

Craighall

Primary School

16 April 2026

School Newsletter



REMINDERS:

17 April – Gr R
Grandparents day
23 April – World Book Day
24 April – Hooked on
Books & Book Character
Day
27 April – Freedom Day
(Public Holiday)
1 May – Worker's Day
(Public Holiday)

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term 2, after what was a very short break. I do hope that there was meaningful family time for all, and that those who celebrated Eid, Easter, and Pesach enjoyed special and joyful celebrations with loved ones.

Sadly, the term has started with unusual and persistent rains, which have already begun impacting our Netball and Soccer seasons. Please be assured that every effort will be made to make up for lost game time where possible. However, as a school, we are always guided by the responsibility to make safe decisions for our children. Drenched courts and waterlogged fields pose significant safety risks, and for this reason, some sporting fixtures have had to be cancelled. A waterlogged field becomes slippery, unstable, and unpredictable. This significantly increases the risk of impact injuries, as children are unable to stop or change direction effectively, as well as joint injuries such as sprained ankles when turning on soft, uneven ground. In addition, standing water affects the way the ball moves, making normal play difficult and often unsafe. There are also health considerations, particularly in colder weather, where children can become drenched and susceptible to illness. Beyond safety, playing on a waterlogged field can cause long-term damage to the ground, creating deep ruts and compacting the soil, which affects drainage and the field's usability for the remainder of the season.

In determining whether fields are waterlogged, staff look at several practical indicators:

- Visible standing water or puddles on the field
- Whether footwear leaves deep footprints or depressions, indicating that the ground is too soft
- If mud is sticking excessively to shoes and the surface is breaking up underfoot

If these conditions are present, the field is deemed unsafe and unsuitable for play, i.e., waterlogged.

Similarly, wet courts are extremely dangerous, becoming slippery very quickly, and at no time will children be permitted to play on them.

Our policy on match days requires that a decision be made by the latest 12:00, as the timely cancellation of coaches, transport, and logistical arrangements needs to take place for all involved schools. This is never an easy decision, and it is always disappointing when the weather improves later in the day, but these calls are made with the best interests and safety of all involved at heart.

Please note that staff will make the final decision regarding whether play can continue or not.

Our policy on practice days, should there be rain or lightning, children will remain safely at school, and practice will take place in the classroom. Only if this occurs repeatedly over several consecutive days will we request that children be collected straight after school.

When a match is cancelled, we do ask that children are collected at the end of the school day as soon as you are possibly able to, as staff supervision is structured around the normal extra-mural programme.

With the colder, wetter weather, we are allowing an earlier transition into winter uniform. Please remember that children are required to be in either full summer or full winter uniform, not a combination of the two. As always, we ask that every item of clothing is clearly labelled, so that any items removed during the day can be returned to their rightful owner.

Looking ahead, exam timetables and study guidelines will be sent out by Thursday, 23 April, to allow families sufficient time to plan and support their children through this important period.

A reminder too that Quizathon letters and forms were sent home in the report envelopes. This important fundraiser is designed to encourage our children to seek support from friends and extended family, rather than placing additional pressure on immediate household finances. We encourage all families to continue gathering sponsors. The Quizathon will take place on 15 May, and we look forward to the enthusiasm and support that always surrounds this event.

In addition, we are sharing the 2027 school calendar to assist families in planning, particularly with regard to holidays and long-term arrangements. (Please note this calendar can be found at the end of this newsletter)

We are also excited to celebrate World Book Day next week, on Thursday, 23 April. To mark this, we will host our Book Character Day on Friday, 24 April, where all children are encouraged to come dressed as a character from a book.

During the day, the children will attend "Hooked on Books", a fantastic interactive show where talented actors bring stories to life, introducing children to a variety of books in a way that inspires curiosity and a love for reading. It is always a highlight, and we look forward to a day filled with imagination and storytelling.

There is a story about a little boy who walked into his classroom one morning and saw a new child sitting alone at a desk.

He paused.

He noticed that the new child looked different.

He dressed differently.

He spoke quietly and kept his head down.

The boy felt something rise inside him, a quick thought, a quiet assumption, a story forming in his mind.

But just as quickly, his teacher's words came back to him:

"When you don't understand something... choose curiosity before judgment."

So instead of walking past,
instead of deciding who this child was without knowing him,
The boy did something small but powerful.

He walked over and said,
"Hi, I'm glad you're here. What's your name?"

And in that moment, everything changed.

At the start of this year, we spoke about being rooted, rooted in care, belonging, kindness, and doing our best. As we step into Term 2, we begin to take the next step, learning how to rise.

And one of the most powerful ways we rise is by choosing curiosity over judgment. In our classrooms, on our sports fields, and in our playgrounds, there will be moments where it is easier to assume, to react quickly, or to decide before we truly understand.

This term, we encourage our children and ourselves to pause.
To wonder instead of deciding.
To ask instead of assuming.
To choose understanding first.

Because a curious mind is a growing mind.
And a kind, curious community is one where every child feels safe, seen, and able to rise.

As we move through this busy and often unpredictable term, we are reminded that while we cannot always control the conditions around us, we can always choose how we respond.

Whether it is navigating rainy days, supporting one another through busy academic weeks, or simply choosing kindness in small daily moments, these are the spaces where character is built.

At Craighall, we remain committed to growing children who are not only capable, but compassionate; not only successful,

Children who are rooted in care...

and who, because of that, can rise with confidence, curiosity, and courage.

Thank you, as always, to our incredible staff, whose dedication and care continue to shape the daily experiences of our children. To our admin team and grounds staff, who ensure that our school runs smoothly and remains a space we are proud of. And to our SGB and PTA, for their ongoing support, guidance, and commitment to our school community.

And finally, to you, our parents, thank you for your partnership, your trust, and your continued support. It is in this shared commitment that our children thrive.

Excellence is an attitude. Care is our compass.

Wishing you all a meaningful and productive Term 2.

Happy belated birthday to: Mr Ngenda (Gr 7 Educator) – 30 March; Katlarelo Seroto (Intern) – 4 April;
Miss Peeperkorn (Gr 1 Educator) – 14 April.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Prout-Jones
(Principal)

ADVERTS:



Salon Bambino



Exclusive Kids Salon



Kids Hair Salon

- Boys & Girls Haircuts**
(Bryanston Branch Only)
- Cornrows**
- Braids**
- Treatments**
- & More**





Craighall: The Woods Shopping Center, Jan Smuts Ave

 **071 275 5747**

Bryanston: Stodels, 278 Main Road

 **073 707 5380**





4 No. 52178

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, 25 FEBRUARY 2025

2027 CALENDAR FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

JANUARY 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH 2027						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL 2027						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY 2027						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JUNE 2027						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

JULY 2027						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST 2027						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SEPTEMBER 2027						
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26	27	28	29	30		

OCTOBER 2027						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

NOVEMBER 2027						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

DECEMBER 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Public and School Holidays 2027	
01 January	New Year's Day
21 March	Human Rights Day
22 March	Public holiday
26 March	Good Friday
29 March	Family Day
26 April	Special School Holiday
27 April	Freedom Day
01 May	Workers' Day
16 June	Youth Day
09 August	National Women's Day
24 September	Heritage Day
16 December	Day of Reconciliation
25 December	Christmas Day
26 December	Day of Goodwill
27 December	Public holiday

 Weekends	 School days	 Special school holidays
 Days for administration	 Public holidays	 School holidays

SUMMARY OF 2027 CALENDAR FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Term	Duration	No. of weeks	No. of days	No. of public holidays	Actual no. of school days
1	(11)13 January – 19 March	10	48(50)	0	48(50)
2	06 April – 25 June	12	59	2+1	56
3	20 July – 22 September	10	47	1	46
4	05 October – 08(10) December	10	47(49)	0	47(49)
Total		42	201(205)	3+1	197(201)