



PARENT INFORMATION EVENING 2025

Grade R

Wednesday 15th January 2025

Dear Parents / Guardians,

We are excited about the year ahead and look forward to getting to know you as the parents/ guardians of the learners whom you have entrusted into our care. We aim to teach and develop the whole learner to become capable and self-sufficient.

- **School times**

- Pupils should be at school every morning by 7h20 as the first lesson commences at 7h30. Kindly ensure punctuality for school.
- School ends at 12h30 (Mon - Fri).
- Regular school attendance is important for your child to benefit optimally.

- **Extra-Mural Activities (After school sport) (To be confirmed)**

- Sport is compulsory for all Grade R pupils. Your child is expected to participate in at least one sport every term.
- Extra mural activities will occur from Monday to Thursday, 12h30 – 13h30.
- Please ensure your child brings his/her swimming kit to school on the allocated days.
- If your child wears his/ her school tracksuit, please ensure that the navy shorts are sent to school for sport on that day.
- Swimming – Requirements: school swimming costumes and a towel. The school will provide a cap for swimming until your child has been placed into their schoolhouse.
- All kits must be packed into PE bags.
- Swimming
- Mini Tennis
- Ball Skills
- If your child does not attend sport on a specific day, he/ she will either go home from the gate, or down to After Care.

- **Communication**

- The Communication Book is used to send letters and information to the parents.
- Please check these books daily. Should there be a newsletter or any other form of communication, please ensure it is signed in acknowledgement. If a written note is sent home, please respond, if necessary, or reply with the word 'noted' and the date, if a reply is not needed.
- **Homework Bags must please come to school every day.**
- The D6 Communicator will be used to communicate with parents.
- Parents can also communicate with the teacher via email:
 - Mrs M Mann (Gr RMM) Email: mrsmmann@npps.co.za
 - Mrs C Goss (Gr RCG) Email: mrscgoss@npps.co.za



- **Assemblies**

- Assembly will take place on Wednesday at 7h30.
- The class will be allocated a slot for a class assembly during the year which parents will be invited to attend. Parents' presence at this assembly would be greatly valued. It will be approximately 20 minutes long. Parents will be notified timeously about it.

Special Days in Term 1

- **Meet and Greet the Headmaster**

The children will be introduced to the Headmaster on Wednesday, 22 January 2025.

- **Topsy-Turvy Day**

On Friday, 21 February 2025, the pupils will wear their clothes inside out and upside down.

- **Primary Colour Dress-Up Day**

The Grade Rs will dress in clothes using primary colours: red, yellow and blue.

- **Grade R Outing:**

This outing will take place on Thursday, 20 March 2025. The pupils will visit Le Petite Playhouse. There will be a cost to the parents for this excursion.

- **Learning in Grade R**

- An integrated teaching and learning approach is used in Grade R: English Home Language, Mathematics and Life Skills are taught.
- Your son/daughter will be learning through play. Every activity planned has been done with a purpose in mind.
- Many fun educational activities are planned during the year for the children, encouraging a love for learning and being at school.
- The Beehive runs on its programme which is different from the Foundation Phase. The lessons consist of School Readiness Activities which are teacher-directed and small group activities. There are also rings which take place daily. There are Free Play times where pupils engage in sensory activities and fantasy activities.
- There will also be a half-hour lesson for the Media Centre and Music each week.
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- **Toilet Routine**

- The children are regularly taken to the toilet during the day by the teachers and the Grade R assistant, Ms S Mbuyazi.
- Please note that your child must be fully toilet trained.
- An extra set of marked clothing (navy blue civvies) must be sent to school in case of an emergency.



● Stationery / Requirements

- All stationery used in Grade R, is provided by the school.
- The following items are needed for Grade R:
 - 1 empty 2-litre ice cream tub
 - 3 boxes of tissues
 - 1 wide-brimmed navy sun hat with the school badge

● Uniform

- This is compulsory for all Grade R pupils.
- Beehive shirts and school tracksuits are available at the school's Uniform Shop.
- **All items must be labelled with the child's name and surname, kept clean and replaced if broken.**
- Navy shorts, scarves, hats, beanies, and gloves may be worn.
- Only white vests are to be worn under the Beehive shirts and school tracksuit tops and jerseys are permitted.
- Please do not iron the tracksuit.
- No school shoes are required. Flip flops, tackies or Crocs (plain navy, black or white are preferred, no multi-coloured.)
- Children will remove their shoes upon arrival at the classroom and put them on again before they go home.

● Homework and Language Development

- No formal Homework is given to Grade R pupils.
- There are important activities which, must be done at home to develop your child. These must be done daily for them to help your child progress accordingly.
- Your child needs to be flooded with English to give your child a fair chance of success. **By the time your son/daughter starts Grade One, he /she must be able to speak and understand English.** You will be required to spend time at home exposing your child to English. The family needs to set aside time at home each day to speak some English.
- Your child needs to listen to English stories being read to them.
- Audio Books can be purchased and used regularly.
- Your child is already watching television programmes in English. Strict monitoring of screen time is necessary. Programmes watched must be age-appropriate and educational. Your child should not spend more than an hour in front of the television set each day.

● Core Muscle Development

- Your child's core muscles are those that surround the abdomen, pelvis and back.
- Core muscles need to be developed for your child to be able to assume an upright posture when standing and sitting. A child with poor core strength will also have difficulty with fine motor skills such as handwriting, as well as in gross motor activities like school sports.
- Please monitor your child's posture when watching television. Make your child sit up. Discourage your child from lying on the couch or floor.
- Core muscles can also be strengthened by the following activities:
 - Playing with balls: soccer and tennis balls
 - Jumping on a trampoline
 - Eating meals at a table
 - Climbing on a jungle gym
 - Riding bicycles/ scooters



- Kicking a ball
- Skipping with a skipping rope

● **Fine Motor Skills**

- Fine motor skills involve the use of small muscles in our hands, wrists, fingers, feet, and toes. These are very important for doing everyday activities.
- **It is very important that these skills need to be developed this year.**
- Such activities need to be engaged in at least 4 or 5 times a week.
- Fine motor skills can be promoted by doing the following activities:
 - playing with playdough, (A playdough recipe has been included in your child's Communication Book.)
 - building puzzles, (starting with a 6-piece puzzle and going up to a 24-piece puzzle by the end of the year)
 - drawing pictures,
 - colouring-in,
 - painting,
 - cutting out pictures with scissors,
 - bath time play, sand play,
 - building with blocks and Lego,
 - using kitchen tongs or tweezers,
 - threading and lacing,
 - picking things up with a clothes peg.

● **Developing a Curiosity for the World**

- The importance of stimulating your child cannot be overemphasised.
- Encourage your child to be curious about the world around them by asking lots of questions as to why things are as they are. Try your best to improve your child's general knowledge. Engage in meaningful discussions with your child.
 - Take your child outside at night and look at the insects in the garden.
 - Watch educational television programmes with your child.
 - Read simple knowledge books to your child.
 - Discuss pictures of interest.
 - Take your child to places of interest like the Museum or Queen Elizabeth Park.

● **Diet**

- Your child must please eat breakfast at home before coming to school. Please ensure your child eats a suitable breakfast such as cereal, porridge, etc. Please avoid skipping breakfast as this creates unhealthy eating habits.
- Please monitor your child's intake of sugar. Please do not permit your child to eat sweets, chips, fast food, or fizzy drinks daily. These should be consumed in strict moderation. Kindly encourage a healthy diet of fruit, vegetables, meat, etc.
- Kindly refer to lunch box ideas in the pupils' Communication Book.
- Pupils will **not** be allowed to bring treats to school Monday – Thursday. If treats are brought to school in the week, these will be put away for safekeeping until Friday. Pupils will be allowed 1 small treat on a Friday. Please avoid canned drinks, sparkling water, and larger packed treats such as slabs of chocolate and large packets of chips and biscuits.



- Kindly avoid canned drinks as these contain too much to be finished at a time.
- Water bottles are encouraged daily. On Wednesdays we encourage water only, so no juice is allowed.
- Kindly refrain from sending Energy/Powerade drinks to school.

- **Library**
 - There will be one Library lesson per week. Specific days will follow in pupils' Communication Books.
 - Pupils must have their own, marked library bag. These can be purchased at the school's Uniform Shop. Should a child not have a library bag, he/she cannot take out a library book.
 - Pupils are to bring their library books on the allocated days and can take 1 new book out each week.
 - Remember that your child cannot read, so parents will be required to read these books to their children. The pictures can be used to generate discussion and promote vocabulary expansion.
 - Library books need to be read daily so that new words can be consolidated. Listening and comprehension skills will also be developed through this exercise.
 - It is so important that a love for reading needs to be grown, as reading is a vital skill which will affect your child's academic performance throughout their schooling career.
 - How to care for books will be covered in the classroom. It is important that parents also ensure that books are looked after properly at home.
 - Lost or damaged books will need to be replaced by parents.

- **Stationery / Requirements**
 - All stationery used in Grade R is provided by the school.
 - The following items are needed for Grade R:
 - 1 empty 2-litre ice cream tub
 - 3 boxes of 180 tissues
 - 1 wide-brimmed navy sun hat with the school badge

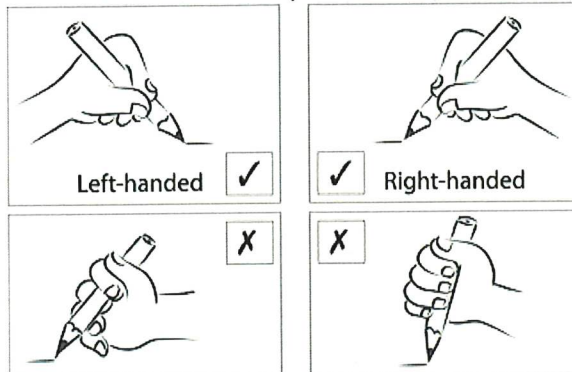
- **Departmental Workbooks**
 - These books are used in Grade R as supplementary teaching and learning material.

- **Pencil Grip**

Parents are requested to encourage their child to hold a pencil, crayons, or pencil crayons correctly. Incorrect pencil grip is difficult to unlearn and, also results in learners battling to keep up with the volume of written work in later grades. Grade R pupils are encouraged to use the thicker, shaped pencils.



The correct way to hold a pencil



- **Discipline, Routine and Bedtime**

- Please teach your child how to behave acceptably when he/she interacts with other people. Please teach your child to say: "Please" and "Thank you". Kindly be reminded that as a parent you are responsible for your child's behaviour at school.
- Please teach good values at home such as kindness, integrity, consideration for others, no littering, etc.
- A bedtime of no later than 19h00. This is very important. Please do not allow your child to stay up later than 19h00 on a Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday night. If your child is tired, he/she cannot perform optimally at school. Friday and Saturday evenings allow for a later bedtime as there is no school the following day. Please do not allow your child to dictate their bedtime to you.
- Please ensure that there is routine (a sequence of actions which are regularly followed) in the home. Routine helps your child to feel safe and secure, develops life skills and builds healthy habits.
- Encourage independence in your child by doing the following:
 - Teach your child to tie his/her shoelaces.
 - Allocate simple chores to them at home and make them help at home.
 - Tidying up their bedroom.
 - Dressing themselves.
 - Eating meals independently.
 - Looking after their belongings such as toys.
- Learners must dress THEMSELVES, as this assists them when changing for swimming.
 - Pupils need to know how to fasten buttons, zips, laces, and belts.
 - They also need to know how to put on and take off their costumes and swimming caps WITHOUT assistance.
 - Pupils MUST be able to tie their shoelaces. If they cannot yet do so, then it needs to be worked on as a matter of urgency.
 - Pupils can wear sandals (flip-flops) on hotter days and closed shoes on colder days.

- **Aftercare**

- If your child is enrolled at the Aftercare, kindly note that incidents that occur at the Aftercare need to be resolved by the Aftercare staff. Parents regularly bring matters that arise at the Aftercare to the class teachers. Parents are encouraged to contact Mrs Lwazi Magasela who heads up the Aftercare.
Mrs L Magasela Email: mrslmagasela@npps.co.za



- Your child's teacher has made a label for your child's school bag and lunch bag. Each grade's labels have been colour-coded to help your child identify their bag more easily. The Grade R labels are white. Please check regularly that your child has not removed these labels. Frequently incorrect bags are taken, and this causes unnecessary disruptions in the classrooms the following day.

- **Parent Interviews**
Will be held towards the end of Terms 1 and 3. All parents/guardians will be expected to attend these at a time and date which is suitable for both parties.

- **Medication and Absenteeism**
 - Kindly be reminded that the school may not issue any form of medication unless written permission has been received from the parent/guardian with clear written instructions.
 - Medication is kept in the classroom safe which is kept locked.
 - If your child is ill and will not benefit from being at school, kindly keep them at home until he/ she feels better.
 - If your child has a cough but is not sick enough to stay at home, please send him/ her to school with a mask. This is to protect everyone in the classroom.
 - Kindly ensure that your child attends school regularly. Your child should only miss school unless it is necessary.
 - **If your child is absent from school, a written letter of excuse is required. This can be written in the Communication book or on a sheet of paper.**
 - If your child is going to be away from school for a prolonged period, please notify the teacher so that work can be prepared so that your child does not fall behind.
 - If your child has been in contact with a contagious disease, the school is required to notify them immediately.
 - It is important to ensure that your child visits the dentist twice a year. This should avoid children suffering from toothache or having to be absent from school because dental care has been neglected.

- **Birthdays**
 - Parents are encouraged to communicate with the class teacher via email to arrange any treats that they may wish to send for their child's birthday.
 - Sending birthday treats to school is the parent's choice and is not compulsory.
 - Cupcakes and/ or party packs are preferred.
 - No large cakes are to be sent to school, please.
 - All items must please be dropped off no later than 9h30. These can be left at the guard hut at the school entrance.

- **Anti-Waste**
 - Any material that can be reused for building/ making things (art projects) at school, for example, toilet roll cylinders, polystyrene trays, egg boxes, and cereal boxes, can be sent to school on a Tuesday. Kindly ensure that items are clean before sending them to school.

- **Tuckshop**
 - Pupils can go to the Tuckshop on a Friday as a treat. They will be permitted to spend no more than R20. This is the parent's choice.



- **Money**

- Restrict the amount of cash that you give your child.
Please use the money pouch in your child's Communication Book.
- Always write in the Communication Book or on a piece of paper what the money is to be spent on, as children often do not know what the money is for.
- Please try to give your child the exact amount of money required.
- **Do not** give your child school fees to pay in cash. The finance office will not accept cash payments.
- The school has a credit card facility for such payments.
- School fees and other large amounts must be paid for, either by direct deposit or an EFT, into the school's bank account.
- The school's banking details are as follows:

Account Holder: Northern Park Primary School
Account Number: 1130 582 779
Name of Bank: NEDBANK
Branch: TAJ Centre
Branch Code: 198 765
Reference: Child's surname, name, and account code

We look forward to a happy and productive year.

Yours faithfully

Mrs M Mann
HEAD OF GRADE R

Ms A Nortje
DEPARTMENTAL HEAD

Mr Neelan Pillay
HEADMASTER