



Dear Parents

I would like to take this opportunity to offer a warm “welcome back” to all our pupils, parents and staff. I trust that you have all enjoyed the winter holiday and that you are rested and refreshed for the upcoming term. The next 10 weeks of school are going to be filled with many exciting activities and events. Yes, it will be a very busy term and we look forward to the individual success of each event.

The first event is our Sports Day on Saturday 29 July. Below are the answers to the most common questions asked which are linked to Sports Day:

Q: Why is this held on a Saturday?

A: Parents have so little opportunity to support their children during sports events due to work commitments. A Saturday allows for the support your child needs and for you, the parents, to experience the true ethos and spirit of our school.

Q: Why is it compulsory?

A: It is compulsory because each and every child is a participant. The children who were not selected for the various races during the trials still form part of their class races. Furthermore, it is imperative that ALL the children are part of their ‘house’ and support their teams all the way.

Q: What do the children need for sports day?

A: All pupils must wear **white shorts** and a **T-shirt in the colour of their house (available from uniform shop at R120)**. In the event of it being cold, pupils may wear the full school tracksuit and takkies with the sports uniform underneath. Pupils must run barefoot, however, soccer/hockey boots **must** be worn for the Tug-o-War. Children are encouraged to wear their rosettes (available at uniform shop) throughout this week. The pupils should wear some form of head covering for sun protection and sunscreen should be applied to faces as well.

Q: What time does it start and how is the day organised?

08h45 – 09h00 - Children must report to register classrooms to be registered.
09h00 – 09h15 - Children move onto the top field for the line-up
09h15 - March past
09:15 - ±13h00 - Sports events which are:

Long distance

Flat races

Class games

Siblings’ race

Tug-‘o-war

Relays

Parents’ race

Old boys’ and old girls’ races

Q: How do parents gain access to the field?

A Parents may gain access to the field via the gate on Grosvenor Avenue.

Q: May I give food and drink to my child during sports day?

A: All children must have a good, healthy breakfast. In their own bags, they may bring water and a snack. Parents may not bring their children food and they may not come to you. This is for everybody’s safety, as far too often both children and parents are oblivious to a race taking place and then, while walking across the track to the stands, could cause injury to the

participants if a collision takes place.

Q: Where are the spectators situated?

A: The parents will go to their chosen spot on the periphery of the field; the children will be situated on the stands during the entire sports day, except when participating in an event.

Q: Will there be food and refreshments?

A: Yes, the PTA will be there selling food and drinks to the parents.

Q: May my child leave early

A: No, as once again they are not only present to compete in their own events but are part of the spirit and ethos of the school.

Q: What happens at the end of sports day?

A: All children and spectators are asked to tidy up their respective areas. When this has been done, the children will receive refreshments from the captains, and then they may go home.

Q: Are we allowed to bring our dog?

A: Most dogs are very placid at home, hence parents like to dress them up as mascots and bring them along. However, due to crowds often becoming overwhelming and possibly resulting in the dogs becoming a danger, we will NOT be allowing them on the property. Please note that you will be asked to take the dog home if you choose to bring it to the event.

Another question raised recently was why doesn't every child participate in the formal races, when even parents and siblings are given this opportunity? Logistically, this would not be possible as it would lengthen the day tremendously and where do you draw the line for awards? We, as a school, certainly acknowledge and understand that children are still developing and will only find their strengths and talents through exposure. It is for this very reason that our extramural timetable is so extensive. The Interhouse Cross Country ensures that the whole school participates as they can run in large groups. Furthermore, I always reiterate that each pupil at the Sports Day holds equal value, whether they are supporting their team or as a participant in the events.

All of the above are the basic, logistical reasons, however, as a school, it is imperative that we ensure that the children have a realistic understanding of the big, wide world out there, where competition, winning and losing is a fact of life. Most importantly, we need to enlighten the children that starting at the bottom of the ladder will humble them and teach them valuable lessons on how to remain focussed, stay determined and persevere. In addition, once they have attained success, they will be substantially more satisfied with themselves than they would with a 'handout'. I am concerned that our aspirations are hindered by this generation's unfortunate conditioning in a world based on instant gratification.

Unmarked, incorrectly marked, unclaimed, washed and in-good-condition uniform items which have accumulated over the school year will be on sale on Sports Day. Please ensure you have cash should you wish to purchase any of the school uniform items. It's a great opportunity to buy for a fraction of the cost.

Mandela Day

This day was celebrated during the school holidays on 18 July. Can you spare 67 minutes of your time helping others? was the question asked on this day. Every year, on Mandela Day, people around the world are asked by the Nelson Mandela Foundation to do just that. By devoting 67 minutes of their time, one minute for every year of Mr Mandela's public service, people can make a small gesture of solidarity with humanity and a step towards the global movement for good. Due to this falling during the school holidays, which will probably continue over the years, we ask that it is celebrated on the actual day by doing simple things. These can include:

- Making a new friend;
- Reading to someone who is unable;
- Helping out at your local animal shelter;
- Helping someone get a job, type up a CV for them, to name a few.

As a school, each grade has planned a charity drive to be completed at some point during this term. This is not only in celebration of Mandela Day, but also creates an intrinsic awareness of how we can help others and how many people/animals are in need of and appreciate any assistance. As each grade completes their event, feedback will be given.

Staff News:

Congratulations to Miss Hardie on her marriage, she has returned as Mrs Marais.

We extend a warm welcome to Mrs Gaydon (Grade 2), Mrs Caldeira (Grade 4) and Miss Joscelyne (Grade 5).

Happy belated birthday to Mrs Govender (Debtors) – 27 July and happy upcoming birthday to Miss Knight (Grade 2) – 28 July, Mr Bam (Grounds) – 29 July, Mrs Goodwill (Grade 5) – 30 July, Mrs Martell (Art & Drama) – 31 July and Miss Conidaris (Media Centre – 1 August).

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Kind regards

A Prout-Jones
Principal

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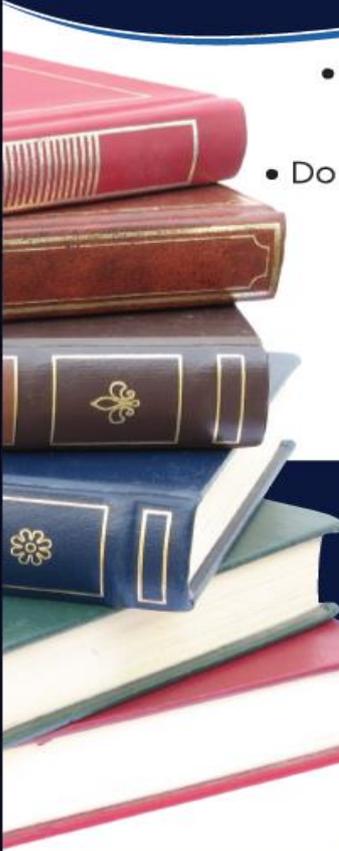


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