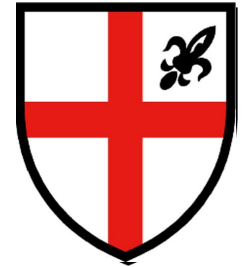


CLIFTON
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

NOTTINGHAM ROAD



**Grade Four
Academic Handbook**

2019

Clifton Preparatory School - Academic Principles

The children and staff respect the following principles

- Support for self-directed learning.
- Programmes which reflect the real world and its changing nature.
- The recognition and support of individual needs and aspirations.
- Involvement of the parents and the community.
- Striving for the development of lifelong learning.
- Maintaining flexibility and accountability within the academic curriculum.
- Fostering critical and creative thinking, problem solving, risk-taking and decision making.

Message from the Staff

As a staff we take pride in the achievements of all our children. We encourage the pursuit of academic excellence, yet at the same time instil the important values of respect for self, others and the school. We provide an environment that makes all our children feel at home and that encourages them to be active learners involved in a variety of experiences. We teach them to be self-motivated, self-disciplined and self-directed in their learning. All our efforts around their education take into account the following principles of learning:

- We all learn in different ways
- We all learn at different rates
- We learn through interaction
- We learn through observation
- We learn through effort
- Learning should be fun

We are committed to providing the best education possible for your sons and daughters. Knowing that you, as parents are the primary educators of your children, we encourage your involvement and participation - our doors **are always** open.

Umgeni Valley

This 2 night trip allows us to learn more about the environment and different ecosystems. The variety of wildlife will allow for great enjoyment and wonderful learning opportunities.

iPad Lessons

Children have formal IT lessons using the school iPads each week. These lessons introduce Coding and they are an opportunity to practise researching. Project based work is encouraged.

Farming

The Grade 4s are involved in a yearlong farming initiative. In groups they are allocated a 'farming plot' that they need to farm throughout the course of the year. During which they sell their produce in order to buy more seeds and equipment. This is a fantastic opportunity to work as a team and to achieve their year long goal of selling their produce at the annual Farmers' Market.

Extra prep

Extra Prep will be available, in the library, to all children in Grade 4. Attendance is voluntary. Sport commitments make an exact time every term impossible. It is best for each child to plan their own suitable time and day.

Excursions

Outreach

As part of the Grade 4 initiative we support an outreach programme. We support a nursery school in Lidgeton called Simcelesile.

Day trips

Local farms, and others that are relevant throughout the course of the year.

Overnight Excursions

School camp-out: occurs during the first term and is seen as a fun-filled, social, 'get to know one another' event. For both the teachers and children.

Roselands: This 2 night excursion focuses on our farming theme and team building. There are plenty of activities to choose from and it is a real highlight for the Grade 4s.

Message from Mrs Nicola Taylor and Mrs Nikki Stokes

Welcome to Grade 4. This booklet is designed to answer any general questions that you may have regarding the year. Should there be anything that you would like clarified or explained, please feel free to make an appointment to discuss this in more detail.

We are here to provide the very best possible education for your child. This is only possible with your support and encouragement—please get involved as much and as often as you are able.

Should there be anything that is happening at home that may be out of the ordinary, please let us know. Small issues that may seem trivial to you could have a bigger impact on your child.

One of our aims is for the children to discover their learning style and to use their learning strengths as often as possible and thus reach their full potential. When information is processed through ones strengths, learning is both accelerated and fun! This self knowledge will help them to become independent learners and enable them to politely advocate for their needs both at home and at school.

If there is anything that you would like to see added to this Information Booklet please let us know so that we can look into making the necessary changes.

We hope that the year is a successful and rewarding one.

If there are any questions, please contact us on:

nikki.stokes@cliftonprep.org.za

nicola.taylor@cliftonprep.org.za

If your child will be away from school please email your class teacher and cc:
Sally.cahill@cliftonprep.org.za
reception@cliftonprep.org.za AND
Louise.jelliman@cliftonprep.org.za

Daily Routine

07h20	Children to be at school.
07h30	Lessons commence
10h00	Tea break
13h30*	Lunch break
14h00	Cultural rehearsals / sport practices / matches begin As per Co-curricular Program

**On a Friday school ends at 13h30. Lunch is provided for boarders only unless a compulsory activity has been arranged. Parents of day scholars doing extra activities may request meals for the term at an additional charge. This is arranged through the Bursar.*

The Academic Programme

The following subjects are taught during the Grade 4 year.

- English
- Mathematics
- Afrikaans or isiZulu
- Conversational Afrikaans or isiZulu
- Integrated Studies (History, Geography, Science)
- Study Skills
- iPad Skills
- Art
- Music
- Drama
- Physical Education
- Life Orientation

Life Orientation

The aim of Life Orientation is to equip the children with the skills necessary for successful communication with those around them. Focusing on how to express themselves and choosing the right words when doing so.

Study Skills

A purposeful half an hour per week has been introduced to allow the time to practise the study skills that have been taught. This habit of regular revision is one that will ensure greater efficiency in all formal learning. Studying for class tests will also be done during this time.

Library Visits

This time is used to engage with books and develop greater proficiency in this skill. Resourcing and research skills will be developed. An enjoyment for reading is the priority.

STEAM

STEAM or Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics is quite simply a more enjoyable version of the IT lesson of old.

Instead of focusing on hardware and software alone students are encouraged to consider and create. They will try and solve real-world problems through hands-on learning activities and creative design. This generally happens in groups to underline that each person has their own strengths.

Clifton uses Technics Lego and a EV3 robot to solve engineering problems. Desktop computers are used to run simulations, last year pupils landed a rover on Mars and discovered what made water rockets more efficient before trying them in real life.

We use Code.org to set and track fun coding objectives for all pupils, learning how to write programs.

Art

Every year we start off by learning the fundamental skills required for drawing. This helps the children build confidence and prepares them to cope with the challenges that lie ahead in the various set tasks for the year.

By communicating with the various grade teachers, subject matter from appropriate themes is chosen for the set tasks during the year. Various elements and principles of Art, techniques and specific skills are focused on with each project. With most of the projects various media choices are available unless a particular skill or technique is being taught. Every attempt at exposing children to a variety of skills is made, such as drawing, painting, sculpting and constructing.

Music

The following is covered in music:

- Movement: moving to music, musical phrasing, dance
- Pulse (“heart beat” of music)
- Basic notation: reading and writing of music
- Tempo: (fast/slow), rhythm and clapping games
- Music appreciation: discovering instruments, composers and genres
- Playing various percussion instruments, marimbas and the recorder
- Singing

Drama

In Drama, the children are given opportunity to express themselves in a creative way. They are taught how to project their voices and use body language, voice and facial expressions to portray meaning in various contexts. Improvisation skills and fundamental skills of acting are also implemented. They gain an understanding of how to use space on stage and ways of communicating with an audience. A stage performance is presented annually by the children. There will be various opportunities for the Grade 4s to showcase what they have learnt throughout the year.

Aims and objectives in the classroom

English:

- To promote confidence in oral and written work.
- Extend and consolidate knowledge of grammar rules.
- Explore creativity.
- To instil in the children a love and appreciation of reading.

Reading

Reading is done in class. Weaker readers do get more individual attention. Reading is recommended every day for homework. One can never underestimate the value of bedtime stories with your child.

Spelling

Words from themes and other work areas (for example Maths) may be included. Spelling is graded according to ability if necessary. All the words are discussed during class. Pupils are encouraged to learn their spelling in varied ways using their leaning style strength.

Maths:

- To extend and consolidate mathematical concepts.
- To develop an understanding of the many aspects of numbers.
- To instil enjoyment and confidence when working with numbers.
- To allow pupils to be creative when exploring with numbers.

A strong sense of number is at the heart of being able to do mathematics. At Clifton we have decided to adopt the methodology supported by the Number Sense programme. The emphasis is on understanding number, being able to manipulate numbers mentally and ultimately to solve problems using critical thinking and a sound grasp of the relationship between numbers and operations. Differentiation is key to the success of this programme, allowing each child to progress with understanding at his or her own pace. Concepts are scaffolded and revisited regularly to ensure

memory retention and a solid foundation for increasingly more complex calculations.

Integrated Studies

Farming
Huberta the Hippo
Ecosystems
Invertebrates
Shipwrecks and explorers
World Heritage Sites
Map work
Scientific experiments
Continents and oceans
Provinces of SA

Themes include: Reference work; comprehensions; research tasks; language exercises; creative exercises and iPad skills.

Homework

Homework/Prep is given on Mondays, for the week. Wednesdays are a homework free day since there is no formal prep session in the boarding house HOWEVER should your child have homework he/she should utilise his/her time wisely.

This generally consists of:

- Spelling
- Maths exercises
- Reading
- Completing classwork activities
- Preparing for oral presentations or assessments

Assessment

- Maths, English, Natural Science, Social Science, Afrikaans and isiZulu are assessed in Grade Four for mark and promotion purposes.
- Focus is on how to study, hereby providing methods to draw from in future years. This skill is practised in class so very little will be sent home to revise.
- There are NO formal Control Tests.

Parent Teacher Appointments and Reporting

These take place in the first and third terms of each year. In the second and fourth term, reports are issued.

Specialist Subjects

Second languages

The aim of teaching Afrikaans and isiZulu is to give the children an opportunity to learn a second language for communicative purposes. Children are motivated to apply what they learn in class in their daily speech. Games, songs and role play are used to reinforce structures learnt. The following outcomes are covered: listening, speaking, reading and viewing, writing, thinking and reasoning and the use of sounds, grammar and vocabulary. Spelling is tested every week throughout the term, alternating between Afrikaans and isiZulu.

Children will receive 3 hours of tuition in their chosen language and 0.5 hours of communicative contact with the remaining second language.

Physical Education

One hour per week where the focus is on gaining and/or improving swimming skills, developing large motor skills and refining various sporting techniques.