



The Cotswold Country Montessori School  
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# The Cotswold News

## Dates to note

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 22 April - 3 May | Preschool Holiday Care                                |
| 6 May            | Pre and Primary school opens                          |
| 6 and 7 May      | Preschool Photographs                                 |
| 8 May            | Preschool Show - Fruit and Vegetables                 |
| 9 May            | Primary School Parent - Teacher Conference            |
| 10 May           | SISA Chess - Ecolkids                                 |
| 10 May           | SISA Mini netball and football - Ashton               |
| 13 - 17 May      | Preschool Bicycle Week                                |
| 14 May           | SISA U9-U13 Netball League                            |
| 15 May           | SISA Speech Evening                                   |
| 15 May           | Entrepreneurs' Day Casa de Capi and Guinea Fowl House |
| 17 May           | SISA Mini netball and football - Woodlands            |
| 20 - 24 May      | Pre-primary Assessments                               |
| 21 May           | SISA U9-U13 Netball League                            |
| 23 May           | Primary School outing - Gold Reef City                |
| 23 May           | SISA General Knowledge Quiz - St Francis              |
| 24 May           | SISA Mini-netball and football - Pinnacle             |
| 27 May           | SISA U9-U13 Netball League                            |
| 29 May           | Voting Day  |

## Cotswold Updates

### April Holiday Care

The school offered holiday care for our Preschoolers during the April holidays.



Indoor activities included arts and crafts where the children enjoyed making salt dough and outdoor activities included nature walks through the autumn leaves, the mud kitchen and ride on wheels days in the beautiful grounds. The pace was calmer and the focus was on building social skills of sharing and communicating with other pre-schoolers across the school.

### Preschool Staff

We are pleased to inform our parents that from term two the following Directresses will be joining our preschool.

**Munazia Gaffar** will be joining us as a Montessori Directress and will work alongside Shannon Du Preez. Munazia is Montessori trained and has previous experience teaching in a 3-6 environment.

**Nicolene Gouveia** will be joining us as a qualified Montessori Assistant Directress in the preschool.

We wish them all the best in their appointments and we are excited to enjoy their input in our preschool.



### Montessori quote

“Our care of the child should be governed, not by the desire to make him learn things, but by the endeavour always to keep burning within him that light which is called intelligence.”

**Dr Maria Montessori**

# Notices

## Holiday Care

Holiday Care for preschoolers will be available from the 23rd of April until the 3rd of May 2024 at R60.00 per day, except for the 1st of May which is Workers' Day

## Start of Term 2

The second term begins on Monday the 6th of May for the pre- and primary schools.

## Preschool Photographs

Preschool photographs will be taken on the 6th and 7th of May when school reopens. We request children wear brightly coloured clothing without large logos on the day. The pupils of Gate House and Elliot's Boma will also have their class photographs taken, along with photos of pupils who were absent when photos were taken last term.

## Primary Parents-Teacher Conferences - Thursday the 9th of May

A Parent-Teacher Conference will be held on Thursday the 9th of May in your child's classroom. This will give parents an opportunity to discuss their child's progress and first term report with his or her teacher.

## SISA Quiz - 23rd of May

Some of our Year 6 and 7 pupils will be representing our school at the SISA General Knowledge Quiz on the 23rd of May. We look forward to their participation.

## Benoni Eisteddfod

In the coming weeks our Pre-primary to Year 7 parents will be given an opportunity to enter their children into the Benoni Eisteddfod in items such as unprepared reading, own choice poetry, prescribed poetry, voorgeskrewe poësie and solo instrumental items played on the recorder. If you are invited to do so please consider entering your child to allow him or her to be challenged and grow in confidence.

## Winter Uniforms

As from the 1st of June pupils will be expected to wear their winter uniforms on uniform days. On sports day pupils should wear the school tracksuit with the winter turtle neck t-shirt and white takkies and socks.

## Public Holidays

School will be closed on Voting Day, the 29th of May.

## Gold Reef City

On the 23rd of May our Primary School pupils will be visiting Gold Reef City to do the Heritage Tour and learn about the history of gold mining in Johannesburg.

## Upper Primary Netball

Our Upper Primary pupils will have netball matches on the following days: 14th of May - Ecolkids, 21st of May - Maranatha, 27th of May - Ashton and 6th of June - Ridgewood.

## Preschool Bicycle Week

Children may bring their bicycles to school during the week of 13 to 17 May 2024. Bicycles will be locked in the classrooms overnight and taken home on Friday afternoon. Bicycle week is always a time of great excitement for the children and an important part of their physical development. A R10 donation would be greatly appreciated.

## Pre-primary Assessments

Pre-primary school-readiness assessments will be carried out from Monday 20 May to Friday 24 May 2024. In the 1<sup>st</sup> Term, parents received a list of skills that children need to master in order for them to be ready for primary school. Feedback will be given after the conclusion of the assessments.

## Entrepreneurs' Day

Casa de Capi and Guinea Fowl House pupils will host their Entrepreneurs' Day on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2024. The aim of an Entrepreneurs' Day is to encourage our children to work with money and for them to understand the preparation that goes into setting up and running a small business. Younger children are, with the help of their teachers, taught the value of money and how transactions are carried out.

## The Cotswold Supporting Charity Drive

Our pupils were very pleased to hand over the donated items of non-perishable groceries to Kim from Families in Need, Benoni.



## Lower Primary Research Projects

Our lower primary pupils were delighted to present their first term dinosaur research projects to their classmates.



## Extra Murals - Term 2

School extra-murals for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Term start on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of May and the timetable is below.

Parents will receive information about extra-murals provided by external persons directly from those providers – these activities include dancing, tennis, Europa Football and Edutumble.

| Day       | Activity            | Years         | Teacher (s)                | Time          | Notes         |
|-----------|---------------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Monday    | Recorder Club       | Yr. 4 – Yr. 7 | Xolani                     | 13:45 – 14:45 | Forest        |
|           | Mini Tennis         | Yr. 1 – Yr. 3 | Karen MacRae               | 13:30 – 14:00 | Tennis Court  |
| Tuesday   | Dancing             | Yr. 1 – Yr. 3 | Xandi                      | 13:30 – 14:30 | Events Centre |
|           | Netball             | Yr. 4 – Yr. 7 | Barbara, Talissa & Bronwyn | 13:45 – 14:30 | Sports Green  |
|           | Soccer              | Yr. 4 – Yr. 7 | Heidi & Sarah              | 14:34 – 14:30 | Sports Green  |
| Wednesday | Europa Football     | Yr. 1 – Yr. 3 | Soccer Starz               | 13:30 – 14:10 | Sports Green  |
|           | Chess               | Yr. 3 – Yr. 7 | Jane                       | 13:45 – 14:45 | Gate House    |
|           | Science Club        | Yr. 4 – Yr. 7 | Marie                      | 13:45 – 14:15 | Wattle House  |
|           | Netball             | Yr. 1 – Yr. 3 | Barbara, Talissa & Bronwyn | 13:45 – 14:15 | Sports Green  |
|           | Dancing             | Yr. 4 – Yr. 7 | Xandi                      | 13:45 – 14:45 | Events Centre |
| Thursday  | Soccer              | Yr. 1 – Yr. 3 | Sarah & Heidi              | 13:45 – 14:30 | Sports Green  |
|           | Eisteddfod practise | Yr. 1 – Yr. 7 | Marie                      | 13:45 – 14:15 | Wattle House  |
| Friday    | Edutumble           | Yr. 1 – Yr. 3 | Brian                      | 13:45 – 14:30 | Events Centre |

### Staff Professional Development Days

Both the Primary and the Preschool staff participated in professional development days at the start of the holidays. This included a presentation by an outside professional educational psychologist, Robert Thomas-Starke who shared with pre-primary to Upper Primary staff advice on accommodating neurodivergent pupils and understanding a psychologist's assessment report. Staff reported that they found this informative and interesting. Preschool staff were inspired by Jane Engels's talk about how to prepare the 6-year-old for the move into the Montessori primary school. They also looked at their record keeping and toured one another's classrooms with a view to improvements.

### Holiday Maintenance

We are pleased to have spent time over the holidays upgrading the grounds while the children are on holiday. A vegetable garden is planned to be built in the upper Preschool area and some paving laid to surround the sandpit and the area beside Gate House. The wooden fences and wooden jungle gyms at aftercare were treated and the small jungle gym at aftercare received a facelift. Our pupils are very happy with the new tyre swings that were put up just before the holidays.

### Montessori Equipment purchases

Our Governing Body approved the spend of 2023 funds raised. While the Preschool playground upgrade was a key focus, other smaller items were also approved. Another preschool vegetable garden is planned to be built. New soccer goals have been enjoyed by all the boys of the primary school. Noticeboards are being replaced in a 6-9 class. Our Year 7's received curtains to reduce the glare of the sun on their work. Montessori materials were purchased for every class and will be enjoyed in the future, including fraction pieces which were purchased for the Upper Primary classes to allow the children to understand fractions using materials.