

NEWSLETTER

No. 5 May 2026

Dear 345 Parents

It is difficult to believe that we are already in June – we are midway through 2026! As your little ones mature so quickly over a short period I am sure that you have also observed wonderful development within them supported by the teaching that happens in and around the classroom as well as the social development through engagement and interaction that they have with their friends. These are all growth steps leading to 'big school' and beyond.

We constantly strive to improve classroom delivery. Across Carlswald House Prep and 345 we will be embarking on reflection and revision projects to ensure that while the world is changing very rapidly, we remain aligned to broader outcomes as we better prepare our children for their future. Technological capability is doubling every 3 to 5 months. The solution is most certainly not more screen-time, but rather that the necessary future skills, that will be required for living in a world quite different from the present, are keenly entrenched to support future development.

At 345 the staff will be undergoing a skills upgrade over the next few months as we introduce a new approach to young teaching and learning that will better prepare a modern child for their future. We are most excited about this and will be sharing with you along this journey so that you can further support these development phases at home.

Yours in education

Mark Heidmann

Headmaster: Carlswald House Prep and 345 Nursery Schools





Dear Parents,

Welcome to Term 2! We're so glad to have everyone back and it has been wonderful watching the children settle in so quickly. Friendships are blossoming, smiles are everywhere and the classroom is buzzing with excitement. We kicked off the term with a Sports Theme. The children explored different sports, learned why staying active is important and got to know some of our national teams, cheering for the Proteas in cricket and the Springboks in rugby. They even painted their own team jerseys!

Next up was Book Week and it was magical. We read stories such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, made a baking craft caterpillar to go with it and enjoyed the Hooked on Books performance that had the children giggling all the way through.

In between themed activities, the children have been learning through play — exploring shapes, colours and numbers, enjoying musical sessions and developing fine motor skills through threading beads, completing puzzles, moulding with play dough and painting. We've also made the most of outdoor play, spending time in the sandpit, on the swings and slides and riding bikes.

Our Bouncing Bears stole the show by dressing up as their favourite book characters — the costumes were incredible! We celebrated Mother's Day with handmade cards and a special performance to honour all the amazing moms and mother figures in our children's lives.

Our next theme to explore is Winter and we're excited to see what the Bouncing Bears get up to as we dive into it. Thank you for your continued support — it makes all of this possible. We're looking forward to more learning, laughter and memories in the weeks ahead.





Dear Parents,

We have had a very busy and exciting month in the Happy Hippos class, especially while getting to know our new teacher!

I have truly enjoyed spending time with and getting to know all our Happy Hippos over the past month. While this has been an adjustment for both me and your little ones, we have had lots of fun together through creative crafts, counting activities and exploring shapes. This month, we also continued with our Baker Man activity. A big thank you to Beatrice and Iminathi for the delicious treats they shared with us!

We were delighted to celebrate our wonderful mothers at our Mother's Day event, where families enjoyed a special chocolate-making workshop together. We also celebrated Edrian's birthday with the class — a special occasion filled with smiles and excitement.

To end off the month, we celebrated Book Week, inspired by the story *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The week was filled with exciting activities, including themed crafts, a Hooked on Books performance and our much-loved "Dress Up as Your Favourite Book Character" day.

I am looking forward to continuing to get to know our Happy Hippos even better in the months ahead. Thank you for your support and for all the wonderful experiences we have shared so far.





Dear Squeaky Squirrel Family,

What a busy and exciting month it has already been! Term 2 has started in full swing and our little squirrels have jumped straight into learning and growing. This term, we are focusing on skills development and it has been wonderful to see how much progress the children are making. Our little fingers are getting stronger every day through various fine motor activities and we are also benefiting greatly from the Little Leapers Programme, which helps develop important physical and coordination skills. We have already shared so many special moments together — From celebrating our wonderful mummies on Mother's Day to enjoying our fun-filled Sports Day theme, where we explored different ways to move our bodies, there has been no shortage of excitement. Book Week also took us on many imaginative adventures, encouraging a love for stories and reading. In the classroom, we have been learning about winter and citrus fruits — topics that have really resonated with the children as the weather becomes cooler each day. The learners have enjoyed exploring the changes that winter brings and discovering the delicious fruits that help keep us healthy during the colder months. We look forward to all the wonderful learning experiences and memories still to come this term!





Marvelous May in Grade R!

What a lovely month it has been in our Grade R class! After a short holiday, our little stars returned to school refreshed, excited and ready for another month of learning and fun together. It was wonderful to see their smiling faces back in the classroom and to hear all about their holiday adventures.

This month, we explored the themes of 'Sports', 'Book Week' and 'Farm Animals'. During our Sports theme, the children enjoyed learning about different sports and practising movement skills while staying active and having fun. Our Farm Animals theme was filled with excitement as the children learned about different farm animals, the sounds they make and life on the farm.

One of the biggest highlights of the month was definitely Book Week! The classroom was filled with imagination, creativity and excitement as the children took part in fun-filled activities throughout the week. We made hungry caterpillars from food, created beautiful artwork and dressed up as our favourite book characters. The little ones absolutely loved celebrating stories and bringing books to life in such a special way.

We also celebrated Mother's Day by spending time talking about the incredible moms and special women in our lives. The children loved creating thoughtful surprises and gifts filled with love for their families.

May has truly been a month filled with laughter, creativity and learning. I am so proud of my little legends and all the enthusiasm they bring into the classroom each day!

