

1996 – 2026

*The Cotswold Country
Montessori School*



30 Years

Dates to note

26 June	Pyjama Day Normal Closing Time
27 June - 6 July	Mid-term Break
29 June - 3 July	Preschool Holiday Care
10 July	Raffle Draw
15 - 24 July	Year 7 Assessments
29 - 30 July	Woodlands Speech afternoons for Year 1 - 7
31 July	SISA Chess at Woodlands
5 August	Entrepreneurs' Day - Wattle House
7 August	Term 2 ends for Preschool and Primary School
7 August	Primary School reports handed out
10 - 21 August	Holiday Care for Preschool
1 September	Term 3 Preschool Opens
2 September	Term 3 Primary School Opens
4 September	Arbor Day celebration
8 September	Primary Parent- Teacher conference
10 September	Preschool Grandparents' Day

The Cotswold News

How to help create more peaceful children

Our Cotswold motto "Learning for Life" supports the development of the whole child. So how do we help children understand their emotions, manage conflict, and build peaceful relationships?

Observation is a cornerstone of Montessori practice. By watching rather than interrupting, adults learn what each child needs. This gentle approach gives children the space to solve problems, make decisions, and navigate challenges independently.

A Prepared Environment ensures order, structure and freedom of choice. Montessori classrooms are intentionally designed to help children feel calm, capable, and safe.

Order and predictability reduce anxiety. Everything has a place, and children learn to return materials to their spot, creating a sense of stability. Child-sized furniture and accessible shelves allow children to complete tasks independently, building self-esteem.

Materials with built-in feedback let children see their own mistakes without adult correction. Errors become natural steps in learning, rather than personal failures, for example, when a child spills while pouring water, the child can self-correct and mop up the spill.

Freedom of movement helps children regulate their bodies and emotions. They can stretch, walk, or change positions as needed rather than sit at desks for long periods.

One copy of each activity teaches children to wait, observe, and respect others' work.

In three-year age groupings, older children become **role models**. They help younger peers and develop empathy. Younger children, in turn, learn by observing and receiving guidance.

Social skills are taught explicitly and practised daily. Children practise how to greet others politely, interrupt respectfully, introduce themselves and resolve disagreements peacefully.

When real conflicts arise, adults don't rush in to "fix" them. Instead they guide children to use tools like the peace table or calm space for pause and reflection. The Peace Rose or 'talking stick' helps children take turns speaking and listening, expressing their feelings honestly and hearing others with respect.

These routines help children build genuine conflict-resolution skills - skills they will use throughout their lives. It's a daily practice that can easily be adapted and used in the home. Through independence, respect, empathy, and thoughtful guidance, our children don't just learn about peace - they live it.



Heidi Fataar - Head of Upper Primary

Notices

Raffle for School Development

Please support the school's efforts to raise funds to keep our grounds and facilities to a high standards for our children to learn from and enjoy. Funds raised will go towards the technology centre and boundary fencing. The raffle draw will take place on the 10th of July.

Sizzling Spur Studies for our Year 7 pupils - 8 July

On the 8th July our Year 7s will be visiting Birchwood Spur for an interactive, behind-the-scenes educational programme aimed to teach basic business and entrepreneurship concepts. They will tour the kitchen and prep areas, and get taught concepts like marketing and customer service.

Year 7 Assessments

Year 7 assessments will be held between Wednesday the 15th and 24th of July. School will close each day at 12h00 for Year 7s.

Rhino Connect Charity Drive - until Friday, 18 July

Families can support protecting wildlife to help orphan rhinos thrive by sending any of the following items to the school:

Long-Life Skimmed Milk

Skim Milk Powder

Long-Life Fat-Free Milk

These can be dropped off at the front office.

Spur Meal Night - dinner with family and friends

Join us on **28th July** at Chatogo Spur and support the learners of The Cotswold Country Montessori School, beginning to learn the ropes of working at the Spur while serving our community meals. This will take place from 5pm. Pop in and enjoy your favourite meals while contributing to our Cotswold Development Funds.

Venue: Dann Rd, Glen Marais

Date & Time: Tuesday, 28 July 2026, 18:00 - 21:00

Please RSVP to secure your spot.

Speech afternoons

Wednesday, 29th July - Year 1, 2, 4 and 5

Thursday, 30th July - Year 3, 6 and 7.

New staff

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Simoné Wilters who will join our preschool as an assistant directress from the 1st of July. Simoné completed her Montessori training practicals at our school and is already well known by our staff and children.



RAFFLE

Enter our Raffle and stand a chance to win an East Rand Mall voucher to the value of R4000, R2000 or R1000!



COTSWOLD COUNTRY MONTESSORI SCHOOL SHADOW SHIFT



28 JULY | FROM 5PM
CHATOGA

SPUR

What makes Sport different in a Montessori School?

Traditional sports programmes often focus more on competition as a means to development, which can leave some children feeling disengaged or left out. This approach doesn't reflect Montessori's inclusive, child-centred philosophy.

In Montessori sport, we invite children to take part because we want them to be active participants in their own growth. The emphasis is on autonomy: children explore sport at their own pace, building intrinsic motivation and a lifelong love for physical activity. Alongside physical skills, Montessori Sport nurtures social and emotional growth, empathy, and teamwork.

Competition is reframed as peaceful, healthy, and rooted in self-improvement rather than comparison. Through Montessori principles, sport becomes a playful way for children to learn essential life skills - managing emotions, collaborating with peers, and overcoming challenges. These are powerful tools for personal growth and social development.

The United Nations recognises sport as a driver of development, a vision that aligns closely with Montessori sport.

At The Cotswold, we encourage parents to support their children in joining our extra-mural sports. These activities offer opportunities for cooperative play, team building, developing leadership, and problem-solving skills - always matched to each child's stage of development.

Let's redefine success in sport: not by medals won, but by confidence gained, friendships formed, and the steady path toward independence and lifelong wellbeing.

Jane Engels - Deputy Principal Directress

Soccer Teams

The boys played really well this season, and showed good spirit on the field and put their best into all their games. We are very proud of them.



School Open Day and Free Montessori Workshop for children with their parents

On 30 May the school had a lovely turnout of people interested in Montessori who brought their children along to discover what Montessori is all about. Children were able to visit the toddler, 3 - 6 and 6 - 9 environments where staff and some of our children aged 2 to 11 years, were on hand to show them how materials work. Favourite activities included planting, feeding at the duckpond and discovering the wonderful Montessori equipment in the classrooms. It was delightful to see even the littlest ones spooning with concentration and not wanting to leave.



Support for Bafana Bafana at the FIFA World Cup

The opening match was a source of great excitement and support for our South African team. Pupils came to school dressed in green and gold.



Term 2 Extra-mural Timetable from 8 June 2026

Day	Activity	Years	Teacher (s)	Time	Notes
Monday	Mini Tennis	Pre-primary pupils	Karen MacRae	12:35 – 13:00	Tennis Court
	Robotics	Preschool	Botsalot - Jeneen	12:35 – 13:00	Pinelodge
	Soccer Starz	Preschool	Soccer Starz	12:35 – 13:00	Sports Green
	Mini Tennis	Yr. 1 – Yr. 3	Karen MacRae	13:35 – 14:00	Tennis Court
	Robotics	Yr. 1 – Yr. 2	Botsalot – Jeneen	13:35 – 14:15	Events Centre
Tuesday	Dancing	Preschool	Xandi	12:30 – 13:00	Events Centre
	T-ball skills	Yr. 1 – Yr. 3	Sarah & Honor	13:35 – 14:15	Hilder Green
	Choir	Yr. 3 – Yr. 7	Corien	13:50 – 14:30	Ingadi House
	Quiz	Yr. 4 – Yr. 7	Heidi	13:50 – 14:30	Wattle House
Wednesday	Soccer Starz	Preschool	Soccer Starz	12:35 – 13:00	Sports Green
	Europa Football	Yr. 1 – Yr. 3	Soccer Starz	13:35 – 14:10	Hilder Green
	Cross Country	Yr. 3 – Yr. 7	Talissa	13:50 – 14:30	Duckpond lawn
	Learning enrichment (English)	Yr. 4 – Yr. 7	Bronwyn (by invitation)	13:50 – 14:30	Owl's Nest
Thursday	Robotics	Preschool	Botsalot - Janeen	12:35 – 13:00	Pinelodge
	Edutumble	Preschool	Brian	12:35 – 13:00	Above Animal Enclosure
	Robotics	Yr. 3	Botsalot – Jeneen	13:35 – 14:15	Pinelodge
	Chess	Yr. 3 – Yr. 7	Jane	13:50 – 14:45	Gate House
	Recorder Club	Yr. 4 – Yr. 7	Xolani	13:50 – 14:45	Forest
	Learning enrichment (Maths)	Yr. 4 – Yr. 7	Marie (by invitation)	13:50 – 15:30	Casa de Capi
	Robotics	Yr. 4 – Yr. 7	Botsalot – Jeneen	14:30 – 15:15	Events Centre
Friday	Edutumble	Yr. 1 – Yr. 3	Brian	13:45 – 14:30	Events Centre
	Dancing	Preschool	Xandi	13:00 – 13:30	Events Centre
	Dancing	Yr. 1 – Yr. 7	Xandi	13:50 – 14:50	Events Centre

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

New Preschool and Aftercare Times Available

Preschool Early Morning Class opens at 7am

From the 6th of July 2026 our Preschool opening times will change. The Early Morning Class will open at 7am and aftercare will close at 6pm each evening.

Later Aftercare hours till 6pm daily