

1996 – 2026

*The Cotswold Country
Montessori School*



30 Years

Dates to note

29 - 30 July	Woodlands Speech afternoons for Year 1 - 7 TBC
31 July	SISA Chess at Woodlands
4 August	Primary Bicycle Fun Day
5 August	Entrepreneurs' Day - Wattle House
6 August	Preschool Fun Day
6 August	Primary School Incursion - The Mini Science Lab
6 August	SISA Quiz Evening - St Francis
7 August	Preschool and Primary School Term ends 11:00
7 August	Primary School Reports handed out
11 - 21 August	Preschool Holiday Care
1 September	Preschool opens for Term 3
2 September	Primary School opens for Term 3
4 September	Arbor Day - wear Spring Hat
8 September	Primary parent-teacher conferences
10 September	Preschool Grandparents' Day
12 September	Open Day and Montessori workshop for children
18 September	Preschool Show - Hooked on Books
23 September	Heritage Day Dress Up
25 September	Special holiday for Pre & Primary School

The Cotswold News

Does Montessori Mean 'No Rules'?

One of the most common misconceptions about the Montessori method is that children are free to do whatever they want, with few or no rules. In reality, the opposite is true. Montessori offers **freedom within clear boundaries** - an approach that gives children the opportunity to make meaningful choices while learning to respect the limits of their environment and the people around them. From the moment a child enters a Montessori classroom, they are introduced to expectations through **Grace and Courtesy lessons**. These lessons teach practical social skills, respect for others, care for the environment, and how to use materials responsibly. Rather than relying on constant reminders from an adult, children gradually internalise these expectations and learn to regulate their own behaviour.

Within these carefully established boundaries, children are given genuine freedom. For example, they may choose to move independently between the indoor and outdoor environments, caring for both by watering the garden, weeding the vegetable patch, or ensuring the wild birds have fresh seed and water. The freedom lies in choosing their activity and taking responsibility for it; the boundary is understanding that the outdoor environment is a place for purposeful work, not for running off to play.

This **balance of freedom and responsibility is one of the greatest strengths of Montessori education**. When children are trusted to make choices, they begin to trust themselves. They develop confidence in their abilities, learn to make thoughtful decisions, and experience the natural consequences of those decisions in a supportive environment. Over time, they require fewer reminders because self-discipline replaces external control.

The ultimate goal of a Montessori education is not simply to teach academic skills, but to **nurture capable, independent individuals**. By giving children opportunities to think for themselves, solve problems, and make responsible choices, we are helping them develop the confidence, resilience, and initiative they will carry with them throughout their lives. These are the qualities that enable children to grow into adults who can think critically, act responsibly, and contribute creatively to the world around them.



Shannon Du Preez
Preschool Head

Notices

Aftercare hours Reminder

Please note the Preschool Aftercare opening hours: Early morning Care is available from 7:00am. Afternoon Aftercare closes at 6:00pm each evening.

Entrepreneurs' Day - Wednesday, 5th August

We encourage all families in Wattle House to carefully follow the Entrepreneurs' Day health guidelines, particularly our request not to send Coke or other fizzy drinks for children to sell. Entrepreneurs' Day provides a valuable opportunity for children to develop skills in communication, marketing & money management through meaningful, hands-on experiences. It is always a joy to see this learning come to life, as shown by one of our preschoolers recently role-playing how he would market the products he hopes to sell one day.

Primary School Incursion: The Mini Science Lab - 6th August

The Mini Science Lab will do science experiments for our pupils to learn from and enjoy. The experiments to be done include elephant's toothpaste, optical illusions, water suspension and a hydrogen experiment.

School Holidays

Pre- and Primary School close at 11:00 on Friday, 7th August.

Preschool will reopen on Tuesday, 1st September.

Primary School will open on Wednesday, 2nd September.

Preschool Holiday Care Programme

Preschool pupils may attend the Holiday Care Programme from Tuesday, 11th August until Friday, 21st August.

Tuck shop increase

The price of pizza will increase to R20 a slice from Term 3 due to a price increase from our supplier.



Arbor Day - Wear A Spring Hat on the 4th of September

In order to celebrate the start of spring and our annual Arbor Day we will plant a new tree and our pupils will wear spring hats.

HPV Vaccinations for girls aged 9 - 15 years

The Department of Health is conducting HPV vaccinations on 4th September for girls aged 9 - 15 years at the school.

Parent-teacher Conferences - Tuesday, 8th September

Primary school reports will be sent home on Friday, 7th August. A parent-teacher conference will be held on Tuesday, 8th September so teachers and parents can discuss their child's progress.

Preschool Grandparents' Day - Thursday, 10th September

To celebrate the nurturing role that grandparents play in the lives of children, our grandparents are invited to garden with their grandchildren in allocated flower beds around the preschool. They are encouraged to bring the implements needed to water, weed, prune or plant. Everyone will have a picnic in the house gardens and grandchildren can then show off their classrooms and playgrounds.

Maintenance upgrades

The toddler environment is enjoying a playground upgrade with the addition of a beautiful natural play structure. Designed with Montessori principles in mind, it will provide safe, age-appropriate opportunities for purposeful movement as toddlers climb small stairs and ramps, strengthening their coordination, confidence and independence.



Preschool lunches available to order

Freshly prepared, nutritious lunches are available for Preschool children Monday to Thursday. Meals cost R45 each, and the monthly lunch menu is sent home in children's communication books. Orders and payments are made in advance directly with the supplier. Friday remains Tuck Shop day, so this service is not available on Fridays.

MONDAY 29 June	TUESDAY 30 June	WEDNESDAY 1 July	THURSDAY 2 July	FRIDAY 3 July
Puff pastry chicken pot pie	Beef Cottage pie	Chicken fried rice	Roast beef with gravy, roast potatoes & butternut fritters	Tuck shop
6 July	7 July	8 July	9 July	10 July
Ground beef and potato with grilled mozzarella & cheddar	Creamy chicken & broccoli pasta with cheese	Pot roast beef in tomato sauce on mash potato	Crispy baked fish sticks with cheesy corn gem squash	Tuck shop
13 July	14 July	15 July	16 July	17 July
Taco chicken & rice casserole with creamy cheese crust	Saucy steak strips with potato wedges	Chicken strips with mini broccoli, bacon & cheddar quiche	Meat balls in creamy sauce on mash potato	Tuck shop
20 July	21 July	22 July	23 July	24 July
Saucy pot roast beef with potato wedges	Boneless pork chop with mash potato	Meatballs with cheesy cauliflower bake	Chicken drumstick with broccoli cheese frittata	Tuck shop
27 July	28 July	29 July	30 July	31 July
Baked chicken taquitos	Steak strips with potato wedges	Honey chicken with cheesy corn gem squash	Cheesy beef crunch pocket	Tuck shop

Thank you for Rhino Milk Donations

Thanks to the generosity of our families, enough milk was donated to feed a baby rhino for two weeks. Supporting this rhino-care initiative helps our children see that even small acts of kindness can make a meaningful difference, nurturing compassion, responsibility and a lifelong respect for the natural world.



School Raffle

Our annual raffle makes a valuable contribution to the school's development fund, helping to provide resources and improvements that enrich our children's learning environment. We are sincerely grateful to every family who supported this year's raffle.

The raffle draw was a highlight for the children. Congratulations to Luyolo Roboshi, winner of the first prize, Joshua Pollen's mother, winner of the second prize and the Ouhdram family, winners of the third prize. We also congratulate Riley Witherden and Joshua Pollen, who sold the most raffle tickets and earned the top seller's prize.



Upper Primary Projects - Natural Disasters

Our year 7 classroom was buzzing with excitement as our learners immersed themselves in the powerful world of natural disasters. To truly understand how our planet works, these creative students built incredible, interactive models of volcanoes, earthquakes, and floods. Through this hands-on project, they didn't just read about Earth's forces, they saw them in action, witnessing how tectonic plates shift, how rising waters impact landscapes and how volcanoes erupt.



It was a fantastic week of deep learning and our learners enjoyed sharing their knowledge with the younger preschool, lower primary and upper primary pupils.

Year 7 Real-Life Learning At Birchwood Spur

A wonderful morning was spent experiencing the inner workings of the Spur. Children learnt how a restaurant runs and the roles various staff play. The delicious burger at the end of the visit was a real treat. The school appreciates the time the staff at the Spur took to share their work with our children.



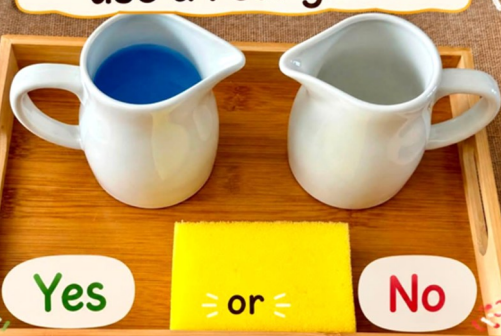
Term 3 Extra-mural Timetable - from 7 September 2026

The following school extra-murals start on Monday, 7 September 2026 and the timetable is as follows:

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	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
	Soccer Starz	Preschool	Soccer Starz	12:35 – 13:00	Sports Green
	Mini Tennis	Pre-primary	Karen MacRae	12:35 – 13:00	Tennis Court
	Robotics	Preschool	Botsalot - Jeneen	12:35 – 13:00	Pinelodge
Tuesday	T-ball	Yr. 2 – Yr. 3	Jane	13:45 – 14:30	Hilder Green
	General knowledge	Yr. 4 – Yr. 7	Marie	13:50 – 14:30	Wattle House
	Concert practice	Yr. 1 – Yr. 7	Heidi	13:50 – 14:30	Events Centre
	Cross Country	Yr. 1 – Yr. 7	Talissa & Sarah	13:50 – 14:30	Duckpond lawn
Wednesday	Europa Football	Yr. 1 – Yr. 3	Soccer Starz	13:30 – 14:10	Hilder Green
	Knitting & crochet	Yr. 1 – Yr. 3	Bronwyn	13:50 – 14:30	Tree House
	Singing Club	Yr. 3 – Yr. 7	Corien	13:50 – 14:30	Guinea Fowl H
	Maths support	Yr. 6 – Yr. 7	Marie (invitation only)	13:50 – 14:30	Wattle House
	Soccer Starz	Preschool	Soccer Starz	12:35 – 13:00	Sports Green
Thursday	Recorder Club	Yr. 4 – Yr. 7	Xolani	13:45 – 14:45	Forest
	English support	Yr. 1 – Yr. 7	Bronwyn (invitation only)	13:45 – 14:30	Tree House
	Robotics	Yr. 3	Botsalot – Jeneen	13:30 – 14:30	Pinelodge
	Robotics	Yr. 4 – Yr. 7	Botsalot – Jeneen	14:30 – 15:30	Events Centre
	Robotics	Preschool	Botsalot - Janeen	12:30 – 13:00	Pinelodge
	Edutumble	Preschool	Brian	12:30 – 13:00	Duckpond lawn
	T-ball	Yr. 1	Sarah & Honor	13:45 – 14:30	Hilder Green
Friday	Edutumble	Yr. 1 – Yr. 3	Brian	13:45 – 14:30	Events Centre
	Cross Country	Yr. 1 – Yr. 7	Talissa	13:50 – 14:30	Duckpond lawn
	Dancing	Preschool	Xandi	13:00 – 13:30	Events Centre
	Dancing	Yr. 1 – Yr. 7	Xandi	13:50 – 14:50	Events Centre

Would you let your child use a real glass?



Many parents worry that a child might break a glass, so plastic often feels like the safer option.

When a plastic cup is dropped, it often bounces without consequence. A glass, on the other hand, may break, helping children learn to handle fragile items with greater care. Offering glassware also sends a powerful message of trust, showing children that they are capable and responsible. Using sturdy or tempered glass can help children develop mindfulness, responsibility, and an understanding of real-world consequences.

Of course, accidents happen. A broken glass can become a valuable learning opportunity, even for toddlers. Parents

can calmly model safe behaviour by guiding children away from the area, then demonstrating how to carefully clean up using a broom and dustpan. These experiences help children build confidence, responsibility, and practical life skills in a supportive environment.