

# Kidz Chronicle

27 February

CityKidz Pre & Primary School

Dear Parents/ Guardians

Edition 04 Term 1

## ARISS ISS Contact—25 February 2026



CityKidz Pre and Primary School – Johannesburg, South Africa

Distinguished guests, respected educators, proud parents, and our brilliant CityKidz students...

Today, here in Johannesburg, something extraordinary has taken place.

At exactly 14:42 SAST, as the International Space Station rose above the horizon, travelling at nearly 27,600 kilometres per hour and orbiting more than 400 kilometres above Earth, our students did something remarkable...

They reached into space.

Through the global ARISS telebridge network, and with the support of the ground station AB1OC in Hollis, New Hampshire, CityKidz Pre and Primary School successfully established live radio contact with astronaut Chris Williams, callsign KJ5GEW, aboard the ISS using the callsign NA1SS.

Let that sink in.

Primary school students in South Africa held a live conversation with an astronaut orbiting Earth.

This is not just an event.

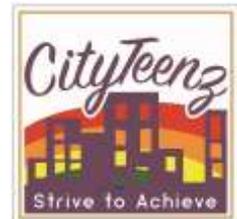
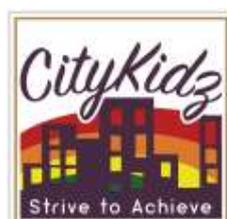
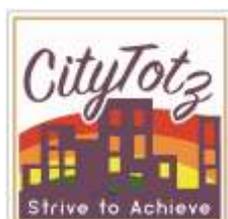
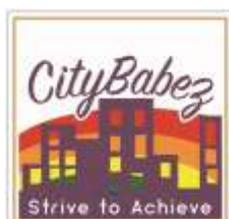
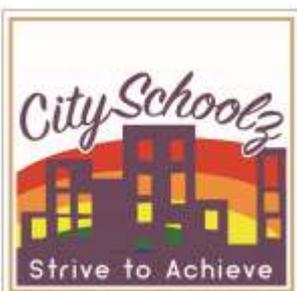
This is not just a school program.

This is history in the making.

Today, CityKidz became part of an international space legacy through Amateur Radio on the International Space Station — a program supported by leading global space agencies including



NASA, European Space Agency, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, Canadian Space Agency, and Roscosmos.





Today, our learners were not just asking questions.

They were:

Exploring science beyond textbooks.

Experiencing real-time space communication.

Becoming inspired to pursue careers in STEM.

Showing the world that African excellence belongs in the global space conversation.

Years from now, these students will remember where they were when they first spoke to space.

And years from now, others will look back and say:

**“CityKidz Pre & Primary School was part of something extraordinary.”**

*To our students:*

You were confident.

You were prepared.

You represented your school and your country with pride.

*To the educators and organizers:*

Your dedication made the impossible possible.

*To the global ARISS team and the telebridge station in the United States:*

You helped turn a dream into reality.

Today was more than a scheduled contact window.

More than a radio signal.

More than a checklist.

Today was a moment that placed CityKidz in the story of human space exploration.

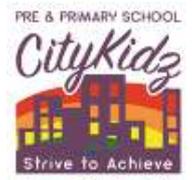
And that...

Is history in the making.

Thank you — and may this moment ignite curiosity that reaches even further than the ISS itself.









### ARISS reflections from learners

Darlene Dube

I had mixed emotions but mostly I was amazed at this once-in-a-lifetime experience. And I was part of it. One day in the future, I am definitely going to tell my children.

Success Ugochukwu

It was fantastic being a spectator at the ARISS event. I will forever be grateful to CityKidz for making such events and opportunities possible for us learners.

Peniel Dube

**Hearing a real astronaut speak was such a blast! Truly, I couldn't believe my ears.**

Thank you to the school team who made this possible. Learners were thrilled. Afterwards I thought of how inspired we as a grade will be long into the future.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the children who participated in the ARIS presentation. Your curiosity, courage preparation, and confidence inspire us all. We are immensely proud of our learners. We are reminded just how far a dream can take you. You remind us why we do what we do.

To the parents who supported, encouraged and stood beside your children every step of the way – thank you. Your partnership makes moments like this possible, and your belief in your children strengthens this entire community.



In 1969, as humanity first set foot on the moon, Neil Armstrong declared:

"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Today, we see that same spirit alive in our learners.

For the world, it may be one interview.

For one child, it may be one spark.

But that spark can become a giant leap — a leap out of limitation, a leap into opportunity, a leap toward purpose.

CityKidz is more than a school. It is hope. It is courage. It is a giant leap for the children of Johannesburg.

The best is yet to come

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1539612828166755>

To our valued partners SA Corp and Afhco thank you for walking this journey with us. We are building boldly for tomorrow.





## ARISS Space Station Team– Thank you

On behalf of the CityKidz Science Club, our learners, teachers, and the entire school management, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for making it possible for us to connect live with Astronaut Chris Williams. We would also like to acknowledge Mr Richard Mathekga, a previous staff member, for making initial contact with the team.

This extraordinary experience was truly a once-in-a-lifetime achievement for our learners. For many of them, it was their very first opportunity to participate in an event of such global significance, and the inspiration it has sparked will remain with them for years to come. You opened a window to space and transformed science from something they read about into something they could experience firsthand.

A very special thank you to Séamus, Fred, and Peter for your patience, dedication, and unwavering support throughout this journey. Your guidance, encouragement, and professionalism helped us confidently navigate every step of this incredible adventure. We deeply appreciate the time and care you invested in ensuring the success of this contact.

You have not only connected us to space — you have ignited dreams, curiosity, and a passion for science among our learners.

We are sincerely grateful for this remarkable opportunity and for the unforgettable memories you have helped create.

With deepest appreciation and warm regards, Brighton Mlotshwa and Team



A very special and heartfelt thank you goes to our main organiser, Mr Brighton Mlotshwa. Your vision, leadership, coordination, and tireless dedication have made today possible.

Assisted by Mr Nhlanhla Mghobozi, Mr Zwane, and Mr Dewald Scholtz, your teamwork behind the scenes has ensured that this event runs seamlessly. The collaboration, commitment, and unity you have demonstrated are truly commendable.

We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to our presenter, Ms Tracy Ncube, for speaking so eloquently and for serving as a gifted Master of Ceremonies. Your confidence, grace, and ability to guide the programme so seamlessly added great value to this occasion.

We are deeply grateful for the excellence, passion, and unwavering commitment you have shown in creating this extraordinary opportunity for our learners. Your efforts have made a lasting impact, and we sincerely appreciate all that you have done.



## CityRize Field

**CityRize Field**- A Call to Build Our School Sports Field

We would also like to make a heartfelt appeal to our broader community and potential partners.

Directly across the road from our school lies land with enormous potential — potential to become a fully developed sports field that would benefit not only our learners but the entire community. At present, our children have limited space for structured sports and physical development. A properly developed field would allow us to expand sporting codes, host matches and events, and promote healthy, active lifestyles.

More importantly, this would not just be a school facility — it would serve as a safe, shared recreational space for families and community members. For example: when we host our Spring Days and Annual Athletics Days.

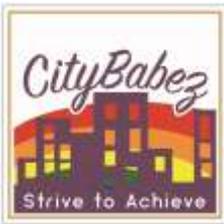
We are urgently seeking a sponsor or development partner who would be willing to assist in transforming this land into a functional sports field.

This is an investment in our children, in youth development, and in the wellbeing of our community as a whole.

Any individual, business or organisation interested in partnering with us is encouraged to contact the school office. Together, we can create a space where our children can run, play, compete and grow.

Let us continue growing, learning and shining together — and building a future our children truly deserve. CityRize Field represents far more than a sports ground — it represents hope, growth and opportunity rising from the heart of Johannesburg's inner city. The name reflects our belief that every child has the potential to rise above challenges, to grow in confidence and strength, and to become a champion both on and off the field. This space will stand as a symbol of community upliftment, youth development and shared vision — not only for CityKidz learners, but for families and neighbours across our community. CityRize Field is where potential will be nurtured, talent will be discovered, and futures will rise.





# CityBabez



This week, our CityBabez had a wonderful time discovering the magic of shapes by colouring in a **triangle!**

At this age, children are just beginning to notice the world around them in new and exciting ways. Learning about simple shapes—like circles, squares, and triangles—helps build early math and language skills. While colouring their triangles, the children explored the shape’s **three sides** and **three corners**. Some even pointed to triangle shapes they spotted around the room!

Colouring activities do so much more than create beautiful artwork. As little hands grasp and move crayons, children strengthen their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. They also practice focus, creativity, and decision-making as they choose their colours.

Most importantly, the children had fun! Through play-based learning, they are building strong foundations for future learning—one bright triangle at a time.

We can’t wait to explore more shapes together!



# Growing, Learning & Shining Together

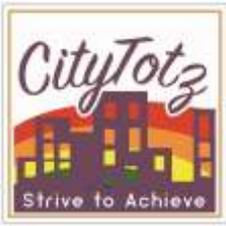
As February draws to a close, we celebrate the many ways our learners continue to grow, contribute and shine within our school community.

Each class plays a meaningful role in shaping the spirit of our school. Our youngest learners fill our classrooms with curiosity and excitement as they build strong foundations in literacy, numeracy and social development. Our middle grades are developing confidence and independence, embracing new academic challenges and creative opportunities. Our senior learners continue to demonstrate leadership, responsibility and determination, setting a wonderful example for others.

We are also thrilled about the opening of CityBabez, which marks an exciting new chapter in our commitment to quality early childhood development. This initiative strengthens our vision of nurturing confident, capable learners from their very first school experience. We look forward to seeing CityBabez flourish and become a cornerstone of growth within our school family.

As our school continues to expand, we warmly encourage families to spread the word about the opportunities we offer. Increased enrolments will allow us to strengthen our programmes, invest in additional resources and create even more enriching experiences for our children.





# CityBabes





## Grade 3 World Read Aloud Day Celebrations

Reading is an essential part of our everyday lives. We do it all the time. Whether it's reading a label off your favourite cereal box or reading a manual on how to launch a spacecraft or simply getting lost in an intriguing book, reading is integral to our lives. At CityKidz we take reading very seriously and we love coming up with innovative ideas on how to foster a love for reading at an early age. To celebrate World Read Aloud Day on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, the Grade 3's engaged in various reading activities, from read along stories on the smart board, to turning our usual play spaces into reading corners. A famous English poet, Rick Holland, once said, "The world belongs to those who read," and at CityKidz we're preparing our learners to grab it with both hands!







# AI Centre

The year has started with incredible energy and enthusiasm in the AI Centre! We are so proud of the remarkable progress our learners have already shown in their computer literacy skills. Having only begun their Coding and Robotics journey last year, the confidence and growth we are seeing now is truly inspiring. From understanding basic coding concepts to applying logical thinking and problem-solving skills, they are embracing every challenge with curiosity and determination.

One of the highlights of our first week was introducing Minecraft Education Edition into our lessons. For many learners, Minecraft is a familiar and much-loved game, while for others it was an exciting first-time experience — making it a special and inclusive moment for everyone. What makes Minecraft Education Edition so powerful is that it transforms play into purposeful learning.

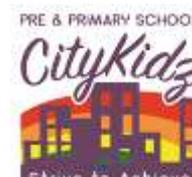
Through block coding and interactive challenges, learners are able to guide a robot, complete missions, and **even program it to build structures automatically. Watching them realise that they can “talk” to a computer** using code — and see instant results — has been both exciting and empowering. These activities not only strengthen their coding skills but also develop critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and perseverance.

The atmosphere in the AI Centre is one of excitement, exploration, and innovation. Our learners are not just playing — they are designing, building, experimenting, and thinking like young engineers and problem-solvers.

We are looking forward to a year filled with growth, discovery, and many fun adventures ahead. If the first few weeks are anything to go by, it is going to be an extraordinary year in the AI Centre!







# Today is our first Collection



A huge thank you to all our children and staff for your incredible generosity in bringing in pet food for our PawsRehoming charity drive.

Your kindness and enthusiasm have already made a real difference. Our first donation will help support pets in need, especially animals living in informal settlements where pets rely heavily on community support for food, care, and protection. These animals are an important part of families and communities, and your donations help ensure they are cared for while they wait for safer, healthier lives.

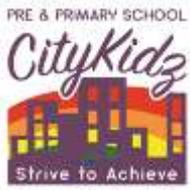
It is also important for children to understand the positive role pets play in our lives. Pets offer comfort, companionship, and emotional support, helping to reduce stress, improve our mood, and support our overall well-being. Caring for animals teaches empathy, responsibility, and kindness — values we are proud to encourage at CityKidz.

Our collection drive will continue throughout the year, and we are counting on this ongoing spirit of giving to show just how much CityKidz gives back to our community. Every contribution, big or small, truly makes a difference.

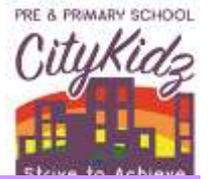
Thank you for being such a caring and compassionate community.

*Now HOPE was spotted by Clauds from PawsRehoming being dragged down the road with a rope around her neck by a group of youths ... intervention = surrender to our SPCA! HOPE is a dear little dog, so sweet and kind. She will make a lovely small breed companion and gets on well with other dogs.*

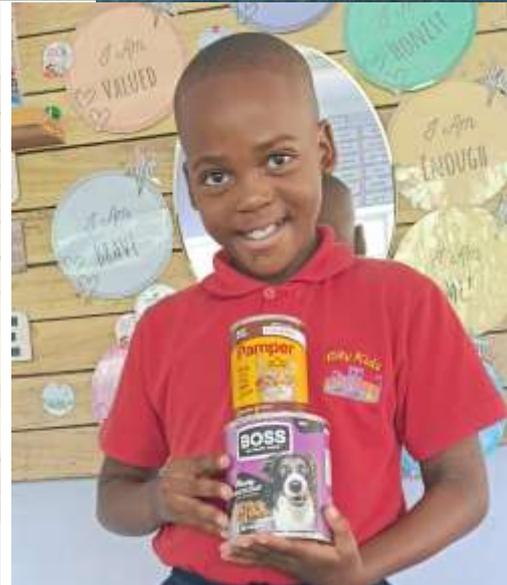




3D's are attaching a positive quote to inspire the initiative:  
\***"Every bite you donate feeds a wagging tail and a purring heart – together we can make every animal's meal matter."**\* 🐾 🐾



# Today is our first Collection





### A Special Thank You to Our Wonderful Parents

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our parents who generously contributed pet food. Your kindness and willingness to give have made a meaningful difference. Your support not only helps animals in need, but also teaches our children powerful lessons about compassion, empathy, and community.

As we celebrate your generosity, we are reminded of these beautiful words:

- *“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”* — Aesop
- 
- *“We rise by lifting others.”* — Robert Ingersoll
- 
- *“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”* — Mahatma Gandhi
- 
- *“Happiness doesn’t result from what we get, but from what we give.”* — Ben Carson
- 

Thank you for partnering with us in nurturing a culture of giving and kindness **within our school community. Your generosity truly makes a difference.** □

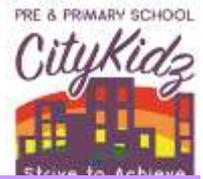


### A Heartfelt Thank You for Your Generosity

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the classes who contributed pet food. Your kindness and generosity have made a meaningful difference for animals in need.

It has been wonderful to see our learners come together for such a caring cause. Acts like these show the true spirit of compassion and responsibility within our school community.





## Sports Day—Term 2



We are delighted to inform you that our Annual Sports Day will take place on Saturday, 25 April 2026 at Holy Family College, 40 Oxford Road, Parktown, Johannesburg.

It is very important that all parents and guardians plan ahead and ensure they have accurate directions to the venue before the day. The school will continue to communicate important reminders through WhatsApp, letters, our official school website, Facebook page, and newsletters. Please diarise this date and reserve it for what promises to be an exciting and memorable event.



## Get running....

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Holy Family College for generously allowing us to use their premises and excellent sports facilities. As the CityKidz family, we truly value and cherish the strong and positive relationship we share with them. We therefore appeal to everyone to treat the venue with the utmost respect by keeping it clean and litter-free. We have full confidence in our staff, learners, and parents to ensure that the premises are left in a spotless and orderly condition.

Learners will be divided into teams according to their school houses and must wear their PET uniform in their respective house colours:

- Eland – Yellow
- Impala – Green
- Roan – Red

Events will begin promptly at 8:30 am and will run through the morning into mid-afternoon. All learners must arrive at the venue by 7:30 am. Please note that if a child misses their race, it will not be rerun, so punctuality is essential.

We are hopeful for beautiful sunshine and a rain-free day. However, should the weather not permit, a contingency plan is in place and the event will be rescheduled to another Saturday. We will communicate the alternative date should this be necessary.

Our ever-popular tuck shop and other registered service providers will be on site, offering a wide variety of delicious food and refreshments to cater for everyone's needs.

We anticipate that the event will conclude at approximately 16:00. For safety reasons, children must be supervised at all times. We kindly request parents' cooperation in this regard, as teachers will be assigned various duties throughout the day. Parents will also have the opportunity to participate in special races, so please come dressed in comfortable sportswear and be ready to join in the fun should you wish. Your involvement and enthusiasm will add to the spirit of the day.

We look forward to your support in making this another exceptional, enjoyable, and successful Sports Day for our CityKidz community.

Warm regards

Mrs Cindy Moyo (HOD– Sports Day Convenor)

Mr B. Mlotshwa - HOD





## Hands-On Geography Fun in Grade 6!

Geography lessons at CityKidz soared to new heights this week as Mam Yenzie Grade 6 class traded their textbooks for balloons to learn about the lines that grid our planet.

In a hands-on activity designed to make abstract concepts concrete, learners inflated round balloons to serve as stand-in Earths. Armed with markers, they carefully drew the Equator around the middle of their "planets" before mapping out the Prime Meridian and the crucial lines of latitude and longitude.

**The learning didn't stop at lines on a map. The classroom was then turned into a model of a rotating Earth.** Learners used desk lamps to represent the sun, carefully shining the light on their balloon globes. By slowly spinning their balloons, they could see firsthand which parts of the world were in light and which were in darkness.

This simple demonstration led to a lightbulb moment for understanding time zones. Learners could easily grasp that when their balloon faced the "sun," it was daytime there, while the opposite side, shrouded in shadow, was experiencing night.

"It was so much cooler than just looking at a picture," said Gaobone, "When I drew the lines myself and saw how the sun hit one side, I finally understood why **my cousin in London is eating dinner while I'm just waking up for school.**"

The activity culminated in a colourful display of hand-decorated balloon globes hanging in the classroom, a creative reminder that sometimes the best way to understand the big, wide world is to build it with your own two hands.

Regards,  
 Ms. Y. Dhlamini





## Aftercare Friday

Fun Friday at CityKidz Aftercare again. Learners were wondering what was in store for them. Teachers appeared with colourful connecting blocks. On a hot afternoon everyone needed fun and exciting activities. But first the hosepipe came out to cool everyone down. Delighted shrieks and laughter started off our Fun Friday.

Imagine a pile of colourful blocks which enticed learners to think of fantasy worlds, dragons, castles, football pitches and much more.

Colour recognition, teamwork and listening to instructions play a significant role in children's development.

Colours influence their emotions, creativity, learning and overall well-being. Teamwork and listening also inspire kids to think creatively, to explore new ideas and imagine new possibilities.

Soon green dragons appeared, multi-coloured castles, even a long black light sabre.

Infinity here we come.

Everyone had a fun-filled Aftercare afternoon and there were even a few sleepy heads later on for whom all the action was too much. We look forward to telling all about our next exciting Fun Friday.





# AFHCO



**MOVE  
UP**

**STAY WITH  
AFHCO AND  
GET REWARDED**

**FAMILY DISCOUNT** 

**NO REGISTRATION FEE**

**TO CITY KIDZ PRE AND PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**10% OFF**  
**SCHOOL FEES**

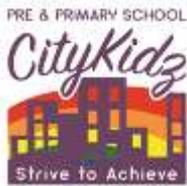
**10% OFF**  
**MONTHLY RENTAL**

**CONTACT US TODAY  
TO ENJOY THE DISCOUNT**

**☎086 11 23426**

**✉customerservices@afhco.co.za**





# Terms and conditions

**MOVE  
UP**  
STAY WITH  
AFHCO AND  
GET REWARDED



**FAMILY DISCOUNT**   
**NO REGISTRATION FEE**  
TO CITY KIDZ PRE AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

## How to benefit from the family discount

### Terms and Conditions:

1. The offer is for AFHCO Tenants only
2. The AFHCO rental discount is applicable only to a leaseholder with a child(ren) enrolled at City Kidz School.
3. The discount applies only for the duration of both tenancy and school enrolment.
4. The rental discount is 10% of the rental amount only (utilities excluded).
5. The rental discount is limited to one (1) discount per unit/leaseholder.
6. City Kidz School discount includes:
  - Admin Fee, and
  - 10% discount on school fees.
7. The City Kidz School discount applies to a maximum of three (3) children per unit.
8. If AFHCO occupation ceases, both rental and school discounts are cancelled.
9. If the child(ren) leave City Kidz School, both rental and school discounts are cancelled.

**10% OFF  
SCHOOL FEES**

**10% OFF  
MONTHLY RENTAL**

CONTACT US TODAY  
TO ENJOY THE DISCOUNT

-  086 11 23426
-  072 711 5410
-  customerservices@afhco.co.za





## Behaviour Bank Awards

### Most Merits for Term 1: Week Ending 27th February : Year 2026

Grade	Name	Surname	Grade	Name	Surname
Grade RR	Christain	Hanyire	Grade Ra	Tebogo	Gola
Grade Rb	Buhlebenkosi	Ndlovu	Grade Rc	Israel	Mazana
Grade 1A	Luyanda	Nkosi	Grade 1B	Naledi	Komane
Grade 1C	Luniko	Mgoduka	Grade 1D	Neliah	Nyoni
Grade 2A	Lilitha	Stevenson	Grade 2B	Brianna	Katsande
Grade 2C	Amahle	Jiyane	Grade 2D	Dimpho	Malele
Grade 3A	Amile	Nyembezi	Grade 3B	Esihle	Nxumalo
Grade 3C	Atlegang	Meapa	Grade 3D	Phathokuhle	Mtolo
Grade 4A	Khethelo	Ndondo	Grade 4B	Nomonde	Kwane
Grade 4C	Owethu	Mavundla	Grade 4D	Ndoniyamanzi	Dhlamini
Grade 5A	Oluhle	Shongwe	Grade 5B	Jodan	Pieterse
Grade 5C	Letago	Mabotha	Grade 5D	Sbahle	Maphosa
Grade 6A	Precious	Moyo	Grade 6B	Gabriel	Sy
Grade 6C	Thandolwethu	Mabona	Grade 6D	Zea-Marie Rose	Meye-me- Ndong
Grade 7A	Naledi	Motsoari	Grade 7B	David	Okonkwo
Grade 7C	Hope	Mathobela	CityBabez	Chimbusomma	Eze



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
02/03	03/03	04/03	05/03	06/03
CASS FP and IP Sports Practice RR-1	CASS FP and IP Sports Practice 2&3	CASS FP and IP Sports Practice 4&5	CASS FP and IP Sports Practice 6&7	
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09/03	10/03	11/03	12/03	13/03
CASS FP and IP Sports Practice RR-1	CASS FP and IP Sports Practice 2&3	CASS FP and IP Sports Practice 4&5	CASS FP and IP Sports Practice 6&7	



**General Knowledge Question**

Which dog breed was traditionally kept by monks in the Swiss Alps to find lost travellers?

**Answer to the question in our last newsletter.**

- Name the two seas surrounding India. **Arabian Sea (West) Bay of Bengal (East)**



**basic education**

Department: Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Registration number  
2007/014450/08

*Until one has loved an animal, a part of one's soul remains unawakened.*

*Anatole France*



*CityKidz Pre & Primary School is Accredited by Umalusi, Council for Quality Assurance in General and Further Education and Training- Accreditation number*

**SPELLING BEE**

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| ransack     | resume        |
| ransom      | resurgent     |
| ratchet     | resurrect     |
| ravenous    | retrench      |
| reassess    | retribution   |
| reassure    | retrieve      |
| recycle     | reunion       |
| restriction | reverberates  |
| restructure | revolutionary |
| resultant   | rheumatism    |



*Warm Regards*

*Ms S Reynolds*

PRINCIPAL

