

REFLECTIONS OF THE WEEK



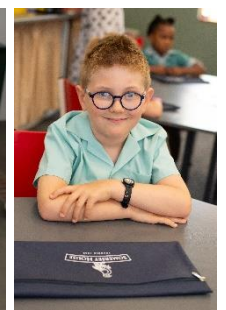
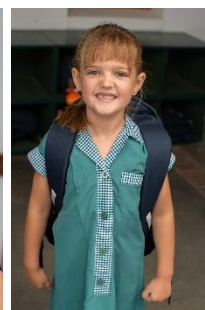
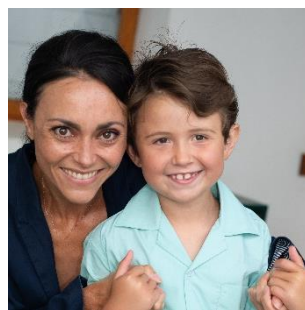
TERM 1 WEEK 1 (17 JANUARY 2025)

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



There was so much excitement in the crisp, cool air as the 2025 academic year started on Wednesday. It was so lovely to see all the familiar faces and to welcome all the new families to Somerset House. We wish everybody a productive year full of growth, discovery, and lasting friendships.





OAKWOOD PRE-PRIMARY IS READY FOR 2025!

The Oakwood team was excited to welcome our young pupils back for a new year! After a well-deserved break, it's wonderful to see all the smiling faces and eager hearts ready to embark on another year of discovery and growth. This year promises to be filled with fun, friendship, and lots of learning opportunities as we explore new ideas, develop new skills, and create memories together. Our team is committed to fostering a warm, welcoming environment where every child feels safe, happy, and inspired to learn. We look forward to working closely with families and creating a strong foundation for success throughout the year. Here's to a fantastic start to the school year!



WHAT A WONDERFUL START TO GRADE 00!



The first week of school has flown by, and what an amazing start it's been! Our Grade 00 children have spent the week settling into their new classrooms, making new friends, and beginning to feel at home in their new environment. This week, we focused on building a strong classroom community, which is so important for helping children feel safe and secure.

When children feel connected and supported, it opens the door to all the exciting learning and growth that lies ahead. Through fun games, creative activities, and plenty of time getting to know one another, we've begun laying the foundation for a year filled with learning, laughter, and friendship.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW GRADE 000 PUPILS

What a fantastic start to our Grade 000 year. The little Ladybirds and Bees had a wonderful first day at their new school. Welcome future Grade 7 Class of 2034!



THANK YOU, SH COMMUNITY!

On behalf of everyone at the Centre, I am sending a HUGE thank you to the families of Somerset House for lovingly putting each Santa Shoebox together.

We kicked off our Christmas Party with some carols, then called each child up one by one to receive their gift box. The look on their faces as they were handed their box was priceless – you could see they felt special. For some of our children, this will be the only gift they receive this Christmas.

Once back in class, the children opened their boxes. Many of the staff had tears in their eyes as they read the personalized messages many with verses from the Bible! We were deeply touched. The children were smiling from ear to ear as they explored the treasures in their boxes.



We cannot express enough gratitude for the generosity, kindness, and love put into each shoebox. Thank you for blessing our children. It truly means the world to us and to them. We wish you a wonderful and restful holiday season.

Kind Regards



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FIRST LUNCH IN THE DINING-ROOM

The Grade 1s settled in quickly and loved their first big school lunch of Pasta Napolitana, corn and salads. There were lots of giggles, smiles and seconds.



SWIMMING TRIALS



Thank you to all those who joined us on Thursday afternoon to participate in our Swimming Time Trials. Children who have qualified for the squad will receive notification next week. Squad training sessions for U9 – U14, start on Monday 27 January. The junior sessions include all children in the U7 and U8 group session. Children will be grouped according to their ability and work with a specific coach for their session. There are no separate swimming squad groups for the U7 and U8 children.



NEWS FROM GRADE 6

The first day commenced with a warm welcome from Mr Huggett outside Cloetenburg, followed by a getting-to-know-your-teacher session in the classroom. Our grade had their Marimba auditions, and we were delighted that there were sixteen children who were called back for Round 2! After break, the children participated in a number of team building exercises where they needed to work out strategies to complete challenging tasks. They learnt that patience, kindness and teamwork are key ingredients for success, and we will continue to strengthen these skills throughout the year. We ended the day brainstorming our own values and superpowers to ensure that we have a MARVELous year in Grade 6!



ATHLETICS TRIALS

Special thanks to Tim Odendal, Dylan Patience and their teams for still managing to mark out an athletics track for us, despite the loss of field due to our new astro. Our pupils participated in the middle distance and relay trials on Friday and did so with great enthusiasm and speed. We look forward to our Inter-House Athletics events next week.



GRADE 7 HIKE

The start to the year is always slightly different for the Grade 7 group, with the emphasis being on leadership and expectations for the year. The Grade 7 group of 2025 spent Thursday hiking in the majestic Helderberg Nature Reserve. The time spent on the trails allowed the group to interact and socialise in a more relaxed environment; whilst testing their physical and mental fortitude. They were in good spirits, and we look forward to the challenges that lie ahead in 2025!



HOLIDAY CLINICS

Special thanks to all our coaches who ran holiday clinics just before the start of our school year. We had a variety of clinics on offer including: Tag Rugby, Fabric Painting, Musical Theatre, Chess, Roller-skating and Scooter Fun, Studs & Laces Football, Arts & Crafts, Beading, Board Games, Make & Bake, Swimming Stroke Development, Splash Zone Fun and Indoor & Outdoor Hockey. Great fun was had by all!



THE FIRST WEEK OF GRADE R – A FANTASTIC START!

The first week of Grade R has been an exciting adventure as our new classes began their school journey! This week, we focused on setting up routines to help everyone feel comfortable and confident in their new environment. Whether it's lining up, sharing, or transitioning between activities, the children have already started to master these important skills. Our little ones also had fun discovering their new class identities – some are in the Owl class, while others belong to the Squirrel class. The children have enjoyed getting to know each other and forming new friendships, and it's been wonderful to watch them explore their individual personalities within their classes. As the year unfolds, we look forward to continued growth, learning, and building strong connections as a Grade R family!

