building motor skills**. Music classes are thoroughly enjoyed by all, after all we know how much pre-schoolers love singing and are often eager to let their voices soar.





## AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES / PRIVATE LESSONS

DAY	EXTRA MURAL	INSTRUCTOR	CONTACT DETAILS
WEDNESDAY	Audioblox	Teacher Jenny	084 402 4668
THURSDAY	Ballet	Colleen	083 270 4074
	Rugga Kids	Walter	082 561 2604
FRIDAY	Soccer Starz	Wade	083 384 0337

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

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.







The Audiblox programme is available to the **Duck** and **Chicken Groups**. 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 confidence, while learning, and lessons are fun. It teaches the child how to concentrate, cross the midline, eye tracking 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.

## NOTES



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