



NEWSLETTER 10 - 1 October 2019

School Newsletters are also available on the School's webpage at www.stmartinspreprimary.co.za

Dear Parents

*Santa Claus is on his way
How many sleeps until the day?
In the meantime, we'll be busy
Preparing for him in a tizzy.
Glitter and tinsel and paint and glue
Bringing decorations home to you.
Carolling in voices clear
Celebrating Christmas with November-cheer!*

It's the last term of the school year! Where has the time gone?!

We have lots of joyous fun ahead, please diarise the dates and join us

PROGRAMME ORGANISERS
Our umbrella theme for the term is **CELEBRATIONS**.



If you can help us with these displays in any way, we would be delighted!

Date	Literacy	Life Skills	Numeracy
30 Sept	Flowers	Weddings	Tall & Short
17 Oct	How A Plant Grows	Anniversaries	One-to-One Correspondence
31 Oct	Baby Animals	Birthdays	Wet & Dry
13 Nov	Stars	Christmas	Where Does It Go?



ENTERTAINMENT AND TALKS

These will add to our understanding and extend our Programme Organisers this term.

WED 16 OCTOBER	Flower Arranging Gill Rootman
WED 23 OCTOBER	Celebrations Mim & John
WED 13 NOVEMBER	South Africa



The Grade R classes will be focussing on "NUMBER" this term, as the children come to the end of the School Readiness Programme.

DADS' AND KIDS' NIGHT

On **FRI 18 OCTOBER**, we invite all Dads to join us for an evening of fatherhood and fun!
(From 5.30 p.m. **SHARP** until ±7.30 p.m.)

The School will be set out as per usual and Dads and their kids can discover the joys of painting, hammering, doing a puzzle, riding a bike, having a hair-do (!) or whatever together. Please complete the attached Reply Slip.

HELPERS' DAY

Helpers' Day will be held on **WEDNESDAY 30 OCTOBER**.



A very important person in most South African households is the domestic helper.

Some of these women and men collect children at Hometime, so we know them by name. We will honour all our domestic helpers and thank them for what they do for the children by having a Helpers' Day.

As part of this, each child will decorate a small cake box to be filled with goodies to go home as a treat for their Helper.

EACH and every CHILD SHOULD BRING IN A PLATE OF EATS (for ten persons) FOR THIS PURPOSE.

Please cut up cakes/tarts or provide individual cookies/biscuits/scones to assist in the packing of the boxes.

YOUR HELPERS' DAY CONTRIBUTION SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL FIRST THING IN THE MORNING, AT DROP-OFF TIME, BY 8.00 a.m.

Please fill in the attached Reply Slip ASAP if your Helper will be able to attend. An invitation will be sent out once these slips have been received.

Also, please indicate if you are able to assist with tea pouring and cake box packing.

ORIENTATION VISITS



Our "newies" will be visiting the School this term, on **WED 9 and THURS 10 OCTOBER**, to familiarise themselves with our environment and meet the teachers.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES



Our "Christmas Rings" are always the highlight of this term. The dates are:

TUES	26 NOVEMBER	RG Nativity Play
WED	27 NOVEMBER	YG Christmas Ring PG Christmas Ring
THURS	28 NOVEMBER	BG Christmas Ring GG Christmas Ring
FRI	29 NOVEMBER	OG Nativity Play

These take place in the mornings, at 9.30 a.m., further details will follow closer to the time.

Carols by Torchlight is scheduled for **THURS 21 NOVEMBER**. This is a happy and moving event involving all of the children in carolling and Christmas karaoke! With



a "bring your own" picnic afterwards. An invitation will come home soon.

A very big thank you to those Mums who have helped to prepare the Christmas creative materials - you will soon see the fruits of your labours

STAFFING

Aah! Tayler Gild's (Blue Group teacher) English adventure is about to start - we always knew that Tayler would only be with us for a year but what a blessing she has proven. God bless you, dearest Tayler. May St Martin's inform your teaching in the future and always bring happy memories.



Our new "Mummies " will be back at the beginning of next year. Caleb, Paola's son, and Sthelo, Senzi's son, are too precious! Our sincere thanks go to Laurelle Smith who took over the After-Care when Sthelo came early.

It has been wonderful having Laurelle back in the fold, so we have actually done some reshuffling for the new year, so we can keep her with us. The teacher allocations for 2020 will be as follows:

Red Group: Kate Baker and Senzi Mashinini

Orange Group: Tiny Majola and Goodness Moyana

Blue Group: Paola Nkomo and Simone Davids

Green Group: Melanie Kendall-Ball and Londisiwe Majozi

Yellow Group: Nina Davis and Nozipho Mhlungu

Purple Group: Claire Panagiotopoulos and Cindy Moore

After-Care: Laurelle Smith and Rachel Sithole

The children will be informed of their new groups in the last week of the term - all of the classes get "mixed up" from year to year

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES

The year is almost done and I would encourage you to say "goodbye" to your child at the gate in the mornings.

This routine is a good one to establish for the Red and Orange Groups before starting JP School.

Similarly, the Blue and Green Groups can gear themselves up for the senior groups next year. Children in the Yellow and Purple Groups may or may not come in on their own, according to their own preference.

All children should, by this time of the year, be walking in/out on their own and carrying their own school bags, thereby demonstrating self-management and independence. They are also all expected to unpack their own cases.

You are naturally welcome to bring your child in if you need to speak to the teacher, pay Dee, or whatever. However, parents who arrive after 8.00 a.m. will have to say goodbye at the gate.

We will be doing Christmas activities first thing in the mornings this term, **STARTING AT 8.00 A.M. SHARP**, so arriving on time is even more important!



SNACK

The mid-morning snack is just that - a little energy boost and the chance to enjoy some social engagement.

Please do not send too much food. A one-slice sandwich and a piece of fruit, or a similar amount of food, is quite sufficient.

Your child will eat what they need - please do not become upset if he/she does not finish all the snack - if food is coming home, you are sending too much. We want to discourage over-eating in "our" children.

TOY WASHING

It is customary for all of our construction and outdoor toys to go home this term, for a good wash.

In this way, we are able to maintain our equipment to a good standard and share the

load of this not too pleasant task - and the kids love doing the scrubbing in the bath! Each **and every** family will receive a "pile" of toys on **TUES 29 OCTOBER**.



They should be washed and returned to the School as soon as possible after that date but by **WED 6 NOVEMBER** at the latest. (With due care being taken to return **all** the "bits", pleeeezel!) I think I can feel some "Fizzer-bribery" coming on!

Please complete the attached Reply Slip, indicating whether or not you have a dishwasher; this will influence which toys we send home with you!

JUNK FOOD AND DRESS-UP DAY

We will see out the year with a flourish and dress up on break-up day, **WED 4 DECEMBER**. Please note, this is just a bit of fun

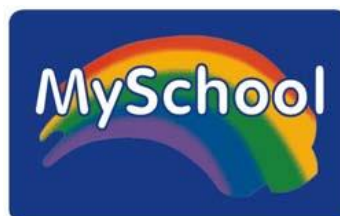
- do not spend an excessive amount of time or money in creating your child's costume.



The Grade R Teachers would like their children's dress-up outfits to have a "literary touch", a la a Sounds Dress-Up Parade. Your Grade R child may choose a letter of the alphabet and then you may dress him/her as the appropriate Letter.

Each child may also bring ALL their favourite junk food (usually forbidden at School!) to enjoy at Snacktime.

OTHER MATTERS



Please don't forget to use your **MY SCHOOL CARD** over the festive season.

Serina has Application Forms if you do not have a card

Five of the staff are writing **EXAMS** this term, as part of their UNISA Degrees. We wish them every success!

On **RE-CYCLING MONDAYS**, please sort cardboard boxes/cartons, e.g. cereal cartons, tea boxes, light bulb boxes, biscuit boxes, etc. into the



coloured anti-waste boxes before filling up the "Paper" wheelie-bin. We need them for box construction! Also, please collect stamps, postcards and greeting cards for us. We like **WASHED** eggshells too!

So, here's to a busy and happy term

Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbie".

B J Daniel
PRINCIPAL

- Share your compliments, concerns or constructive criticisms via admin@smartinspreprimary.co.za or place an anonymous note in the Communication Box under the Patio Noticeboard.
- Prayer requests may be submitted in the Prayers' Box in the Office.
- Visit our webpage at www.smartinspreprimary.co.za.
- GB & PA Committee Minutes are available for perusal on the Noticeboard in the Big/Blue Room.
- Find us on Facebook.
- Member of ISASA:
- We support MySchool:

