

CIRCULAR 1 - 2023

Dear Moms and Dads

Welcome to 2023 at Constantiaberg Pre-Primary. For many of you and your children, it is the first time at our school and you have much to discover, see and learn. We are here to help this happen in the easiest way possible for you and your children. To those of you who are returning to our school, its lovely to see you again. There may be a couple of changes to our routine since you were with us, but these changes have been made to improve your and your child's experience and learning at our school.

CHANGE IN COMMUNICATION FROM THE SCHOOL

One of the changes that is taking place this year is that we will no longer be using the D6 Communicator. Important messages will be sent to all parents via the Constantiaberg Noticeboard WhatsApp platform. Classreps should have sent out the joining link to you all by now. Please ensure you have joined the group so that you do not miss out on pertinent information.

Our first message that went out this morning was in regard to a change of date for the AGM and Meet the Teachers (now taking place on Thursday 2 February at 18h00). The reason for the change of date is because many of you have children at Sweet Valley Primary and so may be aware that parent teacher meetings are taking place on the same day as our original AGM date (31 January). I hope that this does not cause a great inconvenience to you and that you will all be able to attend our AGM followed by meet the teachers on the 2 February at 18h00.

AGM AND MEET THE TEACHERS

Our AGM and meet the teachers will be held outdoors if the weather is good (indoors if not). If you would like to sit on an **adult** size chair, please bring one with you, otherwise kids size chairs will be available. We are needing to fill the Maintenance, Parent Convenor, Events and Marketing positions on our Governing Body. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to be a part of the Governing Body. All nominations need to be in by Friday 27th January. If there are many nominations for a particular post, voting will need to take place at the AGM. Nicole Painter, who runs Muscle Mania, will also give a brief talk at the AGM.

It is so lovely to be back at such a happy school. Holidays are always great and most needed, but we do miss all of you, children, and parents. I have enjoyed meeting almost all the new children and parents at drop off and I thank you all for joining in so quickly and being patient with me as I learn all the new names and classes the children are in. The children are also being very brave and walking in so beautifully on their own. Well done to you all for giving them the courage and confidence to do so. For some of the little Starfish and Penguins it is a little more difficult to say goodbye at the gate. For these children, parents are welcome to walk their children in for a couple of weeks. Please park in the parking area and after signing your child in for the day, at the big bottom gate, walk in to do a quick drop. As of the beginning of February, I would like to ask that the parents of the class whose outside day it is, come into the school at drop off and play with their children either in the garden or classroom. All children are collected from the big bottom gate at the end of school.

STOP, DROP AND GO – please make sure you follow the correct direction and do not exceed the maximum speed of 5km. Enter from Haylet Way, exit pas the soccer club. Please park where there are no beacons. Leave the far-left lane open for existing cars.

Regards
Josette

SCHOOL START TIMES (all children may use the early drop off option from 7h30)

Please take note of class start times, and ensure your children are here timeously to avoid class disruptions.

CLASS	START	END
Whales	07h50	12h30 Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 13h00 Monday, Thursday
Dolphins and Turtles	08h10	12h15
Penguins and Starfish	08h25	12h00

Should you have a child in Grade R and another child in a younger group, the younger child can wait in their classroom until the older child finishes at 12h30. Teachers have meetings from 12h30 so cannot look after them after that time. However, on a Monday and Thursday, because the Grade R's finish at 13h00, an arrangement needs to be made to collect the younger child not later than 15 minutes after their class finishes school, or they can use aftercare. The charge for aftercare is R50.00 per hour or part thereof.

As you may know we have two guineapigs at our school who are our pets. Their names are Skitty and Jupiter. There is a roster at the bottom gate for them to go on home visits. Please fill your child's name in on the roster, for one or two days or a weekend so that the guineas can visit your home. I will send relevant information on how to take care of the guineapigs at your home. for taking care of guinea pigs, home with you when you take them home. We need lots of volunteers to do this and if you can't take them home perhaps you can help by bringing in fresh veg for the children to feed the Guinea pigs. True to their second name they eat lots like a piggy.

I hope you all have your parent handbook in a safe but visible place as it has the answers to many of the questions you may have regarding the workings of our school. If you can't find the answers you are welcome to phone the office and we will do our best to help you out. Please don't sit with an unanswered query, ask away.

Some after school activities and specialist teachers' classes start next week. There will also be demo lessons at school for some of the after-school activities this week.

Remember we have an open-door policy and would be happy to chat with you. However, we would appreciate it if you would make an appointment through Anne or your teacher if you would like to do so.

Thank you for your co-operation in making our school run more smoothly. We are looking forward to having lots of fun with you and your children.

A couple of reminders of the DO's and DON'TS that help us all

1. PLEASE do not park anywhere on Schoolside road. We love our neighbours and would like to maintain a friendly relationship with them. They look after their verges and cars parked on their verges do not show them the respect that they deserve and it is dangerous for your children. We have an awesome carpark, and the entrance is a smooth ride up now even for low cars, and we have a lovely sensory path in the park which we would like you to use. Walking to school can be fun and educational. Please do not park against the green school fence (ie. up the Path where the teachers park) If you need to park closer to school for a specific reason, please check with me first. This is to ensure the safety of our children.
2. HATS, HATS, HATS. It is important for your child's health that he/she wears a hat whenever they go outside. Please encourage this from your side. Please remember to mark their hats clearly with their names.

3. Aprons. Each child needs an apron with their name on it. We do have aprons for sale in the office for R65.
4. Spare clothing bags. Please make sure there is weather and size appropriate clothing in a bag that stays in your child's locker. Please check each term.
5. Label clothes and shoes. Please do not allow your child to wear high heeled shoes to school.
6. Please apply sunscreen to your child before school.
7. Send an extra water bottle to school daily. Children need to drink.
8. School gates open at 7.30am and not before. The teachers who are here before that time are here because they have work to do quietly before the hectic day starts. Please use the stop, drop and go as soon as you feel comfortable. The teaching assistants will walk the children to their classrooms after they have been signed in at the gate. It is important to maintain strict protocols in order to ensure the safety of all during the pandemic, therefore the top gate is no longer the entrance to the school in the morning. We all need to use the large double gate entrance at the bottom of the school (as soon as possible, once your little one has settled and is happy to be at school) Access to adults is restricted. Only children and staff are allowed on the property unless previous arrangements have been made. The small top gate is no longer our main entrance to school for drop off and for collecting children.
9. Please bring in fruit/cucumber/carrots/baby tomatoes to share with your class on a Monday if possible.
10. Please make SNACKS for snack time healthy and small in quantity. No treats such as sweet biscuits, cakes, sweets, chocolates etc. And only occasional chips, savoury biscuits etc. Be aware of the sugar content in flavoured yoghurts, and fruitsticks etc
11. No fizzy cooldrinks, preferably normal unflavoured water x 2.