

**TWENTY  
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25**



## Pre-School Newsletter

TERM 1 | ISSUE 6 | **TURTLE EDITION 2025**



# Developing Scissor Skills



Dear Parents

It has been a busy few months exploring and creating in the Turtle Class. We have been focusing on developing our scissor skills and we are excited to share with you their progress in learning to cut with scissors! Mastering scissor skills is an essential part of Fine Motor development, the movement of opening and closing scissors strengthens the small muscles in the hands necessary for gripping and manipulating objects. Hand-eye coordination, cutting along lines or shapes requires visual tracking, which improves the connection between the eyes and hands. Cutting skills also help develop bilateral coordination, which involves being able to use both hands together, one holding the scissors and the other stabilising the paper. It is the ability to use both sides of their bodies, not to mention the pure joy of just being able to be creative!

### Correct Grip

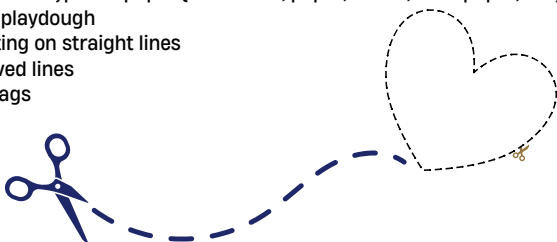
To ensure proper scissor control, it is essential to teach your child the correct way to hold a pair of scissors.

- Place thumbs up and fingers wrapped around the loops
- Hold scissors at a 45-degree angle
- Keep fingers relaxed and not too tight

### Class Activities

In class, we have been practising cutting with various textures such as:

- Different types of paper (cardboard, paper, tissue, newspaper, magazines) and playdough
- Cutting on straight lines
- Curved lines
- Zigzags



## Supporting Scissor Development at Home

You can help your child improve their scissor skills at home with these fun activities:

- **Playdough Creations:** Make or buy playdough and let your child cut and shape it with blunt nose or safety scissors. Rolling long snakes and snipping it up for example.
- **Paper fun:** Provide various types of paper (cardboard, paper, tissue and newspaper) for your child to practise cutting.
- **Collage Making:** Gather materials like glue, scissors, and colourful paper, and let your child create their own collages.
- **Scissor Obstacles Course:** Set up a simple obstacle course using paper or cardboard shapes, and have your child cut through them.

## Tips for Supporting Scissor Development

- Always supervise your child when using scissors
- Start with blunt nose, safety scissors
- Encourage your child to hold scissors correctly
- Practise cutting different textures and shapes

By working together, we can help our children develop their scissor skills and become confident creators!

Happy Cutting!



*Mrs Cheryl Chaplin*  
GRADE 00 - TURTLE CLASS TEACHER



# Shrove Tuesday: Pancake Day Flipping Fun!

This **Shrove Tuesday** was extra special as the children got a hands-on lesson in pancake-making!

They started by learning about the key ingredients that were given up for the fasting period of Lent—flour, eggs and milk. Then, the excitement grew as they watched the pancakes sizzling in the pan, flipping high before landing perfectly golden.

The sweet smell filled the air, making everyone eager for the best part ... tasting! The pancake team managed to break the pancake record with **2000 pancakes in less than 3 hours**. Each child enjoyed a warm, delicious pancake fresh off the pan. With smiles and sticky fingers, it was a Shrove Tuesday to remember!





# Ash Wednesday - 5th March

On Wednesday the 5th of March, we celebrated **Ash Wednesday**, marking the beginning of the Lent season. It was a meaningful day for our school community as we reflected on the themes of repentance, renewal and preparation for Easter.

A special moment on the day was when our Grade Os visited Fr Jerome in the Chapel. For many of them it was their first time experiencing this important tradition. They listened attentively, learning about the significance of Ash Wednesday with an age-appropriate teaching.

**As we journey through Lent, we look forward to embracing kindness, reflection and growth together as a school family.**



May this Lent be a season of grace for you and your loved ones - a season that will lead you to realise how much you are loved and cared for by God.

*Have a Blessed Lent!*



# Dates to Diarise

Friday, 21 March

Human Rights Day (Public Holiday)

Monday, 31 March

Parent/Guardian-Teacher Meetings

Tuesday, 1 April

Parent/Guardian-Teacher Meetings

Thursday, 3 April

Easter Fun Day! | Marshmallow Drive

Friday, 4 April

End of Term 1 | School Closes at 11h30

Tuesday, 6 May

School Starts for Term 2



## Parent/Guardian-Teacher Conversations

You will soon receive a booking form link on your child's class WhatsApp group for your **Parent/Guardian-Teacher Conversations** to discuss your child's progress in Term 1.

These meetings are compulsory as they provide a valuable opportunity to review your child's achievements, address any concerns and set goals for the rest of the school year, if need be.

Please be sure to complete the Google form via the link on the WhatsApp group to select a suitable time for your meeting.

We look forward to working together to support your child's learning journey.

**Thank you!**

## Birthdays!



A WEEK-LONG BIRTHDAY BASH

### Upcoming Birthdays

9 March	11 March	12 March
Zayna Limbada & Rudra Rattan	Leshariya Rammanhor	Zendaya Khulu & Stephens Alexia

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

# Help Us Make a Difference: Human Rights Day Sanitation Drive!

This **Human Rights Day** we want to unite to uphold one of the fundamental rights that every South African deserves—**the right to proper sanitation**. The Pre-School is launching a special **Sanitation Drive** and we will appreciate your support!

Access to sanitation is essential for good health, dignity and overall well-being. Many communities across South Africa still struggle with access to basic sanitary products and we have the opportunity to make a meaningful difference.

## Items that can be donated:

- ✓ Toothbrushes & toothpaste
- ✓ Toilet paper
- ✓ Cleaning products (Handy Andy, Sunlight, Jik, Omo, etc.)
- ✓ Soap & handwash
- ✓ Sanitary pads & other hygiene essentials
- ✓ Face cloths

Every small contribution can have a big impact! Let us teach our children the values of kindness, generosity and the importance of helping others.

## How to donate:

Drop off your donations at the Pre-School between Monday, 1 March and Thursday, 20 March. Every item collected will be donated to Project Feed the Children who will distribute to families and communities in need.

**Together, we can make a difference** – one hygiene product at a time!

Thank you for your generosity and support!

“A FUNDAMENTAL CONCERN FOR OTHERS IN OUR INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY LIVES WOULD GO A LONG WAY IN MAKING THE WORLD THE BETTER PLACE WE SO PASSIONATELY DREAM OF.”

**NELSON MANDELA**



# Looking for an After School Activity?

## Join The Adventure With **SCOUTS!**

Are You Ready For Fun, Adventure  
And Leadership?

Join Scouts For Adventure,  
Skills And New Friendships!

### What We Offer

- Exciting Outdoor Adventures
- Leadership & Life Skills
- Community Service
- Merit Badges

Boys and Girls can join

Meerkats: Ages 5 - 6

Cubs: Ages 7 - 10

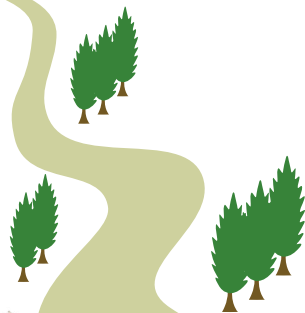
Scouts: Ages 11-17

Meetings are held on Fridays:  
Meerkats: 16:15 to 17:15  
Cubs: 17:30 to 19:00  
Scouts: 19:00 to 21:15

6th Benoni Scout Group  
2 Hanckam Street, Northmead



0834159582



## Meerkats stand tall . . .

5 - 6 year old boys & girls

Being a Meerkat takes you on the Meerkat Trail where you learn practical skills, whilst playing games and completing various fun challenges. Meerkats is an ECD programme that addresses real local needs.



play, make new friends, discover  
the world around you, learn lots  
of interesting things & explore,...



WWW.Scouts.org.za



**EAST RAND  
YOUTH ORCHESTRA**

presents

*Mozart  
Delight*

with Flute & Bassoon Concertos

UNDER THE BATON OF  
**PIENAAR FOURIE**

**SATURDAY 15 MARCH 15H00**

TEA / COFFEE AVAILABLE FROM 14H00

**ST DUNSTAN'S COLLEGE  
EJ BUTLER CENTRE FOR THE ARTS**

ADULTS R120

PENSIONERS / CHILDREN UNDER 18 - R80

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM WEBTICKETS**