

# Hugs & Kisses

## Grade 00 Info Package

### Welcome to Grade 00 – The Owls Class!



Our goal is to prepare all the children in The Owls Class for Grade R next year. Each child's development is comprehensively viewed and I will not only focus on their academic skills, but also on their social and emotional development.

In terms of academics the curriculum is based on preparing each child to be able to cope with the Grade R CAPS curriculum. CAPS stands for Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements, and it became South Africa's national curriculum in 2012. The CAPS curriculum is outlined for Grade R to Grade 12, and therefore the task of the Grade 00 teacher is to prepare these children to cope with the demands they will face in Grade R.

In The Owls Class our academics will focus mainly on developing the children's literacy and numeracy skills:

- **Literacy:**

During Language lessons, we will focus on teaching your child how to communicate using the correct vocabulary, encouraging them to speak in full sentences and constantly working on expanding their vocabulary.

We will also be introducing your child to THRASS (Teaching Handwriting Reading and Spelling Skills) which is a phonetics teaching tool. The THRASS charts will be used as a conversational tool so that the children are familiar with the THRASS terminology when they go to Grade R. Phonics will slowly be introduced on a weekly basis as well.

Stories, rhymes and songs will continue to play an important role and will assist in improving the children's expressive and receptive language.

We encourage all the children to participate in "Show and Tell" on a Friday morning.

We use this opportunity to let the children talk to their classmates about one of their favourite toys, or another topic that they find interesting and would like to share with the class.

- **Numeracy:**

During Numeracy lesson, we will focus on patterning, sorting, shapes, size sequencing, number recognition, number writing. These concepts will be introduced weekly with a lot of repetition. We want to make sure that at the end of the week all the children understand these concepts and that they are able to achieve success during the lessons.

- **Fine motor skills:**

Fine motor skills are those tasks that involve the coordination of the small muscles of the hands and fingers. This year there will be a great emphasis on ensuring that the children have the adequate strength and dexterity to be able to manipulate a crayon in

a controlled manner. This is important for Grade R when they will be expected to be able to copy patterns and start writing. Fine motor skills will be targeted in crayon and paper based tasks, but also in less obvious ways: manipulating play dough to increased finger muscle strength, doing peg board patterns to encourage dexterous manipulation of small items, cutting which encourages the child to use both hands together one in the skilled role and the other in a supporting role.

- **Awareness of self:**

In all our interactions with the children we will foster in them healthy respect of themselves and of other people in addition to respecting the Hugs & Kisses school community. They will be taught to wait their turn (to speak or to play) and we will emphasis the importance of finishing a task once you have started it. This will be achieved in part by us modeling these behaviours for the children.

- **Habits of Mind:**

During your child's Grade 00 year they will also be introduced to "The Habits of Mind" these are a set of sixteen thinking skills that incorporate problem solving, life related skills that are necessary to function effectively in society and they promote reasoning, encourage insightfulness and perseverance. During this year we want to expose the children to these different concepts and explore with them on a concrete level what they mean – these thinking skills will be built on in their subsequent years of education and so once again this is about preparing them for what lies ahead.



**Reports:** two reports will be issued during the course of the year

1. Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2018
2. Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2018



**Helpers of the Week:**

We have a "Helper of the Week" system to help children take on some classroom responsibilities such as the handing out of activity sheets, making sure their peers follow them in a line when walking from the classroom to the playground and back etc.





### Daily Routine:

The Owls first lesson of the day starts promptly at 08h00 and we therefore insist that all children are dropped off at school timeously. It is very disruptive when children arrive late and disrupt the first lesson that has already commenced.

**\* Please ensure that if your child will be eating Breakfast at school, they arrive no later than 07h45**

**\*If your child is eating at home, please ensure that they arrive no later than 07h55**

*Your cooperation in this regard will be highly appreciated.*

### ❖ The Owls Daily Routine:

<b>07:00 - 07:30</b>	Arrival
<b>07:30 - 08:00</b>	Breakfast + Bathroom
<b>08:00 - 08:30</b>	Morning Ring
<b>08:30 - 09:00</b>	Numeracy activity
<b>09:00 - 09:30</b>	Extra Murals (Inside Play)
<b>09:30 - 10:00</b>	Language Ring
<b>10:00 - 10:15</b>	Morning Snack
<b>10:15 - 11:00</b>	Free Play Outside
<b>11:00 - 12:00</b>	Art Activity
<b>12:00 - 12:30</b>	Tidy Up + Free Play Inside
<b>12:30 - 13:00</b>	Lunch time + Bathroom
<b>13:00 - 13:30</b>	Story Time + Poem
<b>13:30 - 14:30</b>	Nap/Rest time
<b>14:30 - 15:00</b>	Tidy up + Free Play Outside
<b>15:00 - 15:15</b>	Afternoon Snack
<b>15:15 - 15:30</b>	Clean up + Bathroom
<b>15:30 - Home</b>	Free Play Outside

### Useful resources:

1. **A Parent's Guide to Schooling in South Africa:**  
<http://www.southafrica.info/services/education/edufacts.htm#.VNphEC5iNME>
2. **CAPS:** <http://www.education.gov.za/Curriculum/NCSGradesR12/tabid/419/Default.aspx>
3. **THRASS:** <http://www.thrassafrica.co.za/>
4. **Habits of Mind:** <http://habitsofmind.org/>

5. eClassroom: <http://e-classroom.co.za/caps-content/grade-r/>

