



BRYNEVEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cnr. Ballyclare Drive &
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Bryanston
2021

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P.O. Box 67095
Bryanston
2021

17 January 2024

Dear Bryneven Parents and Community

“Some smiles are big, some smiles are small, but the smile that says welcome, is the best smile of all.”

– Phyllis Ellison (The Friendship Book of Francis Gay, 1991).

Welcome back to all our children, parents, staff and the Bryneven community. We trust that 2024 will be a wonderful year for everybody. Hopefully all our families would have had the opportunity to enjoy a break during the December school holiday period. We would like to extend a very special welcome to all our new children and families to Bryneven. Last year was one of the most successful years at our school, with a number of notable achievements across the board from the Academic results to the Sporting victories as well as the huge strides made in the Cultural space. I thank all our Bryneven Staff and parent members, along with the community who made those achievements possible.

This year we want to improve certain areas of our school and with the addition of the Astro court towards the end of last year, we intend to make greater use of the benefits of this court and will be hosting a number of early morning sessions in the different codes of sports. We ask that our parents involved with those teams assist us by bringing your children to those activities.

Provisional Dates to Diarise

2024 Term 1: Week 01 of 10		
Wed 17 January	Orientation Timetable	Term 1 2024 begins for all Learners
Thurs 18 January	Orientation Timetable	Swimming Trials U8, U9 and U10 U10 Individual medley trials Grade 1 First day photos House captains to be selected
Fri 19 January	Orientation Timetable	Swimming Trials U11, U12 and Open U11, U12 and Open Individual medley trials. Grade R First day photos.
2024 Term 1: Week 02 of 10		
Mon 22 January	Day 1	Cricket Trials Open (U12 & U13) – 14h00-15h30
Tues 23 January	Day 2	Cricket Trials U8 (13h20-14h40) and U11 (14h00-15h30)
Wed 24 January	Day 3	Cricket Trials U9 – 13h30-15h00 Inter-House swimming gala march past rehearsal during school day
Thurs 25 January	Day 4	Cricket Trials U10 – 14h00-15h30 Tennis Senior Boys vs Crawford Lonehill (Away)
Fri 26 January	Special Timetable	Cricket Trials U7 – 13h30 to 14h30 (Practice) Inter-House swimming gala for Grade 2-7 during the school day.

Staff News

A word of welcome to our new staff who have joined Bryneven.

Grade 2	Ms Caroline Spencer
Grade 2	Mrs Fatima Richards
Grade 3	Ms Louwry Kruger
Grade 3	Ms Michaela Walters (in Maternity Post for Mrs Herbst)
Grade 4	Mrs Leigh Knipp
Grade 6	Ms Zanie Blignaut
Grade 6	Ms Sharai Makubire

We trust our community will do their utmost to welcome them into our family and will show them the support required to help them settle in quickly.

Drop off and Collection

Grade	Pick-up/End of school Time	May be collected from	Escorted to Waiting Area
2 and 3	13h10	From the Register Class	13h50
4, 5 and 6	13h40	Flagpole Area	13h50
7	13h40	Outside Gr 7 Classrooms	13h50

Please note that this process is only for the first week of school ending on Friday, 19 January. (Gr R and Gr 1 parents have been informed of the drop-off and pick-up procedures for these grades.)

Drop-off and pick-up of learners from Monday, 22 January 2024



School will start at 07h25 and we will have morning line-up for the learners once the bell rings at the start of the day. The Grade 1-3 learners will line up outside the Grade 1 and 2 classrooms, the Grade 4-6 learners will line up at the flagpole area and the Grade 7 learners will line up in the Grade 7 Quad. Parents who accompanied their children for the drop-off will then be expected to make their way out of the school premises once the bell rings. (Teachers will practice this procedure tomorrow to ensure learners know where to go for line-up)

The Grade 4 to 7 learners will be allowed to leave the classes at the end of the day to be collected/to meet their parents. The Grade R – 3 learners will have to be fetched from their classes/area. After 13h50 all learners will be placed in the School Waiting Area to be fetched by their parents. We are concerned that in the past we have noted that some learners were constantly fetched late in the afternoon. We do have an Aftercare Facility (details provided below) on the school premises where your child can be under supervised care if you are not able to fetch them on time. No child should be left to sit in our Waiting Area for hours on end.

Academic Staff: For your information, our academic and admin staffing complement for Term One, 2024 will be as follows:

Grade R: Mrs H Herdman (*Head of Grade R*), Mrs K Pereira and Ms R Kuhn

Grade 1: Mrs C Wrathall (*Head of Grade*), Mrs L Chetty, Mrs L Wadsworth and Mrs H Richmond

Grade 2: Ms S MacArthur (*Head of Grade*), Ms O Varnicker, Ms C Spencer and Mrs F Richards

Grade 3: Mrs A Agostinetti (*Head of Grade*), Ms L Kruger, Mrs M Roux and Mrs S Herbst/Ms M Walters

Grade 4: Mrs A Jonathan (*Head of Grade*), Ms J McLaren, Mrs L Knipp and Ms M van Wyk

Grade 5: Mr W Botha (*Head of Grade*), Mr R Govender, Ms I Touffie, and Mr S Chinyadza

Grade 6: Mrs T Suklal (*Head of Grade*), Mr M Maho, Ms Z Blignaut and Mrs S Pillay

Grade 7: Mrs L Liversage (*Head of Grade*), Ms L Seoka, Mr A Mabale and Mrs A Govender

Other teaching/support staff include: Ms S Makubire, Ms S Greive, Ms N Khumalo, Mrs C Chimbetete, Mr M Govender, Mr E Bradley, Mr K Mbatha, Mr R Blignaut (Head of IT), Mr JP Christiany (IT technical support) and Ms G Shapiro (Educational Psychologist)

The Admin staff:

Mrs S Leahy (School Bursar) and Mrs L Le Roux in the Finance Office
Mrs M Rose (Procurement), Ms R Molekoa (Printing)
Mrs C Lawrence (Admissions), Ms K Naidoo and Ms L Swanson at Reception
Mrs J Blignaut (PA to the School Head)

The General Assistants:

Mr D Zwane (Estates Manager), Mr E Phoshoko, Mr O Majola, Mr T Maluleke, Mr T Matlou, Mrs P Mgwena, Ms F Maluleke, Mrs A Mbele, Mrs L Mugada, Mrs F Phakathi. Mr Jeffery Mashayi is our security guard assisted by Mr T Mamashela.

The Senior Management Team:

Mrs R Naidu (*Department Head - Foundation Phase*)
Ms P Govender (*Departmental Head - InterSen Phase*)
Mrs I Harrison (*Department Head - InterSen Phase*)
Mr P Naicker (*Sports Co-ordinator in charge of Extra-murals*)
Ms C Kotze (*Deputy Head*)
Mr N Nakooda (*Head*)

Parent Info Evening and Bring & Braai

Please diarise Thursday 01 February, as Bryneven will be hosting our annual Parent Information Evening and Bring & Braai function. Important information will be shared by the various grades during the sessions so please make sure you attend and then join us for the bring & braai afterwards. Further details will be given closer to the time.



School Uniform

All children must wear the correct summer school uniform from the beginning of the term. The different pieces of clothing can be viewed on the official Bryneven Website page. Please note that class teachers will be holding periodic inspections of



uniforms and hair. The co-operation of all parents will be appreciated. The new school uniform includes the football shirt which will be used for cricket as well as a number of additional sports. Please refer to the D6 Communicator for pictures of the sports kits. The old blue and yellow striped jersey will not be allowed for school matches but can be used for practice sessions. Highlights or the use of different colours in the hair is not allowed. Girls and boys need to have their hair done neatly and if their hair passes their collar, it should be neatly tied. Fingernails must be cut neatly, and the use of the



correct socks and shoes is essential in maintaining a neat appearance. Please refer to the school's uniform policy for specific requirements.

As mentioned at the AGM last year, children in the Inter-Sen Phase are encouraged to wear the official school blazer, especially if they are representing Bryneven at Inter-School matches. The use of the official school tracksuit on Fridays will continue for the foreseeable future unless there is a Civvies Day which will take precedence. Learners can wear their house T-shirts when using the school tracksuits which can be worn with takkies. The use of tracksuits, other than those permitted days, is not allowed. If a learner does not have the official school tracksuit, then the normal summer or winter uniform must be worn.

Last year it was impressive to see the number of children who wore their school blazer. It really made our learners look smart as it helps to complete the look of the school uniform. We are encouraging all the Grade 4 to 7 learners especially, to wear the school blazer during the course of the week.

Only the learners in the Foundation Phase (Grades 1 to 3) will still be allowed to come to school in their PE kits/official school tracksuits only on the days when they have PE. All learners who are participating in Extra-mural activities after school must change into their proper kit before the session. Ample time is provided for changing. Parents are encouraged to ensure that their child's clothing items are labelled so,

in the event that it is lost/misplaced, then it can be easily identified in the Lost Property room near the Bantry Road entrance. Grade 4 to 7 learners need to come dressed in their school uniforms on PE days and will be given enough time to change into their PE kits before PE lessons.

Extra-Murals

Although the full Term 1 Extra-mural programme will only commence from Monday, 29 January, coaches will be notifying learners about certain sessions during the next couple of days. Our school's extra-mural programme for Term 1 will be issued as soon as all our sports fixture lists have been received and confirmed. This week, the focus will be on general orientation and Inter-house swimming trials. Selection trials for the U/8 to Open cricket league teams will take place next week.



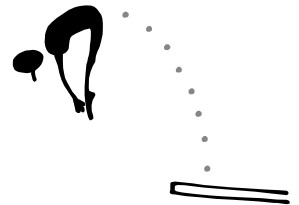
NB: U/12 and U13 cricket age groups form the Open team.

Junior cricket teams (Gr 1 and Gr 2): More specific information about our cricket for all our younger teams will be issued in due course.

Inter-house swimming gala trials – Please note that the annual Inter-house swimming gala will be taking place on Friday, 26 January, weather permitting! Specific details will be sent out in due course. **NB:** Swimming trials for the House teams will start on Thursday morning, 18 January, during school time. **Note:**

All learners in the Under 8, Under 9 and Under 10 age groups must bring along their swimming costumes, caps and towels (Thursday 18, January). The Junior Individual Medley for the Under 10 age group only will also take place on Thursday, 18 January.

On Friday, 19 January, we will be continuing with the Under 11, Under 12 and Open swimmers. The Individual Medley for the Under 11, 12 and Open age groups will take place on Friday, 19 January. The best times in the Divisions will be taken into account.



Please bear in mind that both Thursday and Friday this week are normal teaching days so children must also bring their school bags and books along as per our Grade 4 to 7 *Orientation timetable*.

Just a reminder to all parents to please ensure that their children wear suitable sun block and hats at all times especially when doing any sporting activities.

Bryneven hats are recommended for Grade 1 – 3 learners during break and sport. Learners are encouraged to carry a bottle of water to stay hydrated during the high temperatures which is expected during this time of the year.

Age groups for Sport: Sports teams are selected according to age groups. The following should assist new parents with determining which age group their child should be playing sport in:

(Under 6) 6 years & under - Born in 2018
(Under 7) 7 years & under - Born in 2017
Under 8) 8 years & under - Born in 2016
(Under 9) 9 years & under - Born in 2015
(Under 10) 10 years & under - Born in 2014
(Under 11) 11 years & under - Born in 2013
(Under 12) 12 years & under – Born in 2012
(Open - U/13 & U/14) Open age group - Born in 2011/2010

Communication channels

For the benefit of our new families in particular, we would like to explain our communication procedure at Bryneven:

- **Interviews:** At our school we believe that education is not the sole prerogative of the teaching staff but must include the parents, our partners in education. However, although it is the policy of this school to obtain the full co-operation of parents in matters affecting the educational progress of the children, we request that parents **do not visit** the classroom to consult with a teacher **during school hours** without a prior appointment having been made. *For security reasons we cannot have visitors to*

the school wandering around without having reported to Reception. (It is also not acceptable to keep other children waiting at extra-mural activities because a member of staff has had an unexpected visitor). Appointments for interviews with teachers should be made at least 24 hours before the interview via Reception. Parents are encouraged to discuss their child's progress with the teachers; however, appointments must be made. Should it be necessary, we may request parents to attend an interview to discuss a learner's performance. *(At our school, all senior staff, including the Headmaster, teach and they are involved with extra-murals in addition to their administrative duties. Staff are also required to attend GDE courses and meetings).* We sincerely hope that contact with the school will not only take place when problems are being experienced.

- **The first line of communication:** While our school has always operated with an 'open door' communication policy for parents and learners, we do encourage parents whenever possible to consult with the class/subject teacher as the first line of communication.
- **Guidance:** Personal or problems of a domestic nature could be referred to the class teacher or the Senior member of staff in charge of the Grade if preferred or to Miss Govender who is in charge of the School-based Support Team.
- **Extra-murals:** Specific extra-mural queries should be addressed with the particular educator or coach involved with the sport (*see Extra-mural Programme*). Mr Naicker is our extra-mural co-ordinator.
- **Senior Staff:** Parents are also welcome to contact the Grade Head/Co-ordinator or one of the Senior Members of Staff, i.e. the Department Head or the Deputy Head otherwise an appointment should be made to see the Headmaster (once the various channels have been followed).
- **Newsletter & Reply Slips:** All parents listed as the primary contacts on the mailing lists on the school's database will receive a newsletter which is usually sent every second Monday. Please make sure you receive this important communication. The Extra-mural Programme and a list of sports fixtures is given out every term. We urge parents to assist us in our communication by returning reply slips, circulars, questionnaires, etc., timeously.
- **Up-to-date details – please notify the school:** Please provide us with relevant up-to-date information regarding your child's progress, health and any other special needs. Please notify us via the class teacher of any change of address or telephone numbers at home or work as soon as possible to enable us to be able to contact you.
- **Absence from school:** If your child has been absent from school, an explanatory note must accompany him/her on the return to school. A doctor's letter is required if your child is ill on an assessment day (Grade 4 to 7).
- **Queries about School Fees, etc:** All queries about school fees, etc should be directed to Mrs S Leahy or Mrs L Le Roux in the Bryneven Finance Office at Reception. Please submit all monies in a sealed envelope with your child's name, surname, class and state clearly what the money is for. Please remind your child to hand the envelope in by 08:00.
- **EdAdmin:** Previously we made use of the Edupac operating system to host Bryneven's Report Portal and serve as part of our communication network. However, we have identified a new communication system which will eliminate the need of the variety of existing channels and make our communication to and from much simpler. The new system is known as EdAdmin and will be implemented during the course of this term. What makes EdAdmin so exciting is that it is an App-based system so all information will be available on your smartphone/device and will also offer the ability to simplify other areas of communication (such as permission for sporting events, contact information etc). The first term report cards will be hosted on the EdAdmin system and all parents will be expected to sign on to access the benefits of the new system. Further information will be provided in due course.

Tuckshop – Café Flava

The school tuckshop is operated by Café Flava who have all their menu items designed by a certified Chef. This enables your child to get wonderfully nutritious meals which taste just as good. They also have an online ordering system. To get more information please visit their onsite store whilst having a cup of coffee at the sit-down coffee shop next door.



Club Engage - Aftercare Service Provider

Our Aftercare service provider is based on the school property and is called Club Engage. You may contact Club Engage by calling Debbie (082)9081202 or via email joburgeast@clubengage.co.za.



Uniform Suppliers

We have two uniform suppliers; Attache, which is based at the school, and Rufaro Ferndale Uniform Online Shop www.rufarogarments.com. Please ensure that your child has the correct clothing for the various season or sporting events.

External Extra-Mural Providers

We have a number of external extra-murals that operate from Bryneven. These will be made available on the school's website.



Bryneven School Diary 2024 - For Grade 4-7

The Bryneven 2024 School Diary for Grades 4-7 has arrived and can be purchased from the school. Please pay R50.00 to your child's register teacher to receive the diary.

Bryneven School Lockers

We have lockers available for rental. The small green lockers, situated outside the Grade 5 and Grade 6 classes, are rented at a cost of R150.00 per annum. The new blue Sports lockers (see photo) are rented at an amount of R450,00 per annum. These lockers are intended for cricket bags. There is a limited amount of only 30 sports lockers. Please contact the finance office if you would like to rent a locker. All lockers are on a first come, first serve basis.



First School Day

Our first day for the Grade One and Grade R learners went off smoothly and we thank our parents for their co-operation in ensuring that it was a successful opening day for all involved. We have a few pictures of our Grade R learners with their family members as they made their way into school for their first official day. No tears from our learners and practically no tears from parents. Also see how hard our Grade One learners worked on their very first day.



Mr N Nakooda

Headmaster