



24 November 2020

TO: PARENT/GUARDIAN

RE: END OF TERM FOUR NEWSLETTER

Dear Esteemed Parent/Guardian,

As we come to an end of this academic year, it is with great pride that I can look back at the many achievements of the children. They have worked so very hard with numerous changing demands made on us by the Pandemic – Covid 19.

The many values that have been on display throughout the year have particularly come to the fore as we end the year – resilience when tackling a particularly tricky problem in class or under pressure with school work; teamwork with friends; courage in coping with changes; love and honesty towards all members of the school community; appreciation and happiness for each other and all the opportunities they are given within the school – which have all strengthened their character and their ability to make the most of every aspect of school life.

Gratitude:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for their hard work this year. It has been a year of changes and they have embraced this with goodwill and continued to provide the best education for the children.

I would also like to thank all parents and guardian for their support this year. A great deal of what we do in school cannot be achieved without you and your co-operation and backing. Many thanks and we look forward to working more closely with you next year.

Finally, I would like to wish all children who are leaving us at the end of this academic year all the best on their new journey. I know that they have all had a great start here at Southampton and that they will go on to achieve great things in the future.

Recap:

Due to the covid-19 and lockdown regulations, the school was unable to host all parents meeting. Instead, 20 parents were invited for a **consultative meeting** on

Saturday, 29 August 2020. We thank those parents for honoring the invitation and re-assure you that your contributions and concerns are being worked on.

We thank all parents for the love and support you showed us on **24th September 2020**, Heritage Day and for the feedback you gave us on the survey forms that followed thereafter, and promise that 2021 will be better.

End of Year Events

Farewell Party on 4th December 2020: Our learners will be hosting a farewell event on Friday, 4th of December as communicated by the previous letter issued on Friday, 20th November by the Deputy Principal. This is their opportunity to steam off after a very stressful year, please allow them to fun-fully bid farewell to their friends and teachers.

We shall be hosting the following events - **Spelling Bee Final Competitions, Grade R Graduation, Prize Giving as well as announcing the Pioneer Ambassadors and Issuing of Reports on Saturday, 12th December 2020:** Only the top three from each grade will compete on the day. See the list of participants attached. The programme of the day is as follows;

Activity	Time
Spelling Bee Competition	10:00 am - 1:00 pm
LUNCH BREAK (1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)	
Grade R – Graduation	2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Prize Giving, Ambassadors, Reports Issuing & Closing remarks	3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Reports will be issued to parents only. Those who can't make it on Saturday can collect the reports any day from **14th to 18th December between 9:00am to 1:00pm.**

School fees and Typek: I would like to extend my enthusiastic appreciation to all parents for their dedication to pay school fees despite the huge financial difficulties brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. Once again, I wish to remind those parents with outstanding school fees for their children that the closing day is approaching rapidly. I am sure we can reach our goal by 15 December if we give one more push. What a great feeling it will be to accomplish what seemed impossible a few months ago. You are setting new standards. Let's finish the year right and then celebrate! *Regrettably, no report will be issued for any learner with outstanding fees and/or typek.*

Retrieval of textbooks: All learners in grades 4-9 who were issued with textbooks in some subjects should return them on the day of writing exams for those subjects. Damaged and lost textbooks shall be invoiced to the student’s account and no report will be issued before the amount is settled.

2021 Academic Year

Term One Commencement Day: Term one shall open on **Wednesday 20th January 2021**.

SUMMARY OF SOUTHAMPTON 2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR

TERM DAYS		SPECIAL DAYS	
Term One	20 th January – 26 March	19 March	Human Rights Day
Term Two	13 th April – 25 June	18 June	Youth Day
Term Three	13 th July – 23 rd September	23 September	Heritage Day
Term Four	5 th October – 8 th December	4 December	Prize Giving & Gr - R Graduation

Re-admission for 2021: Please be reminded that re-registration of continuing students for 2021 school year right from grade R-10 is on. There is no automatic re-registration and school management cannot guarantee admission for the New Year without the re-registration form being completed and submitted. Our admissions are on a **“first come first serve”** basis.

Workbooks and Textbooks: Learners will be issued with the following on the open day of schools:

- All grades: School diaries.
 - Foundation Phase (grade R-3): Workbooks for all subjects,
 - Intermediate Phase (grade 4-6): Workbooks for Mathematics and English as well as textbooks.
 - Senior and FET Phase (grade 7-10): Only textbooks.
- NB:** Unlike this year, next year’s books orders have already been placed and will be delivered on time.

2021 Customized School Diaries (that also serve as **communication books**) with all school rules, school, learner and parents’ responsibilities and other important information will be issued to all learners at R70.00 per copy. These diaries will be compulsory and learners must carry them to school every day for communication purposes.

Teacher Training workshop set for January before schools re-open: We have hired an expatriate to train all our educators next year before the school re-opens in January with more emphasis on Foundation Phase. Our Educators are to be

grilled on how to quickly identify and help all learners with knowledge gap and/or learning barriers. This will help us deliver more quality lessons every day to our learners, ensuring that both the strong and weak ones are helped to excel.

Customized School App: A customized School App with more useful features than the current D6 Connect App is being developed to use for communication next year. This will be used to communicate more effectively on individual student performance, attendance, behaviours, new applications and re-admissions, any school news, timetables, school events, school calendar, etc. The App will be available for download on any smart phone from the 1st of January 2021.

2021 Parents meetings: The school intends to host one general and three consultative parents meetings next year; to share academic progress and growth based on assessments, portfolios, and assignments; So that parents or guardians can better inform teachers about their children's strengths, needs, behaviors, and learning styles; discuss enrichment or intervention strategies to support child's learning as well as discuss issues that may be interfering with students' learning and growth.

School Advisory Board: In order to improve our services to you and fast track our vision, the school management is looking for passionate and suitably qualified individuals (not necessarily parents with children in our school) to serve on its School Advisory Board. For more info either visit <http://www.ngopulse.org/opportunity/2020/11/03/spa-volunteer-advisory-board-member-position> or email us at info@southampton.co.za

School Uniform: Please be advised that with improvement in uniform delivery on our side, there will be more emphasis on school uniform next year. High school students will have to compulsorily put on a navy blue blazer with badge, school tie, white shirt with badge, school navy blue pants (not skinny pants)/scotch skirts for girls and proper black school shoes. Prefects (school ambassadors) will put on a red blazer with badge.

Baseline Assessments: All new learners will be made to write a baseline test in Mathematics and English on reporting day and parents will be availed with a copy of the performance report. Parents of learners with a huge knowledge gap will be called-in to discuss a turn-around strategy.

May the holiday season fill your home with joy, your heart with love, and your life with laughter. Very best wishes for a prosperous new year from Southampton.

Yours in Education,

Robert Kitty
Principal

THE PRINCIPAL
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25 NOVEMBER 2020

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