

Craighall

Primary School

21 January 2026

School Newsletter



Dear Parents,

Rooted, So We Rise

Dear Craighall Families,

REMINDERS:

21 Jan - Gr 7 Info evening
22 Jan - Gr 5 Info evening
30 Jan - Monitors Assembly
13 Feb - Valentine's Civvies
24 Feb - Gr R Ear Screening
27 Feb - Gr R Pirate Picnic
Disco

A warm welcome back to all our parents, children, and staff as we begin **Term 1 of 2026**. We trust that the holidays provided time for rest, reconnection, and renewed energy, and we look forward to a meaningful year ahead.

As we begin this new academic year, we do so with a theme that speaks deeply to who we are as a school community:
"Rooted, So We Rise."

This term reminds us that strong growth does not happen by chance. It begins with firm roots, roots grounded in values, care, consistency, and partnership between home and school. When children feel secure, respected, and guided, they can rise confidently in their learning, relationships, and sense of self.

At Craighall, we believe that education is a shared journey. What is nurtured at home is strengthened at school, and what is modelled at school is carried back into homes and lives beyond the classroom. Together, we shape not only capable children, but kind, resilient, and respectful human beings.

Rooted at Home, So We Rise at School

As we prepare to welcome the children back to school, we ask that you take just a few minutes to sit with your child and remind them of something very important:

Every person has the same value.

Please help them understand that:

- being tall or short, chubby or skinny, black or white is never a joke,
- wearing the same shoes every day is nothing to be ashamed of,
- a used backpack carries the same dreams as a brand-new one,
- excluding others because they are "different" or have fewer opportunities is not acceptable,
- teasing hurts, and school is a place to learn, not to compete or compare.

At Craighall, we believe strongly that education begins at home.

It is at home that children first learn to say:

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, please, with your permission, sorry, forgive me, thank you, I was wrong.

It is at home that children learn to:

- be honest and punctual,
- speak politely and respectfully,
- show respect to friends, adults, teachers and authority,
- care for their own belongings and respect those of others.

It is also at home that children learn daily habits and values such as:

- personal hygiene and neatness,
- helping with chores,
- not taking what does not belong to them,
- being content with what they have,
- working honestly and treating others with dignity.

At home, children learn to:

- be organised,
- respect rules,
- value their culture, language and spirituality.

At school, teachers build on these roots. We teach and guide children in Mathematics, Languages, Life Skills, Sciences, Technology, Arts and Physical Education, but it is the values learned at home that allow children to grow, connect, respect others and truly thrive.

When children are rooted in kindness, respect and gratitude, they rise, academically, socially and emotionally.

Welcoming New and Returning Staff

We are delighted to welcome new members to our teaching team and to share staff movements for 2026:

- **Mrs Richardson** joins us in **Grade 2**
- **Mrs Marais** joins **Grade 5**, teaching **Natural Sciences and Social Sciences**
- **Miss Lacock** joins **Grade 6**, teaching **English and PSW**

We also acknowledge the following internal staff moves:

- **Miss Grealy** moves from **Grade 5 to Grade 2**
- **Miss Meiring** moves from **Grade 6 to Grade 7 English**

We are grateful for the experience, flexibility, and commitment of our staff, and we wish each of them a rewarding year ahead in their new roles.

A Positive Start to the Year

It has been wonderful to see how **well the children have settled in during their first week back at school**. Classrooms are already filled with focus, enthusiasm, and a sense of purpose, and the children have returned with positive energy and readiness to learn.

This settled start was beautifully complemented by our **Interhouse Swimming Gala for Grades 3–7**, where children had the opportunity to showcase not only their swimming ability, but also their **passion, sportsmanship, and house spirit**. The encouragement from the stands, the pride in representing their houses, and the respect shown to one another reflected everything we value at Craighall. The house scores were as follows:

*Kudu – 422
Impala – 420
Duiker – 416
Springbok – 380*

Spirit Trophy – Springbok

Records Broken:

*U11 Boys Butterfly – Zach Davids
U12 Boys Butterfly – Ryan Kyle*

*U11 Boys Backstroke – Zach Davids
U12 Boys Backstroke – Ryan Kyle
Open girls Backstroke – Caitlyn Shaw*

*U12 Boys Breaststroke – Ryan Kyle
Open Girls Backstroke – Paige Mullins*

*U11 Boys Freestyle – Zach Davids
U12 Boys Freestyle – Ryan Kyle*

*U12 Girls Freestyle – Jess Nicholls
Open Girls Freestyle – Caitlyn Shaw*

Congratulations to:

*Girls Junior Medley – Eryn Nesbitt
Boys Junior Medley – Oliver Rowles*

*Girls Senior Medley – Caitlyn Shaw
Boys Senior Medley – Ryan Kyle*

School Times

To ensure smooth routines and consistent collection times, please note the following dismissal times:

Grade 1 & 2

Monday to Thursday: **13:15**

Friday: **12:00**

Grade 3

Monday to Thursday: **13:30**

Friday: **12:00**

Grade 4 – 7

Monday to Thursday: **14:00**

Friday: **12:45**

Extra Murals

Extra murals **commenced on Monday, 19 January**. Please read the **timetable and the accompanying letter carefully**, as these outline the various activities, days, and expectations.

Part of being rooted, and not starting the year on the back foot, is clear communication and informed planning.

Communication & Dojo

Communication remains a key focus area for us this year.

We have transitioned most classroom communication to **Dojo**. Dojo is the platform through which teachers will share learning updates, notices, reminders, photos of class activities, and subject-specific communication. This replaces teacher-created WhatsApp groups and ensures consistency, security, and a clear record of communication between school and home.

To make the most of Dojo:

- Download the **ClassDojo app** (free on smartphones or access via a web browser).
- Connect to your child's class using the code provided by their teacher.
- Ensure notifications are enabled so you receive updates in real time.

This platform fosters positive communication and helps parents stay connected with their child's learning as it unfolds, an essential part of being rooted in partnership with the school.

📵 Cell phone-Free School

Craighall Primary remains a **cell phone-free environment**. Children are not permitted to **bring cell phones to school**.

If a parent believes that a cell phone is necessary for **safety or transport reasons**, a **written application must be submitted to the principal** for consideration. If permission is granted:

- A **Code of Conduct (Learner)** will be issued
- The child may bring the phone to school **only once the form has been completed and returned**
- Phones may **not be used before or after school**
- Phones must be **locked in the teacher's locker during the school day**
- **Unauthorised use** will result in confiscation by the principal for an unspecified period of time

The **Learner Code of Conduct** has been issued to:

- the **Foundation Phase** as a separate document
- the **Senior Phase** within the **homework diary**

Parents are asked to please **go through the Code of Conduct with their children**, discuss expectations, and ensure that the regulations are fully adhered to. Kindly **return the signed Learner Code of Conduct as well as the Parent Code of Conduct**.

Please note that **all staff members also sign a Code of Conduct**, reinforcing consistency and shared accountability across our community.

Label Everything

You will have received a **laundry marker in your child's report envelope at the end of last year**. Please ensure that **every item of clothing and personal belongings are clearly labelled**.

If you are using or purchasing **second-hand items**, kindly cross out the previous name and **relabel the item for your child**. This supports independence and helps lost items find their way back home.

School Fees — Partnering in Quality Education

We appreciate the many families who consistently meet their school fee obligations. Your conscientious payments strengthen our ability to provide quality teaching, resources, and a stable environment for all learners.

Across the province, Gauteng Education leadership has urged parents to honour school fee commitments, noting that non-payment creates strain on schools that rely on these funds to operate effectively and sustain programmes. Gauteng Education MEC Matome Chiloane has emphasised that parents *must play their part in supporting schools*, and that fee-paying schools cannot rely on external “knights in shining armour” to solve funding challenges; rather, schools and parents need to work together to sustain excellent learning environments. He clearly stated there is no money, and parents must pay fees.

School fees remain the responsibility of parents, and we ask that all families honour this obligation so that we can continue to run an exceptional school and serve every child well. Thank you for investing in your child’s education and future.

As part of our shared responsibility and planning, exemption forms can be collected from the school office and must be submitted by Friday, 30 January. Adhering to this deadline allows the school to plan responsibly and fairly.

Looking ahead, the **book fee for 2027 is expected to once again be in the region of R1 300**. For families who find that this payment is not always readily available in November — and who may feel the pressure at the start of the following year — we strongly encourage setting aside **approximately R120 per month**.

This proactive approach ensures that the full amount is available by the end of November, allows book orders to be placed timeously, and prevents unnecessary stress for the administration team, teachers, and, most importantly, the children.

As we move through Term 1, we look forward to a term filled with learning, connection, growth, and purpose, always remembering that when our children are **rooted well**, they **rise beautifully**.

Thank you for your continued trust, partnership, and commitment to all that Craighall stands for.

Happy belated birthday to: Mr Nene (Ground staff) – 1 January; Mr Modishane (Ground staff) – 2 January; Mrs van Deventer (Admin staff) – 6 January; Mrs Solomon (Gr 6 Educator) – 6 January; Miss Lacock (Gr 6 Educator) – 11 January; Miss Brest (Sports Co-Ordinator) – 16 January.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Prout-Jones
(Principal)

ADVERTS:

CRAIGHALL / CRAIGLANDS KARATE

DISCIPLINE • CO-ORDINATION • CONFIDENCE • CONTROL

WEDNESDAY

13h30-14h00 in the Grade 1 quad

R780 PER TERM

NO REGISTRATION FEES

STUART HULLEY • 083 417 6315

sandtonksikarate@iafrica.com

ALL INTERESTED CHILDREN WELCOME TO TRY OUT!





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