



# Penryn

Preparatory

12 November 2019

Dear Preschool parents

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PRESCHOOL FAMILIES FOR 2020

As this year draws to a swift close, we are excited to share with you some of the developments that will be taking place in the Preschool in 2020. We appreciate that this is a busy time of year, but feel it important to inform you of what lies ahead for our families.

### General Introduction

Penryn Preschool is not a 'day-care', playgroup or crèche. Our Preschool provides children with a highly functional and intentional programme that provides the individual child with the appropriate and necessary nurturing, care and attention, guided by pre-school principles that are based on first-world Early Childhood Development ideology and methodology. Our focus is to nurture emotional intelligence and encourage curiosity, independence and values-based thinking and decision making. Carefully considered play-based learning and daily activities are offered within an agile continuum of learning and development, where individual development is respected and aligned with a variety of factors that each child exhibits. Our thorough report documents and parent-teacher consultations provide for parents and our teachers, a highly valued connection, rich insight to the development and a clear identity of the individual child, measured against themselves and other holistic dimensions, which we mutually cherish at Penryn.

Flexibility in group placement for our children is essential and must be dynamic if we are to provide the optimal offering for each unique child in 'The Nest', This is why we provide a fluid class environment where a child's date of birth does not necessarily determine the allocation to a class group, but rather, consideration for social and emotional development, level of independence and other traits that assist in guiding the grouping of our children within a given year.

### Academics

Our highly experienced, progressive and innovative Preschool teachers continue to provide interesting and varied play-based activities for each child in their classes. This year our teachers have been mentored by an experienced Reggio Emilia professional, who has been guiding them into the principles of this style of learning and teaching. For those families who have not walked around the Preschool recently, you will notice some of the visible changes to the current environments and when your child is in his/her new class next year, you will also have the benefit of noticing the difference in the way topics and themes are explored more intricately in an inquiry style of learning.

### 'The Nest'

In keeping with the bird names which make each of our classes unique, we have created a brand for our middle group of preschoolers. (You may have noticed that we no longer refer to our classes by the standardised Grade 000 or 00.) As of 2020, the Starling, Sunbird and Owl classes will fall under the umbrella of "The Nest". This carefully considered and designed concept will allow our 3 to 5 year olds access to attend any of the three classes during their time in preparation for Grade R (Eaglets). By integrating the two age groups into appropriate blends of children, our teachers carefully view each child as unique, making sure that developmental levels are taken into consideration and ensure that the learning that takes place is maximised for each child in each level.



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Head: Graham Roberts

*A beacon of educational excellence since 1991*



During assessments, teachers in these three classes, use different assessment criteria to ensure that children are aligned according to their appropriate level of development. This allows for differentiated learning experiences in one group where children are given the chance to grow, each at their own pace.

The integrated groups which our Owl and Sunbird classes had this year, has proven to be both successful for the younger and older members of our classes. We are excited to announce that the Starling class will also be an integrated group as of 2020, and the three classes will explore similar styles of Reggio based teaching in each.

### **Grade R Eaglets**

In keeping with our Preschool bird theme, we shall be referring to our oldest preschool class as Grade R Eaglets as of 2020. When the children move up to Grade 1, they are then placed in houses for sporting events, namely Lanner, Osprey, Peregrine and Bateleur.

Our Grade Rs have really soared with the Reggio Emilia style of learning, used internationally, and shown that these principles of education are extremely beneficial to children in so many ways. The Grade R group of 2019 was also the youngest group to start our *NumberSense* programme and we look forward to seeing these children continue to show strength and understanding as they proceed with this programme going up in the grades at Penryn.

### **Fee Structure for 2020**

As we constantly adapt, improve and move to an integrated approach at Penryn within “The Nest”, and to function beyond the rigid state-imposed pre-school grade groups, where ‘one size fits all’ and is simply a convenient solution for state schools; we need to adapt our previous fee structure to align this with the value proposition and educational offering that we provide.

In order to adapt the Preschool’s fee structure to dovetail with the proposition embedded in the educational philosophy we aspire to providing next year and beyond, certain changes have become necessary that will affect certain groups of parents more than others. We are sensitive to this, and wish to say, that it is not our intention to complicate the existing fee schedule, but rather to alter the fee structure incrementally over the next few years to assist in minimising the impact on any given parent group. This may not be apparent initially, but with careful consideration will provide a reasonable and acceptable adjustment, making provision for fair and equitable expectations of parents within the duration of all the years your child is in the Preschool phase at Penryn.

Please see the 2020 schedule of fees that accompanies this letter.

### **Full Day Option**

We are delighted to announce that the existing ‘Aftercare’ service that has been available to our parents is being revamped in 2020. We are committed to implementing several significant changes and improvements to this part of our school day offering.

Essentially, the main changes will be:

- Penryn having exclusive control of the service which was previously outsourced in the Junior Aftercare Viz. Appointment of staff, administration and management, structure, safety and security, exclusive provision of the service in its entirety.
- The Preschool staff will be actively involved in the creation of activities of the full day optional time and will assist with supervision, on a rotational basis alongside a supervisor and assistants who will be appointed by Penryn and be responsible for administration and supervision. All staff will report directly to the school’s management.

- There will be three separate facilities next year; Preschool; Foundation Phase and Senior Phase in three different venues.
- Preschool full-day option which extends beyond the morning routine and will run from 13:30 to 17:00 at the Preschool premises. This will only be for Preschool children.
- The Foundation Phase (Gr 1-3) full day option will be situated at the Foundation Phase centre and available from close of the Foundation Phase morning schedule until 17:00.
- Upgrades have been approved for the Preschool facility.

Details for the full day programme will be made available to you shortly which contains all information pertaining to 2020, including application procedure, safety and security, operational details and structure, fees, routines and expectations.

We trust that this communique has provided you with an abundance of information in our quest to keep you well informed of developments, improvements and sharing of our educational aspirations for your precious children.

For those parents who wish to discuss any of the content of this letter further, kindly contact the JP Secretary, Natalie de Araujo to arrange a suitable time to meet with a member of management to discuss any of the above matters personally.

Yours sincerely



**GRAHAM ROBERTS**  
Prep Head



**GINA EVA**  
H.O.D. Preschool