

Craighall

Primary School

24 March 2026

School Newsletter



REMINDERS:

25 March – Individual & Sibling Photos
26 March – Class & Staff Photos
Parents Evening (5pm – 7pm)
27 March – School closes (10:30am)
8 April – School re-opens

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of a full and rewarding Term 1, I would like to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to all the stakeholders who make our school what it is.

To our dedicated teaching staff, who continue to show commitment, care, and professionalism in every classroom, thank you.

To our administrative and support staff, who ensure that the school runs smoothly behind the scenes each and every day, your work is deeply valued.

To our grounds team, who take pride in maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for our children, we are grateful for all that you do.

To our School Governing Body (SGB) and PTA, thank you for your ongoing guidance, support, and willingness to serve our school community. Your contribution plays a vital role in ensuring that we remain both sustainable and forward-thinking.

To our parents, for your partnership, trust, and support, we value the important role you play in your child's journey.

And most importantly, to our children, who bring life, joy, and purpose into our school each day, you remain at the heart of everything we do.

We also take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks to **Tanja Collins**, who concludes her time with us at the end of this term. Tanja has been a wonderful asset to our school, having stepped in last year for Mrs Roussouw's maternity leave and then graciously continuing to support us during Mrs. Daniel's maternity leave. Her commitment, adaptability, and care have been deeply appreciated, and we thank her for the role she has played in our school community. We wish her all the very best in her next chapter.

We look forward to welcoming **Mrs Daniel** back in Term 2, and similarly, we thank **Thembi** for her contribution while standing in during Tryphina's absence. As Phina returns next term, we extend our gratitude to Thembi for her support and dedication during her time with us.

School Fees – A Collective Responsibility

I would like to begin this section by sincerely thanking those parents who consistently meet their school fee commitments on a monthly basis. Your reliability and sense of responsibility enable our school to function effectively and to continue providing quality education for all our children.

Recently, the MEC, Mr. Matome Chiloane reiterated a message that schools are experiencing across the province. He emphasised that schools must find innovative ways to sustain themselves in challenging economic times and was clear in his belief that school fees remain a critical pillar in ensuring that fee-paying schools continue to function effectively. The reality in 2026 is not the same as it was when exemption regulations were first introduced in 2005. With reductions in funding and teaching posts across schools, both primary and high schools are being required to adjust. High schools are already responding to this call, and it is important that we, as a community, do the same.

If families do not begin prioritising school fees now, this challenge will only become more significant as children progress into high school, where financial expectations are even greater.

At Craighall, we remain committed to supporting families who genuinely qualify for fee exemption, in line with policy. However, it is concerning when there is a choice not to pay. Every unpaid fee places strain on the school and, ultimately, on the parents who are meeting their obligations in full. This year, a significant portion of our budget has been allocated to cover exemptions and bad debt. If this were not necessary, our school fees could be considerably lower. It is important to understand that when fees are not paid, the shortfall does not disappear but is absorbed by the school community.

When enrolling at a fee-paying school, there is a shared commitment. Education is not simply another expense; it is an investment in your child's future. As a parent myself, I understand the sacrifices this requires. School fees and, later, university fees were always my priority. Those choices shaped my children's understanding of responsibility and the value of education, influencing the way they approached their own futures. Surely, this is what we all want for our children.

I encourage every family to reflect on their commitment and to engage with us proactively where support is needed. But where there is a choice, I urge you to choose education. Together, through accountability and shared purpose, we can ensure that our school continues to thrive.

#LetsPayFees #GrowingGautengTogether

Term 2 Calendar Confirmation

We had submitted a request to the Department of Education to adjust our Term 2 calendar dates. However, the HOD has not granted approval for the proposed closure on the 28th, 29th, and 30th of April.

As a result, we will follow the **original school calendar**. School will reopen on **Wednesday, 8 April**, and all subsequent term dates will remain unchanged. Please note that we will **not** be returning earlier on any of the terms.

We appreciate your understanding and continued support in adhering to the confirmed calendar.

Reports – A More Holistic View

You will notice that our reports look different this term.

We have moved towards a more detailed and transparent reporting structure where all marks are incorporated. Subjects such as Life Skills and Social Sciences are now broken down into their components, allowing for a clearer understanding of where your child's strengths lie.

In addition, we have introduced a **work ethic indicator within each subject**. This is a valuable addition, as it provides insight beyond the percentage achieved. It allows both parents and children to reflect on whether the mark obtained truly reflects the child's best effort, or whether there is untapped potential that can still be developed.

Our intention with this shift is to support growth, not only academically, but in developing responsibility, effort, and self-awareness in each child.

Extra Murals – Term 2

As we look ahead to Term 2, please take note that all extracurricular activities will commence on the **first day back**.

Term 2 is an examination term, and as a result, extracurricular activities will conclude earlier than usual. It is therefore important that children maximise their participation from the very beginning of the term.

Parents are kindly requested to:

- Study the extramural timetable carefully
- Ensure adherence to the allocated days
- Read the accompanying letter thoroughly, as it provides important information and clarity regarding the programme

Your support in ensuring that children attend correctly and consistently is greatly appreciated.

Closing

As we head into the break, I encourage each family to take time to rest, reset, and reconnect. Term 1 has been a busy and productive start to the year, and our children have shown resilience, growth, and determination across all areas of school life. To our staff, thank you for the energy and care you pour into each day. To our parents, thank you for walking this journey with us. And to our children, continue to grow, to try, and to believe in what you are capable of.

We look forward to welcoming you back, refreshed and ready for Term 2.

“At Craighall, we grow deep roots in effort, responsibility, and care, so that every child has the strength to rise.”

We will see you ready to run on Wednesday, 8th April

Happy belated birthday to: Mrs Atwood (Afrikaans Educator) – 13 March; Mrs Bosch (Gr 2 Educator) – 18 March; Mrs Knights (Librarian) – 18 March; Miss Arnott (Gr 7 Educator) – 21 March and Mrs Laidlaw (Gr 4 Educator) – 24 March.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Prout-Jones
(Principal)



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