

# ST DUNSTAN'S PRE-SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

TRINITY TERM | ISSUE 15 | 22 MAY 2026

## *The Importance of Nursery Rhymes in Early Childhood*

Nursery rhymes are far more than just catchy songs and playful verses, they are powerful tools for Early Childhood Development (and yes, they are also quite fun to sing terribly in the car!). In recent years, many young children have had limited exposure to traditional nursery rhymes and these well-loved songs and oral traditions are slowly becoming less common in everyday family life. Through repetition, rhythm and rhyme, nursery rhymes help children tune into the sounds of language in a way that naturally supports early reading and writing skills.

When children sing nursery rhymes, they begin to hear the smaller sounds within words. This helps develop phonological awareness, the ability to recognise and play with sounds in language. Skills such as spotting rhyming words, clapping syllables and hearing repeated sounds all build strong early foundations for reading success.

Nursery rhymes also support language development by introducing new vocabulary in a fun and memorable way. The repetition helps children quickly pick up and remember words and phrases, which often leads to some very enthusiastic (and repeated!) singing at home. These shared songs also help build confidence in speaking, while strengthening memory, attention and listening skills.

Beyond language, nursery rhymes are wonderfully active. Many involve actions, gestures and movement, turning learning into a full-body experience. This supports coordination, body awareness and social interaction, and often results in lots of giggles along the way. Singing together in a group also helps children feel connected and included, especially those who may be a little more reserved.

Families can easily support this learning at home by weaving nursery rhymes into everyday routines, in the car, at bath time, while getting dressed or before bedtime. These simple, shared moments create joy while quietly building important early language skills.

Through songs and rhymes, children are not just having fun, they are building the foundations for communication, literacy, confidence and a lifelong love of language.

I have a feeling the photos might be the first stop for most readers, but if you have paused here, you are officially in the "Gold Star Reader" Club!

To claim your fizzer, please pop in to see Miss Quabeck in the Munchkin Class on Monday and share the password: "**Hey diddle diddle.**"



For families who would like to sing more nursery rhymes at home but are not sure where to start, we have gathered a few easy options. You can even play them in the car on the way to and from school, instant singalong!

- Nursery Rhyme Fun! - Apple Music playlist
- Nursery Rhymes - Spotify playlist
- The Best Nursery Rhyme Playlist - Spotify playlist
- 100 Nursery Rhymes - Deezer
- Rhyme Time Town - Netflix

On a gentle note, while Cocomelon is popular, many families find it very fast-paced and highly stimulating, so it may be best enjoyed in moderation.



*Miss Kira Quabach*

GRADE 00 TEACHER | MUNCHKIN CLASS

## Tiny Triumphs: Big Wins from Our Little Stars!

Congratulations to **Sarah Williams** from the Turtle Class, who competed in the **SADTA Discorama Freestyle** and **Slow Dance Competition** this past Saturday!

Sarah achieved outstanding results, **1st** place for **Girls U4 Freestyle Dance** and **1st** place for **Girls U4 Slowdance**.

We are so proud of you, Sarah!



Congratulations to **Enzley Louw** from the Turtle Class on her wonderful achievements at the **SA Dance Festival Champs** on 16 April 2021!

Enzley received a **High Gold** for her duet with her sister, Eilin, a **Gold** for her first solo and a **High Silver** for her second solo performance.

She also placed **3rd** overall in her category and received a special award for her music choice and costume!

We are incredibly proud of you, Enzley. Well done!



## Upcoming Birthdays!

24 May

**RAEL ALVES**

24 May

**CAYDEN BLAKE**

27 May

**OQOTHO DLAMINI**

31 May

**NAPE MOLOUNG**



**WISHING YOU ALL  
A HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

## SLIPPER DAY

Purchase your Slipper Day stickers directly from the Karri App and collect them from the Pre-School reception.



reach for a dream

# What's Happening When?

## TERM 2 EVENTS

Friday, 29 May	Slipper Day
Saturday, 6 June	<b>BIG COLOUR WALK   09:00 (Fundraiser)</b>
Friday, 12 June	Youth Day Celebration
Monday, 15 June	Bishop's Day   School Holiday   No School   <b>No Aftercare</b>
Tuesday, 16 June	Youth Day   No School   <b>No Aftercare</b>
Friday, 19 June	Father's Day Celebration   Snuggles & Smiles with Dad - 07:00 - 08:30
Friday, 26 June	Mid-Year Reports Release
	Opening of Memorial Hall   12:00
	Dress-Up Day - Frosty Fashions
	School Closes normal time for Half-Term Break
Monday, 6 July	School Re-Opens
Tuesday, 7 July	Parent/Guardian/Teacher Conversations
Wednesday, 8 July	Parent/Guardian/Teacher Conversations
Friday, 17 July	Mandela Day
Friday, 24 July	Tour de Dunstan's Day   Bring your wheels to school
Friday, 31 July	Special Person's Day (Grandparents' Day)
Thursday, 6 August	Grade 0 Sports Day
Friday, 7 August	School Closes for Term 2
	Dress-Up - Recycled Runway



## Annual Fundraiser

## Waiting Class



18 - 22 May	Munchkin Class
25 - 29 May	Turtle Class
1 - 5 June	Rainbow Class
8 - 12 June	Butterfly Class
15 - 19 June	Bee Class
22 - 26 June	Hedgehog Class



# GREEN DAY!





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