



INTERNET ARTICLE

The Department of Water and Sanitation kick starts global handwashing month at Stadt Primary School in Mahikeng

16 October 2023

October is Global Handwashing month, a global advocacy day dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding about the importance of washing hands with soap and water as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives.

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) attended an international Child Health Day at Stadt Primary School in Mahikeng, North West.

The main objective of Hand washing day is to influence simple behavioural changes and encourages proper hand washing with soap, which according to research can reduce the rate of diarrheal infections by almost 50% and acute respiratory diseases by up to 25%. When practiced by mothers and birth attendants it can reduce neonatal mortality rates by almost 40%.

Handwashing with soap and water is a practice that needs to be inculcated in homes, schools, and communities to change behaviours.

The Department of Water and Sanitation together with, the Department of Health, Department of Education, Department of Sports Arts and Culture, Department of Social Development, and the North West University were invited to come and address the pupils of Stadt Primary, about child health.

Mr Tieho Ntja and Ms Mangie Rakale from the DWS demonstrated how to properly wash hands to the learners. They demonstrated the tips as follows:

- ❖ Wet your hands and apply soap.
- ❖ Rub your hands
- ❖ Rub in between your thumbs.
- ❖ Rub the back of your hands.
- ❖ Rub your wrists.
- ❖ Rub your nails.
- ❖ Rinse your hands with running water.

The learners were advised to use running water or a tippy tap to wash hands and not use water inside a bucket.

Pontsho Bodibe

WATER IS LIFE – SANITATION IS DIGNITY

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