

# Princess takes a bow at care centre

THANDI SKADE

WHILE the other children sat quietly in their feeding chairs, faces beaming, [REDACTED] began weeping, tears rolling down his cheeks.

He clearly hadn't received the memo. Or maybe he had, and the reality of being in the same room as royalty was just too overwhelming.

Whatever it may have been, Japanese Princess Takamado didn't take offence at the three-year-old's reaction to her presence, but smiled, greeted children and held babies.

Takamado was visiting the St Francis Care Centre in Boksburg yesterday as part of her visit to the country to wish the Japanese team luck ahead of their match against Denmark on Thursday.

Even the princess was feeling World Cup fever, wearing chic soccer ball earrings.

She is the first member of the Japanese Imperial family to



ROYAL GREETING: Princess Takamado greets [REDACTED] 4, during the princess's visit to the St Francis Care Centre in Boksburg, where a Japanese Franciscan priest, Father Nicholas Nemoto, worked for nine years.

PICTURE: DUMISANI SIBEKO

visit South Africa.

The St Francis Care Centre is a dedicated HIV/Aids centre that cares for adults and orphans, providing home care and antiretroviral clinics. It was

founded by Father Stan Brennan, a Franciscan priest, in 1992.

Down the hall in a classroom at the nursery school, children entertained and impressed the princess with

their rendition of two Japanese nursery rhymes.

[REDACTED] 4, struck a pose as photographers snapped away, even stopping to kiss the princess on the cheek and give her a hug.

Takamado smiled as the children sang to her, replying "Siyabonga!" in isiZulu.

She was taken to the Father Nicholas Nemoto memorial community hall in the building in remembrance of the Japanese priest who served at the centre for nine years before he died in 2008.

Centre manager Tilly Brouwer said Nemoto was the kind of person who would go out of his way to help others.

"If a patient had a need, no matter how small, he would go out, no matter what the time, to get it for them. He was all about serving others," Brouwer said.

As Father Stan showed the princess around the hall, he told her: "This is your little place here."