

NEWSLETTER

No. 7 July 2026

Dear 345 families

We are readily 'shocked' that it is already August, but if we look at just how much each of our children has grown and developed, we must agree that it has been a most productive eight months. Each little one is getting to the stage where they are very ready for the step to the next phase of their development. As a school, we are excited about the coming changes: a new head of the 345 schools as well as our move towards the Reggio Emilia approach.

Welcome our new Head of 345 Nursery Schools

Please welcome Suzanne Rossouw who joins us at the end of September as our new head of our 345 Nursery Schools.

Suzanne comes with a wealth of experience from not only wonderful South African schools in Johannesburg and Cape Town, but she has also worked in the preschool environment in Poland, South Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore. It is while in Singapore that Suzanne obtained her Master of Education degree in Early Childhood.

Our nursery schools are embarking on an exciting change in education-thinking as we shift towards the Reggio Emilia approach to better support young minds. Suzanne's experience extends extensively in Reggio Emilia too as she has not only taught in schools offering this approach, but has presented at the African Reggio Emilia.



Alliance over several years as well as been a principal of such a preschool and a Reggio Emilia consultant. We look forward to the leadership that Suzanne will bring to our schools as we make this exciting shift which will undoubtedly benefit our young ones as we better prepare them for their future learning.

What is Reggio Emilia all about?

Many parents may not know what the Reggio Emilia approach is about. This approach makes our children academically stronger and better prepared for learning as they move to the higher grades. Our modern world requires new approaches, especially as new technologies become more dominant – we cannot expect to simply do what we always did when everything else is changing.

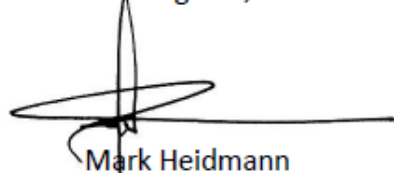
Here is a quick summary. These are some of the basic tenets of the Reggio Emilia approach:

- (1) Reggio Emilia is a child-centred approach. It recognises that every child is different and allows them to direct their own learning experiences.
- (2) Emphasis on critical thinking & creativity. Young children are given the tools to express themselves through art and other materials, which are opportunities to grow their imagination.
- (3) Strong emphasis on parental engagement. The Reggio Emilia approach emphasizes parental collaboration and learning at home. It strives to create a seamless learning environment at school, as well as at home with the help of parents.
- (4) Flexible teaching methods. Reggio Emilia schools are flexible and adjust accordingly to what a child needs when it comes to learning and care.
- (5) Environment as a third teacher. Reggio Emilia schools place heavy emphasis on the learning environment as they believe a conducive environment is important for a child

Parent Workshop

We will be running a parent workshop during the next term (date to be confirmed) to engage with you about Reggio Emilia and modern learning practices – looking at the practicalities of embarking on this approach, how parents are partners in learning and why we have included this approach into our teaching and learning.

Kind regards,



Mark Heidmann
Headmaster



Dear Parents,

What a joyful and adventure-filled few weeks it has been in the Bouncy Bear Class!

Our little explorers travelled the world through learning as we embraced different cultures. The children created beautiful Egyptian pyramid crafts, sponge-painted a world globe and discovered different foods, traditional clothing and customs from around the world.

We then went on a wild adventure as we explored the fascinating world of wild animals. The children eagerly discovered unique features such as claws, sharp teeth and hooves, compared leopards and cheetahs and learnt the difference between meat-eaters and herbivores. Story time came alive with *Giraffes Can't Dance* and *Hiccups for Elephant*, inspiring imagination and a love for reading.

One of the biggest highlights was exploring our light table for the very first time. The children were fascinated as they investigated colours, shapes and light through play. They also strengthened their skills through playdough, puzzles, threading, shape matching, counting and exploring colours and shapes while building confidence on the bikes and jungle gym and dancing with great enthusiasm to *The Lion Song*.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your incredible generosity and unwavering support during our Madiba Day collection. Your kindness has made it possible for us to extend a helping hand and give back to our community. Together, we are teaching our little ones the true meaning of compassion, kindness and making a difference—one thoughtful act at a time.

Thank you for being such a valued part of our Bouncy Bear family. We look forward to many more wonderful learning adventures together!





Dear Parents, we have had a fun-filled July! We started the month with a week-long mid-term break, giving our little Hippos time to rest, recharge, and strengthen their immune systems. I was also away for a very special family wedding and we would like to thank Teacher Shelley for taking such wonderful care of the class while I was away. We celebrated Devaansh's 4th birthday 🎂, as well as our Baker Man celebration for Yasanga, Yanathi and Isabelle. Thank you for the delicious treats! On 17 July, we celebrated Mandela Day by learning about Nelson Mandela and the importance of kindness, helping others and making a positive difference in the world. ❤️ Our themes this month included Countries Around the World 🌍 and Wild Animals 🦁🦒. The children enjoyed learning about different countries and wild animals through videos, discussions, stories and creative art activities. We also worked on counting to 20, revising shapes and colours, exploring patterns and developing our puzzle-building and cutting skills. ✂️🧩🎨 It has been a wonderful month of learning, exploring and having fun together. Thank you for your continued support—we truly appreciate being part of your child's learning journey.





Dear Squeaky Squirrel Family, what a busy, exciting and adventure-filled month it has been in our classroom! We began our journey by travelling all around the world, exploring different countries, learning about famous landmarks, celebrating unique cultures and discovering that although we may all be different, our differences make our world a wonderful place. We also honoured Mandela Day, where our little learners discovered the importance of kindness, generosity and helping others. Thank you to all the families who supported our Mandela Day Drive—your contributions truly made a difference. Our adventures then continued into the wild as we explored Wild Animals and their habitats. The children loved learning about animals from around the world, where they live, what they eat and the unique characteristics that make each one special. We will be ending Term 2 with our Opposites theme. This fun and interactive theme encourages children to think critically, build their vocabulary and explore how things can be completely different from one another. We are looking forward to the wonderful discussions, laughter and exciting discoveries this theme is sure to bring!





🌸 Joyful July 🌸

What a fun-filled and busy month July has been! Our classroom has been buzzing with excitement as we explored new themes, shared lots of laughs and made wonderful memories together.

This month we learnt all about Birds & Insects, Transport, The Five Senses and People Who Help Us. From fluttering butterflies and busy bees to noisy aeroplanes and helpful community workers, the children embraced each topic with so much curiosity and enthusiasm. They especially loved exploring the world around them using their five senses through fun hands-on activities.

Our Little Leapers sessions with Teacher Kelsey continue to be a firm favourite! The children have loved every opportunity to improve their fine motor skills as well as their gross motor skills, hand-eye coordination and other developmental skills.

We also enjoyed celebrating Mandela Day at school. It was a wonderful opportunity to teach the children about kindness, helping others and making a positive difference no matter how small.

Our weekly Show and Tell continues to be such a special part of our classroom routine. It has been heartwarming to watch the children grow in confidence as they share something meaningful with their friends.

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement and involvement in your child's learning. Every day brings new discoveries, proud moments and plenty of smiles and we are so grateful to share this journey with them.

We hope you all have a wonderful month ahead and we can't wait for all the exciting adventures that August will bring!

