



11 January 2017

## Welcome Newsletter from the Principal

A warm welcome back to all our pupils and families, and a special welcome to our new Grade One children, and to those children who are joining us for the first time. We hope your years at Craighall Primary will be filled with much success and many friendships.

Well, the dizzying highs of last year are gently slipping into the realm of memory and we have a blank canvas in front of us for 2017. As always, there is an enticing array of opportunities for pupil involvement throughout the year.

It is with tremendous pride and a sense of honour that I continue as Principal of one of the best public schools. I look forward to the wonderful opportunities ahead and give a commitment to continue to serve this community with dedication and professionalism, as well as being able to provide all our children with many opportunities to thrive and shine. This is a task which I would never be able to even remotely accomplish if it wasn't for our amazing staff. A number of new members of staff have joined the school this year and we trust that their association with Craighall Primary will be a happy and productive one. I introduce:

Miss Stockil – a Grade 1 teacher assistant; Miss Igrac – teaching Grades 1 – 7 Knowledge Network; Miss Mizen – teaching Grade 6 Maths; Miss Bieske teaching Grade 5 Maths and Natural Science, Miss Ghirelli – teaching Grades 6 and 7 English and, last but not least, Mrs Mashamaite – teaching Zulu to Grades 1 – 6.

It is up to each of us to extend a warm hand of welcome and friendship to all our new staff members.

As with the commencement of any event, including the start of a new school year, housekeeping rules need to be laid down and adhered to. These rules assist us in ensuring the smooth and safe running of the school which will culminate in a well-rounded education for your children.

**Arrival at school** – children should be at school no later than 07h30; we ask all parents to honour and adhere to this time as it gives the pupils time to organise themselves and settle in class which starts at promptly at 07h40. Research shows that the best learning occurs early in the day. Our professional teachers and the pupils who are punctual should not have the lesson interrupted by pupils who arrive late for the first class; the first period sets the tone for the day.

**Uniform** – Parents, please look at your child before they leave for school in the morning to make sure that he/she is correctly dressed in full summer uniform and that he/she is neat and tidy in appearance. Please ensure your child brings a school cap or hat to wear at break and during extramural activities. All pupils must leave the school in the afternoon in full school uniform unless they have taken part in an extramural activity. This also pertains to the children enrolled in Aftercare and have not brought a change of clothing.

Every item of school uniform, including shoes (black and sports) hats/caps, socks, swimming costumes, swimming bags, towels, shorts, sports shirts as well as lunch boxes, drink bottles, pretty much anything that can get lost **MUST** be **CLEARLY MARKED** with **at least** the child's initial and surname (full name if space allows). Each parent has been supplied with a black laundry marker especially for the clothing and shoes (there is a white space on the side or underneath the tongue) as the iron-on/stick-on labels have not been effective in the past. Each day this week, there will be a full inspection of all items. I would like to thank parents for their support in supporting and implementing school policy.

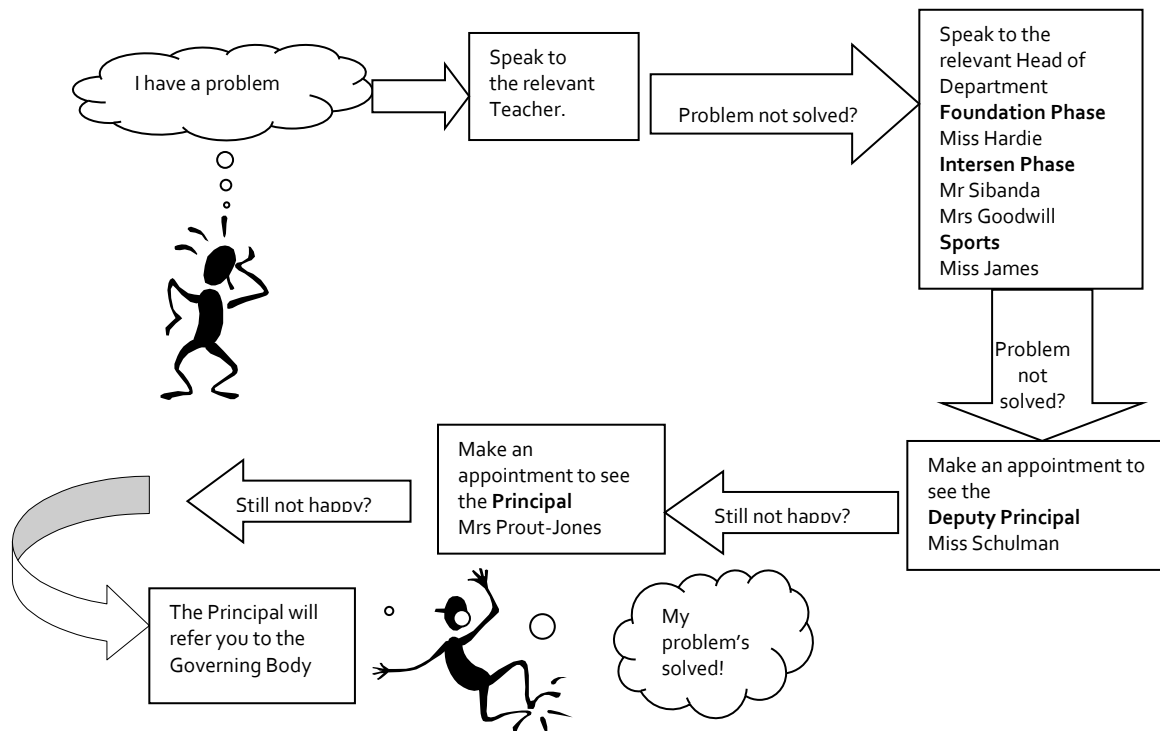
**Code of Conduct** - Grades 1 – 3 pupils will receive their Code of Conduct as a loose document. Please read through this carefully with your child and return the signed page to the class teacher by Friday 13

January. The Grade 4-7 pupils' Code of Conduct is in the front of their homework diaries and parents will also need to return the loose signed page by the same date.

**Cellphone & Social Media Policy** – There is a policy regarding the use of cellphones and social media whilst on school premises. Each child bringing a cellphone to school will receive a copy. Please return the signed loose page also by 13 January.

**Communication** - This is such a vital component and allows the parents to be a step ahead and provides an opportunity to make your children's school life as simple as possible. Communication with staff members leads to the development of better relationships between them and you, the parent. The first communication document which you received today is highly relevant and important - the Year Planner. Each year, we request that this planner is placed in a visible place, maybe on the front of your fridge. It covers the activities which affect your children for the entire year and ensures that you are able to plan well in advance and are not in the dark about upcoming events. These dates, as well as fixtures, additional news and senior homework are added onto the school Communicator which you can upload onto your PC or cellphone by Googling 'D6 Communicator' and downloading the app.

**Lines of communication when a problem needs to be addressed:**



**Homework:** At this point in the year, it is important that parents check that their child starts off with good, productive habits regarding the implementation and completion of their homework.

**Staff News**

We take this opportunity to wish a belated happy birthday to Mr Nene – Groundstaff (1 January), Mr Modishane – Groundstaff (2 January), and Mr Mothedimosa – Security (4 January).

I have no doubt that we will have a happy school year and I look forward to the wonderful growth that 2017 has to offer to us all.

Kind regards

A Prout-Jones (Mrs)  
Principal