



17 March 2023

Dear Parents,

Letter from the Head

Being Able to Ask Questions is at the Heart of Curiosity

As an educator, we often find ourselves in a position where students will ask us a question using the word, why? Around the age of three, when a child starts speaking properly, they can send us as parents round the bend as they ask countless 'why' questions. This amazing set of skills, however, is at the heart of developing their curiosity – an essential part of deep knowledge acquisition which, in turn, leads to innovative thinking.

There are three parts to the skill of asking questions in both children and adults:

1. You discover you know you don't know.
2. You can imagine different competing possibilities/answers/solutions.
3. You understand you can learn from others by asking questions.

The interesting thing is that questions lead to more questions, or not. In the case of children, the response they get to their repeated and probing questions is extremely important to keep their sense of curiosity alive. Curiosity is a feedback loop based on asking questions. When feedback stops, questions stop coming. This is not to say you should provide answers to all your child's questions, immediately. In fact, the opposite is true. You should frame your responses with further questions to push them to dig deeper for themselves, such as, *"That's a really interesting question, what do you think/where do you think you could find more information about this?"*

Curious learners go deep and wide. When children have to make more effort to find answers the learning deepens moving information from the working memory to the long-term memory. When children turn information over and over and find meaning in it, they turn it into knowledge. Contrary to popular thinking, children do need to develop a rich bank of knowledge in their own brains rather than relying on Google, their external brain. Without this internal knowledge bank, it will be difficult to discover connections and innovative ideas over time.

All innovation starts first with a question. Google can help you discover some dots (facts), but it can't tell you what you ought to be asking.

The world needs billions of enquiring minds to solve global issues and that enquiring minds will be an organisation's most valuable asset.

So, keep those questions coming!



Dates to diarise

17 March – Educore Inter-Schools Cross Country hosted by TPK.
21 March – AGM at TPK at 18h00
20-24 March – PUMA and PIRA Assessment week
24 March – TPK Fun gala

Sport Survey Feedback

Thank you very much to those parents that took the time to participate in the parent/student sport survey. We received some valuable feedback and we are currently working on the results to see how we can accommodate the various offerings in a more effective way. Further information will be shared at the upcoming AGM on Tuesday, 21 March.

Lack of School uniform stock

It has been an ongoing challenge to provide sufficient uniform stock. We are currently pursuing alternative options from local suppliers within the country, to see if this could speed up orders and delivery. Further information will be shared once we have found a reliable supplier.

Update parent contact details – email and mobile number

Parents are kindly reminded to please check in with Mr. Jones in the admin office to ensure that we have your updated email and cell phone numbers. It is important not just for emergency reasons but also to ensure that you receive the school newsletters and other information related to school activities.

TPK Facebook Page

We continue to post new activities from school on a weekly basis on our TPK Facebook page. Please “Like” us and share with family, friends, and the community at large.

Thought for the week...

“What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make – Jane Goodall”

I wish you all a wonderful week ahead.

Jannie Le Roux