

NEWSLETTER

February 2026

Dear 345Parents

This newsletter is filled with wonderful activities happening in each age group. Whilst these activities may seem trivial to us as adults, these are vital skills that need to be developed for our growing little ones to be able to adapt and continue to grow through the older learning stages – even into adulthood and that does not stop as we develop through the further aging stages.

I find it incredibly sad when people regard preschools as little more than baby-sitting. The fastest learning stages in our life are typically during the early years, particularly from birth to five years old. During this period, children experience rapid brain development, with a significant increase in synapses, which allows for faster learning and memory retention. This peak in learning occurs because the brain is still developing its prefrontal cortex, which is responsible for higher cognitive functions like reasoning and problem-solving. Additionally, children are naturally curious and have a desire to learn, which drives their active engagement in learning activities.

When you engage with your teacher at the meetings in early April, please celebrate the milestones as tremendous achievements and learn where you can help assist at home with closing any age-appropriate skills. We are capable of what we are because we succeeded with these skills before we started school.

Kind regards

Mark Heidmann

Headmaster



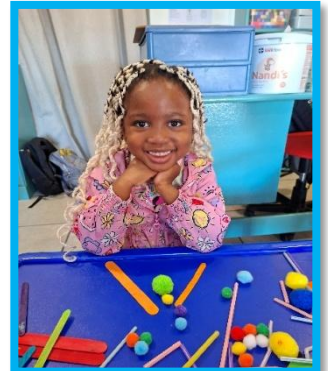


What a fantastic start to the year we've had! It's hard to believe we're already in our second month. Our classroom routines and activities are in full swing, and the children have settled in beautifully. Each morning, they walk into the classroom with big smiles, ready for a fun-filled day. Seeing their joy and hearing their laughter is truly a blessing! Valentine's Day was extra special this year, filled with a delightful mix of love and engaging sensory activities. The Ladybug class had a wonderful time participating in hands-on experiences, making the celebration both meaningful and memorable. Love was certainly in the air, and the excitement was contagious! It was also wonderful to see so many parents dress up and take pictures with their little ones. Thank you for joining your child and helping create such special memories together. We are looking forward to many more moments of fun, growth, and learning in the weeks ahead.



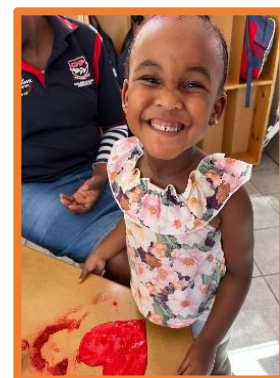


What a busy, fun, and love-filled February we have had in the Butterfly Class. Our classroom has been full of giggles, excitement, and lots of special moments with your little ones. We celebrated Valentine's Day in the sweetest way, and the children looked absolutely adorable dressed in red, white, and pink! This year we tried something a little different and created a photo booth for mommies and daddies to take photos with their little Valentines when arriving at school. It was so special seeing those big smiles and cuddles first thing in the morning. Even though the weather didn't fully cooperate, it was still such a happy and memorable day. The children had so much fun with all our Valentine activities. They loved searching for hidden hearts in the rice sensory container there were lots of excited squeals when a heart was found. Little fingers worked very hard threading macaroni and beads to make Valentine bracelets, and the sensory bin kept everyone curious because they never knew what surprise they might discover next. The biggest excitement of the day was getting to enjoy ice cream for snack definitely a class favourite. We also started our Little Leapers program with Kelsey, and the children absolutely light up when she walks into the classroom. They have been learning a special song about their new friends Pinchy the Crab, Wiggles the Worm, Tangle the Octopus, and Stompie the Elephant and they love joining in with the actions. The activities that follow are not only lots of fun but are also helping strengthen their fine motor skills through pinching and rolling playdough and using tongs to explore sensory bins. Learning through play at its best! This month we also learned all about me, emotions and our five senses, helping the children talk about how they feel and explore the world around them using their eyes, ears, noses, hands, and taste buds. Your little ones have truly had a wonderful month filled with learning, laughter, and discovery and it's only going to get busier from here. I am so excited to see what the rest of the term brings as we continue to learn and grow together.



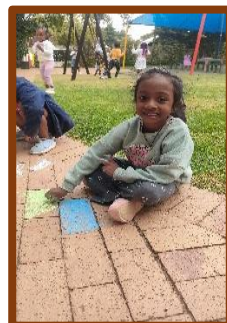


We have reached the halfway mark of Term 1, and it has been a busy and exciting month at 345. We celebrated **World Read Aloud Day** on the 4th of February with some special story time under the trees, where the children learned about the importance of reading. On the 13th of February, we enjoyed a fun **Valentine's Day celebration** with a photo booth, music, sensory play, bracelet-making, and ice cream. Thank you to everyone who joined us — the children looked wonderful in their festive outfits. We proudly supported the start of the **T20 Cricket World Cup** by dressing in yellow, green, or orange as we cheered on our Proteas! We have also started weekly **Little Leapers** sessions with Teacher Kelsey and **music lessons**, both of which the children are thoroughly enjoying. Additionally, we celebrated Onthatile's 5th birthday and shared in the joy of her special day. Our little Foxies have settled beautifully into their new classroom and continue to grow in confidence, knowledge, and skills each day. I am so proud of them all.





February has been a joyful and heartwarming month in our classroom! We loved celebrating **World Read Aloud Day**, filling our room with wonderful stories, laughter, and imagination. The children were captivated as we shared favourite books together, explored exciting characters, and made predictions about what might happen next. Read-aloud time continues to nurture a love of reading while strengthening listening and comprehension skills. We also enjoyed celebrating **Valentine's Day** with kindness and creativity. The children created special crafts, shared thoughtful messages, and practiced using kind words with their friends, reminding us of the importance of empathy and friendship. This month we also began Little Leapers, our OT-based programme designed to support fine and gross motor development, coordination, and body awareness. The children thoroughly enjoyed the engaging activities and eagerly participated in each session. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they develop new skills through play. February has truly been filled with learning, laughter and love we look forward to many more special moments ahead.





February in the Hedgies has been wonderfully busy, with one especially delightful day dedicated to sensory play, sweet treats and Valentine's cheer. On that special day, the classroom buzzed with excitement as the children enjoyed ice cream, explored different textures and celebrated together in true Hedgies spirit. Beyond the festivities, our weeks have been filled with purposeful fine-motor and coordination activities. Little fingers worked hard crumpling paper and carefully using cups to pass paper and small balls to one another, strengthening coordination, teamwork and control. The focus and determination on their faces have been remarkable, as they practise patience, turn-taking and concentration in meaningful ways. Finger painting invited colourful creativity, while ice cream stick creations encouraged planning, perseverance and imaginative thinking. Little Leapers is now in full swing with our onsite Occupational Therapist, intentionally strengthening those smaller muscles in playful, engaging ways, supporting confidence and readiness for future learning. The children are thriving and absolutely love Teacher Kelsey, whose warmth and enthusiasm make every activity even more meaningful.

As Fred Rogers wisely said, "Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning."

