

Craighall

Primary School

12 October 2026

School Newsletter



Welcome back to Term 4! I hope that everyone enjoyed the short break and had an opportunity to recharge before what promises to be another incredibly busy term.

As seems to have become the norm at Craighall, we have certainly hit the ground running!

This term is a particularly pressurised one, with only four and a half weeks before examinations commence. Our extramural programme also started from Day One, which means that academics, sport and all the other activities that make up school life are already in full swing.

It is going to be a fast-paced few weeks, and I encourage our children to establish good routines from the outset. Keeping up with homework, classwork and revision now will make an enormous difference when examinations arrive.

Annual General Meeting: Wednesday, 14 October

A reminder that our Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, 14 October, with arrival from 17:00 for a 17:30 start. Parking will be available on the top field. The evening will begin with a presentation highlighting some of the wonderful moments, achievements and developments of 2026. Our PTA will also touch briefly on the incredible work they have done throughout the year and the contribution our parent community continues to make to Craighall. Most importantly, the AGM includes the presentation of the 2027 budget, followed by voting on the various resolutions, including the resolution determining school fees for 2027. I cannot emphasise enough how important it is that we have as many parents as possible in attendance.

The AGM gives you the opportunity to understand the planning that takes place behind the scenes at the school, our financial position, our priorities and the decisions that need to be made as we look towards 2027. A school's resources are not simply what we have in the bank. They include the extraordinary talent, experience and passion we have within our staff, the facilities and resources available to our children, and the support of our parent community. The question we continually ask ourselves is: with what we have, how do we continue to give our children the very best that we possibly can? The AGM provides insight into those decisions and into what Craighall can realistically offer and achieve as we move into 2027. It really is an important evening to attend, and I hope to see many of you there.

Extra-Curricular Awards Assemblies: A Reminder

To clarify, once again, how invitations to our Sports Awards Assemblies work, as this is something I have addressed in previous newsletters, but which continues to cause some confusion.

Parents of children who will be receiving a Gold Medal or a Scroll will receive a formal invitation to attend the assembly.

Unfortunately, we simply do not have the capacity in our hall to formally invite the parents of every child receiving an award.

However, parents are most welcome to attend should they wish to watch their child receive a certificate. If your child has attended practices consistently and fulfilled their commitment to the team, this would generally mean that they will receive at least a Green Certificate, with the award potentially progressing to Silver or Gold depending on the relevant criteria and level of achievement.

I would like to remind parents of something I feel very strongly about when it comes to school sport.

There is enormous value in simply earning your seat on the team. Not every child is going to score the winning goal, receive the medal, or be the star player, nor should that be the only measure of success. Turning up for practices, committing to a team, learning to win and lose graciously, supporting teammates, persevering when things are difficult, and having the courage to participate are achievements in themselves. Sometimes the certificate is recognising exactly that: I showed up. I participated. I committed. I earned my place on this team. That is something our children should be encouraged to feel incredibly proud of.

Speaking of awards assemblies, please take note of the following dates and times for our Term 4 assemblies.

Date	Assembly	Time
Thursday 29 October	Foundation Phase Chess Awards	07:40
Friday 30 October	Senior Primary Chess Awards	07:40
Thursday 5 November	Senior Primary Choir, Drama and Art Awards	07:40
Thursday 19 November	Foundation Phase Swimming and Cricket Awards	07:40
Friday 20 November	Senior Primary Swimming and Cricket Awards	07:40

As mentioned above, formal invitations will be sent to parents of children receiving Gold Medals or Scrolls. Other parents are welcome to attend should they wish to see their children being recognised, bearing in mind our limited hall capacity.

Important Term 4 Dates and Reminders

With so much happening this term, I encourage parents to take note of the following dates and diarise those that are relevant to their children.

October

- Thursday 22 October: Grade R Art Show
- Thursday 29 October: Foundation Phase Chess Awards Assembly
- Friday 30 October: Senior Primary Chess Awards Assembly

November

- Tuesday 3 November: Choir evening
- Wednesday 4 November – Local Government Elections (School closed)
- Thursday 5 November: Senior Primary Choir, Drama and Art Awards Assembly
- Friday 6 November: Civvies Day – fundraising for our ground staff
- Friday 6 November: Senior Primary extramural programme ends
- Monday 9 November: Senior Primary examinations commence
- Thursday 12 November: Foundation Phase Choir Awards Assembly
- Thursday 19 November: Foundation Phase Swimming and Cricket Awards Assembly
- Friday 20 November: Senior Primary Swimming and Cricket Awards Assembly
- Friday 20 November: Foundation Phase Gala
- Friday 20 November: Foundation Phase extramural programme ends
- Monday 23 and Tuesday, 24 November: Swimming trials for Grades 2–6
- Monday 23 and Tuesday, 24 November: Grade 7 Tile Painting
- Last week of November: Various grade outings
- Monday 30 November: Foundation Phase Carols

December

- Tuesday 1 December: Foundation Phase End-of-Year Assembly – 08:00
- Wednesday 2 December: Grade 4–6 Final Assembly – 08:00
- Wednesday 2 December: Grade 7 Valedictory – evening
- Wednesday 9 December: School closes for the year

Exams/Controlled tests and School Times

Please note that early school closure will commence on Monday, 9 November, and will continue until the end of the school year on Wednesday, 9 December, including after exams have concluded. During this period, Foundation Phase children will finish at 13:00 and Senior Primary learners at 13:15. Parents are kindly requested to make the necessary collection arrangements.

With exams just around the corner, I encourage parents to help their children establish a manageable revision routine. A little preparation each day is far more beneficial than leaving everything until the last minute.

Extra murals

Please note that our extramural programme will conclude on different dates for the two phases:

- Senior Primary: Friday 6 November
- Foundation Phase: Friday 20 November

Civvies Day: Friday, 6 November

The funds raised on this day will go towards our ground staff.

Our ground staff play such an important role in keeping Craighall looking beautiful, safe and welcoming. Much of what they do happens quietly behind the scenes, and this is a lovely opportunity for our school community to show them just how much they are appreciated.

Swimming Trials: 23 and 24 November

Swimming trials for our Grade 2–6 children will take place on Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 November.

These trials will allow us to select swimmers for our Interhouse Gala in January 2027.

Grade 7 Tile Painting: 23 and 24 November

Our Grade 7 children will be painting their special tiles on 23 and 24 November, leaving behind a little piece of themselves as part of their Craighall journey.

As we approach the end of their primary school years, these traditions become particularly meaningful, and I am sure this will be another special memory for our Grade 7s.

End-of-Year Celebrations

The final weeks of the year are always filled with special moments as we celebrate our pupils' achievements, growth and the memories they have made.

From our Foundation Phase Carols to our final assemblies and Grade 7 Valedictory, these occasions are an opportunity to reflect on the year and celebrate just how far our children have come.

Please diarise the dates carefully, as December will be upon us before we know it!

Happy belated birthday to: Miss Grealy– 04/10 (Gr 2 Educator); Mrs van Wyk – 06/10 (Gr 1 Educator); Mr Magwaza – 12/10 (Groundstaff).

Yours sincerely



Mrs Prout-Jones
(Principal)



ADVERTS:

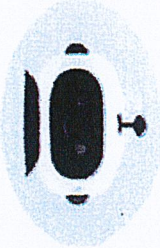
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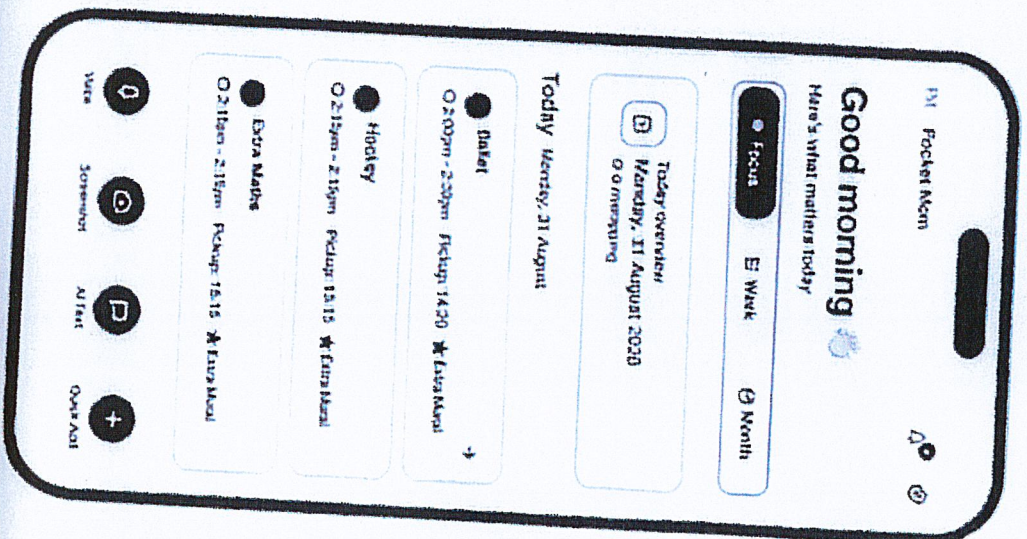
2. SAY IT

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