

Craighall

Primary School

21 May 2026

School Newsletter



REMINDERS:

22 May – Gr R Game Rander Day
 29 May – Gr 3 & 4 Cake & Candy
 Extra Murals end (Gr 4 – 7)
 1 June – Gr 4 – 7 Exams start
 Quizathon money in
 10 June – Gr 4 – 7 Exams end
 11 June – Civvies (Soccer World
 Cup)
 12 June – Gr 4 – 7 Boys Soccer
 Assembly (07h40)
 15 June – Special School holiday
 16 June – Youth Day
 17 June – Gr 4 – 7 Girls Netball &
 Soccer Assembly (07h40)
 18 June – Gr 1 – 3 Girls Netball &
 Soccer Assembly (07h40)
 Athletics Trials
 19 June – Athletics Trials
 Gr R Fathers Day
 Braai
 25 June -Compulsory Interhouse
 Cross Country
 26 June – School closes
 (10:30am)

Dear Parents,

Communication is one of the most important foundations of a successful school community, and over time, we continually reflect on what allows communication to remain clear, respectful, purposeful, and effective for all involved.

For this reason, I fine-tuned our communication structures at the start of the year. From my side, I reverted to each grade having its own dedicated WhatsApp group. While some parents may receive the same message more than once due to having children in different grades, this is generally very easy to identify and allows us to ensure that all grade-specific communication still reaches the correct audience.

One of the biggest reasons for moving away from broader announcement structures is that too many parallel groups began to develop. Parents were often unsure which groups were official school communication platforms, which were informal spin-off groups, and which information should truly be relied upon. When communication becomes fragmented across too many platforms, important information is often missed altogether.

We also need to acknowledge a reality of modern communication: the more groups people belong to, the less carefully they tend to read what is being sent. One of our goals as a school is not simply to send information, but to ensure that communication is actually read, understood, and referred back to when needed.

Years ago, communication was limited largely to newsletters and formal notices. Parents extracted the information they needed, kept it safely, and referred back to it. While modern platforms certainly allow for helpful reminders and convenience, they should not replace careful reading and personal responsibility.

The current structure still allows parents to communicate directly with me privately should they need clarity, support, or guidance. This is important because it prevents concerns from becoming public group discussions and ensures that no individual is placed in an uncomfortable or unfair position.

Our PTA groups serve a very specific and valued purpose, namely fundraising initiatives, major school events, community involvement opportunities, reminders regarding collections or themed days, and the many wonderful ways our parent body contributes positively to school life. However, where groups allow unrestricted responses, conversations can easily move off topic. Questions are often asked that have already been communicated, and discussions sometimes begin about individuals who are not even present in the group to provide context, clarity, or response.

Unfortunately, this can unintentionally create speculation, misunderstanding, and unnecessary conflict. As the saying goes: "If there is a problem to solve, go to the source, not to the crowd." Concerns discussed behind someone's back can never truly be resolved because the person involved is often unaware that there is even an issue needing attention.

In many cases, these discussions involve teachers or staff members. It is important to remember that when we speak about people rather than to people, relationships become strained and solutions become more difficult to achieve. I therefore ask that concerns always be directed appropriately, to me, to the relevant staff member, or through the correct school channels, so that matters can be addressed fairly, respectfully, and with proper context.

For this reason, PTA communication groups will move towards a more controlled structure where communication is opened when relevant to events or organisational needs, rather than functioning as ongoing daily discussion groups. This is also important in protecting the PTA leadership team, as administrators of groups carry responsibility and accountability for what is posted. Removing inappropriate or harmful content can itself create further conflict and escalation.

As a school community, we ask that we all model the kind of respectful engagement we hope to instil in our children: kindness, dignity, maturity, and direct communication. In a world where frustration and conflict are often amplified, let us rather choose understanding, compassion, and the assumption of positive intent.

If something concerns you, please come to the source. Speak to us directly. Allow us the opportunity to clarify, support, explain, or rectify where needed. That is how healthy partnerships are built, and how we continue working together in the best interests of every child at Craighall.

At the heart of all healthy relationships and strong communities is honest communication, not conversations behind people's backs, but respectful discussions held directly, kindly, and with the intention of finding understanding and resolution.

As we move steadily towards the final stretch of the term, there are many important reminders and upcoming events for families to please take note of.

A reminder that Quizathon forms and sponsorship money need to be returned to the school. The Quizathon remains one of the wonderful ways in which our children contribute towards fundraising while also celebrating knowledge, participation, and enthusiasm for learning.

Our Grade 4 to 7 pupils officially begin examinations on 1 June. By now, children should have begun the process of summarising their work, revising content, and preparing for the exam period ahead. Consistent preparation, rather than last-minute studying, always allows children to feel more confident, calm, and capable. We encourage parents to help create balanced home routines during this period that allow for both focused study time and adequate rest. Parents are also reminded to please ensure that children already have all the necessary stationery required for the examination period. All stationery must come to school in a clear, see-through container or Ziploc bag. Please ensure that your child has the basics already prepared and packed, including pens, pencils, rulers, erasers, and any other relevant stationery requirements, rather than finding yourselves turning the house upside down the night before searching for missing items. A reminder as well for the examination period that smartwatches may not be worn by pupils during examinations. While we fully understand that many children use these devices innocently for timekeeping or daily convenience, they do have communication and information-access capabilities, and we therefore need to ensure that examination conditions remain fair, secure, and above reproach for all pupils.

Please note that during the examination period, dismissal times will be adjusted as follows:

- Grade 4 to 7 children will dismiss at 13:00.
- Foundation Phase children will dismiss at 13:15.

Foundation Phase extracurricular activities will continue as normal during this time. Senior Phase extra murals, however, will conclude next Friday, being the Friday prior to examinations commencing.

As we move towards our end-of-term awards assemblies, we would like to remind parents of the structure surrounding these special occasions. Parents of children receiving either a Gold Medal or a Scroll will receive a formal invitation to attend. All participating learners will still receive recognition in the form of green, silver, or gold awards, and parents are warmly welcome to attend these assemblies in support of all our children. We kindly ask, however, that parents attending assemblies please make use only of the seating provided at the back of the hall. The side sections of the hall are specifically allocated for monitors and staff members, and when these areas become occupied by visitors, it disrupts the structure and flow of the assembly process. We sincerely appreciate parents assisting us in maintaining the dignity, organisation, and smooth running of these occasions.

This week, Lilly began her fifth round of chemotherapy. Already, her journey has been extensive and incredibly difficult, yet throughout it all, she has continued to be a true portrait of grit, courage, and determination. The strength she continues to show, despite the road she is walking, is nothing short of inspiring. As we always say, Craighall Primary is not simply a school; we are an extended family. Lilly and her family remain very much held within that family circle. We ask that our community continue to keep Lilly and her loved ones in your thoughts and prayers as she continues through this current round of treatment, as well as the sessions that still lie ahead. We walk this journey alongside them with love, hope, and unwavering support, continually wishing them strength, courage, and moments of peace amidst such a difficult season.

We would also like to extend heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Knowlden on the birth of her beautiful baby girl, Hailey. We wish her every happiness and blessing during this precious new chapter. As she will not be returning to Craighall, we thank her sincerely for the time, care, and contribution she has given to our school community during her time with us.

Congratulations are also extended to Miss Besnard, who has recently married and has now returned as Mrs. Dougall. We send her our very best wishes and much happiness from the entire Craighall family.

A reminder as well to parents regarding Parents' Evening procedures. In terms of reports are comment-based reports, rather than formal assessment-report discussions, we do not hold a formal Parents' Evening.

Important Dates and Reminders

Fundraising and Events

- Quizathon forms and sponsorship money should ideally be returned by Monday, 1 June. However, for families still collecting sponsorships, final collections will officially close by the end of the first week of Term 3, namely Friday, 24 July.
- Thursday, 29 May: Grade 3 and Grade 4 Cake and Candy. Grade 3 and 4 families are asked to contribute the goodies, while the entire school community supports by purchasing treats on the day.

School Spirit Days

- Thursday, 11 June: In support of South Africa's first Soccer World Cup match of the year, children may wear soccer civvies to school. There will be no cost attached to this civvies day.
- Wednesday, 24 June: Pyjama Day. children may come to school dressed in pyjamas at a cost of R10.

Sports Assemblies

Please note all sports assemblies begin at 07:40:

- Friday, 12 June: Senior Boys' Soccer Awards Assembly
- Wednesday, 17 June: Netball and Girls' Soccer Awards Assembly
- Thursday, 18 June: Foundation Phase Soccer and Netball Awards Assembly

As always, parents of children receiving Gold Medals or Scrolls will receive formal invitations. Parents attending assemblies are kindly reminded to make use only of the seating provided at the back of the hall.

Athletics and Cross Country

- Thursday, 18 June and Friday, 19 June: Athletics Trials for Sports Day taking place in Term 3.
- Monday, 22 June: Learners are encouraged to wear their house shirts to school as we begin building spirit and excitement for Inter-house Cross Country week.
- Thursday, 25 June: Inter-house Cross Country. Parents are warmly welcome to attend and support our Inter-house Cross Country. As the race route runs around the perimeter of the school grounds, the best spectator viewing will be from the outside areas surrounding the route. Please note that there will be limited seating available inside the school grounds, and we therefore encourage parents to make use of the outside viewing points where possible to best enjoy and support the event.

Reports and End-of-Term Arrangements

Reports will be handed out on Wednesday, 24 June. As this is a comment report term, there will be no Parent's Evening held this term.

Friday, 26 June is break-up day. School will close at 10:30, and there will be no aftercare available that afternoon.

As always, our term remains incredibly busy, filled with learning, opportunity, celebration, and growth. Thank you to our parents, staff, and pupils for continuing to work together with such commitment and care as we navigate another full and purposeful term together.

Happy belated birthday to: Coach Kefi – 20 April; Mrs du Preez – 26 April (Gr 4 Educator); Mrs Dlamini – 30 April (Gr R Teachers Assistant); Mrs Mashamaite – 10 May (isiZulu Educator); Mrs James-Mela – 16 May (Gr 1 Educator); Miss Rosslee – 19 May (Educational Psychologist).

Yours sincerely

Mrs Prout-Jones
(Principal)

Sports News 2026

Welcome back to Term 2. It is going to be a very busy term for soccer and netball. Please make sure that you are in the right sports group. It is very important to read the letter as well as the team lists on the groups for information regarding venues, times and children that will be playing matches. All information is given to you on many platforms. Please also note that I can only give estimated times for matches, as this is dependent on other schools' arrivals as well as our arrivals at venues.

RESULTS:

14th April - Netball vs Bramely (Rescheduled to 12th May)

15th April - Soccer vs Parkview

U9 drew 2-2

U10 both teams won (Jonah Lauscher 5 goals)

U11 lost 1 and drew 1

U12 won both

Open drew 1 and lost 1

16th April:

Netball vs Sandton Sinai

U10 A - Won 9-8

U11 A - Won 11-2

Mini Soccer vs Kings Linbro Park - We drew 2, Lost 1 and won 1

17th April - Girls soccer vs Curro Wilgeheuwel (Cancelled due to rain)

21st April - Netball vs Wendywood

U10 - Lost both

U11 - Both teams won

U12 - Won 1 and lost 1

Open - Won 1 and lost 1

Chess Match vs Melpark - Well done to all the chess players

22nd April - Soccer vs I.R. Griffith

U9 - Lost all 3

U10 - Drew 1 and won 1

U11 - Won both games

U12 - Drew 1 and lost 1

Open - Won 1 and lost 1

23rd April - Netball vs Kings School Linbro Park

U10 - Won both

U11 - Won both

U12 - Won both

Open - Won 1 and lost 1

Mini Soccer vs NWCS - Won 2, lost 2

24th April - Girls soccer vs Kings School Robin Hills - Rained Out

28th April - Netball vs Liberty College

U10 - Won

U11 - Won

U12 - Won

Open - Won

29th April - Soccer vs FDR

U10 - Won both (Hat-trick hero Jonah Laubscher)

U11 - Won both

U12 - Won 1, lost 1

Open - Lost 1 and won 1

5th May - Netball vs Cyrildene (Cancelled due to weather)

6th May - Soccer vs Cliffview - All matches cancelled due to waterlogged fields

7th May - Mini Soccer vs Northcliff (Won 2, lost 1 and drew 1) - Jack Bodmer 4 goals

8th May - Girls Soccer vs Northcliff (2 hatrick heroes - Niamh and Mogau)

18th May - Round 2 Discovery Cup U14 Girls vs De La Salle - Won 3-0 **11th May** - Discovery Cup Round 1 U14 Girls vs Curro Riverside - Through to the next round

Upcoming Fixtures

19th May - Chess vs Randpark

20th May - Soccer vs Robin Hills (U9, U10 and U11 HOME, U12 and Open AWAY)

21st May - Mini Soccer vs Cliffview (AWAY)

22nd May - Girls Soccer vs Greenside (HOME)

25th May

- U11 Round 3 Girls Soccer Discovery Cup vs Bedfordview
- U14 Round 3 Girls Soccer Discovery vs Rembrandt

26th May - U11 Playoffs Netball

27th May - Soccer vs Bordeaux (U9, U10, U11 - AWAY) (U12 AND Opens HOME)

28th May - Grade 1 and 2 Soccer vs Blairgowrie (HOME)

29th May - Girls Soccer vs Sharonlea (AWAY)

1st June - Potential Quarter Finals of Discovery Cup - Girls

8th June - Potential Semi Finals of Discovery Cup – Girls

3rd June - U9 Netball Festival at Jeppe High Prep

10th June - U9 Netball Festival (HOME)

25th June

- Potential Finals of Discovery Cup - Girls
- Inter House Cross Country

Intersen Phase Extra Murals End 29th May

Foundation Phase Extra Murals End 12th June

Proven counselling experience - since 2008