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CHARTERHOUSE SCHOOLS

"Where your child matters"

Pre-Primary Newsletter No 1



Little Chaps News

Dear Parents

16 January 2018

A note from the Principal's Desk: Welcome back to all our parents and children of 2017 and welcome to all our new parents and children who have joined us this year. It has been a good start to the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a very big welcome to the first year of Kindy children and parents. It is only their second day and already they are beginning to settle in nicely. These little ones are food for the soul; there is nothing nicer than a cuddle from a 2 and 3 year old!



Kindy Class



Kindy playdate

Thank you for the excellent turn-out at **Parent Information Evening** last week. I am, however, going to recap on a few important things from that evening. If you were unable to make the evening, the Parent Info Guide can be found on the d6 and the Year Planner will be emailed next week.



Parent Information Evening

Firstly, meet our Pre-Primary team. Our staff this year is as follows:

Grade 0000 – Teacher Michelle

Grade 000 – Teachers Chloe and Emma

Grade 00 – Teachers Niki, Kezia, Joy and Candice

Grade 0 – Teachers Emma, Tarryn, Caroline, Brenda and Kelli

Assistant teachers – Teachers Michelle (Kindy), Elvina, Bronwyn and Kirstie

Aftercare – Teachers Kez, Chloe, Kirstie and Vuyo

Teacher Shelley is the lady to go to who just does it all.



Kindy Class
Michelle (assistant) and Michelle



Grade 000
Kirstie (assistant), Elvina (assistant), Emma, Chloe



Grade 00
Joy, Bronwyn (assistant), Kezia, Candice, Niki



Grade 0
Emma, Caroline, Kelli, Brenda, Tarryn

Our ground staff has been with the Pre-Primary for many years and are a vital part of the team. Prisca, Gloria, Cleopatra and Eunice are responsible for classrooms and bathrooms etc and Comford looks after the playground. Lucky is our security gentleman at the gate. Tyson also assists at the gate and does regular patrols around the entire school. Lucky has asked that we thank all the parents for displaying their car stickers on their windscreens. Should your car not display a Charterhouse sticker, you will be required to sign in at the gate. Car stickers can be obtained from the office.



Cleopatra, Prisca, Eunice, Gloria, Comford (Operations staff)



Lucky and Tyson (EC Security Officers)

For many of our new little ones this is the first time they are attending school so tears are to be expected. Thank you parents for adopting the “drop and go” policy; we know how hard it is to leave your little one if he/she is unhappy. I assure you that it is beneficial in that it helps your child build a bond with his/her teacher. Please remember that these little people have different personalities and therefore different coping skills. It is for this reason that we feel it is important that all the children get a settling-in period. A child getting used to his/her new environment, teacher, change of pace will not always give their best academically. Some children may be very quiet while others may push all the boundaries. We do not make any judgements until we are certain our children are happy and comfortable. It would be very unfair on a child to decide their fate before we have given them every opportunity to find their place. Please be aware that although we understand that the children are settling in, inappropriate behaviour will be dealt with in an appropriate way.

I would like to share with you that as ECD educators we believe that ECD education should not be to just give our children facts, but rather to give them opportunities to explore, to investigate, to question. We want to assist the child in his/her path of natural development, to help the child develop a strong character (self-confidence and self-esteem), to be able to engage and concentrate, to be able to make good choices, to have self-control and to have feelings of benevolence towards others.

However, along this path there will be many ups and downs that are typical to a pre-primary school. Little children are still learning to gauge correct and incorrect behaviour and they all behave and react differently to different scenarios. Many children will retaliate physically if another child takes their toy or even says something they don't agree with, while others have more control. It is important as teachers and parents that we understand this and work with our children to help them understand how best to handle the many different situations that they will find themselves in.

Please remember that our children learn from us; they watch us to learn how to navigate life. Your children will tell you about their day at school and, although they don't really lie, they just tell you what happened purely from their point of view. Something could happen once or twice and it becomes 'always'. This is the egocentric time of their lives and little children like nothing better than to have their parents angry with one of the other children. So please parents be mindful of how you react. You are welcome to discuss any issues with your child's teacher; we will address any problem and will always hear both sides of the story before we make any judgements.

We will do our best to make sure you are informed at all times, but you need to do your bit by keeping up to date on the d6 school communicator. The Pre-Primary does not send out a newsletter every week; we tend to send one out every 2-3 weeks depending on the amount of news. However, an SMS will be sent to parents to notify you that a newsletter has been put on to the d6.

Charterhouse has an open-door policy and we are happy to chat anytime. However, in order for us to be really successful we need your support; if we all work together your children will thrive. Please do not believe everything you hear at children's parties; gauge what you are hearing and come and chat to us.



Funky Feet Day: We are going to start the year off with *Funky Feet Day* on Friday, 19 January. The children come to school in their uniforms, but get to do fun things with their feet (different colour socks, shoes etc). Be creative and have fun!

Tuck-shop Lunchcard system: A couple of years ago the tuckshop implemented a “lunch card” system which allows children to purchase food at the school tuck-shop using a card instead of cash. This card is not compulsory and cash is still accepted at the tuck-shop. Funds can be paid to the student's lunchcard by EFT or bank deposit

Photos will be taken of all our new children on Thursday, 25 January to print their individual card. Your child will receive a printed Lunchcard with his or her picture and details printed on to it which you can either decide to use or discard upon receipt. The Pre-Primary teachers prefer to keep the cards in their classroom.

Communication: Our teachers have set up their class WhatsApp groups so you will have their cell phone numbers. However, please bear in mind that they do not always have a chance during the morning to check messages and reply to you as the children are their first priority. Urgent messages must still come through the office. Parents, we ask that you do not abuse this privilege by contacting your child's teacher during the early mornings, evenings and weekends as they also have families to look after.

Facebook: Charterhouse has a Facebook page. This is a great way for us to let parents have a little insight into the many great things that happen in our school day.

Gate codes: The code for both the main office gate and the Aftercare gate is 4488#.

Bag tags and hat ribbons: The teachers have handed out a bag tag and name tag to each child. Please attach this to your child's school bag as this helps us keep control of your child's property.

Uniforms: Every year the staff and I take a fair amount of flack regarding lost property. In order for us to alleviate this, please make sure that every item of your child's clothing is clearly marked so that we can return missing items to you. It often happens that when we try to find a missing item of clothing, we find item after item of clothing that is not labelled, which means we can't work out which children may have swapped their clothing. We also ask that a spare change of clothing is put into your child's bag as accidents happen.

School Times: The school opens at 07:00. The Grade 0 children begin their day at 08:00 sharp; please make sure you get your Grade 0 children to school on time - this is a very important year. The Grade 00/000/0000's begin their day at 08:15. All grades finish at 13:00. Collection time is between 13:00 and 13:30. Children still at school after 14:00 will be charged a full day's Aftercare rate. We do understand that parents might want to collect their child early for the first week, but once the children have settled we ask that you collect them from their class from 13:00. The Grade 00/000 children have their second playtime between 12:30 and 12:50 and we cannot let children leave from the playground.

Parents – if you make use of a transport company, please make sure that they are aware of this! We have noticed that drivers are coming in earlier and earlier to collect your children. They take them off the playground or out of class during story time --- your children are missing out on important parts of their day!

Leaving school out of normal school hours: Your child's safety is important to us. If your child needs to leave school early, please inform the school office or the class teacher timeously.

1. A red gate pass, signed by the school office, will be handed to you once you have collected your child.
2. The security guard at the main school entrance will only allow the child to leave the school once the signed gate pass has been handed to him.

Children collected from school: If your child is going to be fetched by a granny/friend/aunt etc, please ensure that they are brought in to meet the staff. If there is an emergency and your child needs to be collected by someone unknown to us, please phone and give us a description and details of the person. If your child is going to make use of a lift club, please ensure that they abide by the school rules and school hours.

Parking and traffic in the morning: We are aware that morning traffic in the carpark can be extremely busy and we need to keep the traffic flowing. Please be aware of, and abide by, the carpark rules. Obey the speed limit! The safety of our children is a top priority. Please do not park in front of the Pre-Primary office. This is a no-parking area and blocks cars needing to turn. The driveway by the school hall must also be kept open as it is used by staff to get to their parking area. Please watch out for children crossing at the pedestrian crossing. We urge parents to assist us in this regard.

Extra Murals: Additional activities are offered at an extra cost. These extra murals are run independently to the school and each extra mural provider controls his/her own accounts. The relevant teachers will visit the school and do demo's for the children next week. They will then put the relevant enrolment forms into your child's pocket. If you would like your child to take part in any of the extra murals, you need to complete the enrolment form and return it to the office. Payments can be posted into the red post box and enrolment forms can be put into the relevant blue boxes, all are in the main office. Extra murals will begin in February.

Grade 00 and 000 Extra Mural Days:

All extra murals for the Grade 00 and 000 children are done during the school morning:

Mondays – Pottery and Playball

Tuesdays – Karate

Wednesdays – Ballet

Thursdays – Marleanco (movement education)

Grade 0 Extra Mural Days:

We do not have demos for the Grade 0's (except for Soccerstarz) as the children are already familiar with what it entails. Extra Murals take place on the following days:

Ballet	Tuesday (during school)
Soccerstarz	Tuesday (after school)
Playball	Wednesday (during school)
Karate	Wednesdays (after school)
Marleanco	Thursday (during school)

Grade 0 Information

The Grade 0's do not get porridge in the morning due to limited time. However, they will still be given bread and juice.

Aftercare Information

If your child attends Aftercare, please make sure that you complete and return the registration form; this can be obtained from the office.

Our Grade 0 children will be collected from their classes at 14:00 by an Aftercare teacher and brought down to the Grade 000 & 00 playground. Their school sunhat remains in their class, so please please pack a sunhat in your child's bag for Aftercare (it does not have to be a school hat).

The main office is locked at 16:00 and the Aftercare entrance is opened at 16:00 daily. This is the time when children wind up their day and are inside the TV room. So please use the Aftercare entrance when collecting your child after 16:00. Please make sure that you sign your child out every day from Aftercare. The registers are kept in the main office until 16:00 and thereafter are placed in the TV room.

Kind regards

Yvette Godwin

Head: Pre-Primary School



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TERM 1 PLANNER	
THEME - "MY WORLD"	
Date	Function
9 January	Parent Information Evening (18:30)
11 – 12 January	11 th – First Day for Grade 000, 00 & 0 11 th & 12 th – Kindy class – orientation playdate
15 – 19 January	15 th – Official starting date for Kindy class
	16 th – Soccerstarz demo to Grade 0's
	19 th – Funky Feet Day
22 – 26 January	Grade 000 & 00 extra mural displays 22 nd – Playball 23 rd – Karate 24 th – Ballet 25 th – Marleanco
	25 th – Lunch card photos for all new children
	25 th – <i>Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day*</i> (<i>wrapping our world</i>)
29 January – 2 February	29 th – Pottery demo to Grade 000 & 00
	1 st – Extra Murals start
5 – 9 February	
12 – 16 February	14 th – Valentine's Day <i>Children may come to school dressed in civvies</i> <i>(Theme colours: pink, red or white)</i>
19 – 23 February	20 th – Official opening of Kindy class
26 – 2 March	2 nd – <i>World Book Day*</i> <i>(Children dress up as their favourite character)</i>
5 – 9 March	
10 March	Charterhouse Open Day
12 – 16 March	Hearing Screenings this week
19 – 20 March	
21 March	Human Right's Day (public holiday)
22 March – 23 March	22 nd – <i>World Water Day*</i>
26 – 28 March	27 th – Parent Feedback Afternoon
	28 th – Grandparent's High Tea
	28 th – Break Up Day (school closes at 12:00). Aftercare is open.