



# Laerskool Paardekraal

Registration Number (EMIS): 700250803

Pay Point Number: 902076 / School ID Number: 4028002050009

## Newsletter 13/24 April 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you're having a great week so far. Here are a few important updates from school:

### Sick Learners at School

We have noticed a significant increase in the number of learners arriving at school unwell. Several children report feeling ill as soon as they arrive, often before lessons begin.

This results in multiple calls to parents each morning to collect sick children. We understand that a lack of alternative childcare can be challenging. However, sending an ill child to school places other learners and staff at risk and prolongs your child's recovery. We kindly request that you keep your child at home if they are unwell. This helps us maintain a healthy learning environment for all.

### Academic Concerns

We are still experiencing a concerning lack of commitment to schoolwork from many learners. This attitude was clearly reflected in the Term 1 report cards. Many children continue to come to school unprepared for assessments or without having completed homework. When questioned, they often shrug and walk away.

Teachers cannot award marks for incomplete or missing work. Please encourage your children to take responsibility for their learning and approach their education with the seriousness it deserves.

### Learner Behaviour

We are increasingly concerned about the rise in disrespectful and defiant behaviour among some learners. Teachers are reaching their limits, as learners challenge authority, make rude comments to staff and peers, use inappropriate language, and arrive late to class after breaks.

When disciplined, some learners openly mock and defy staff. **This behaviour is unacceptable and will no longer be tolerated.** I will personally contact parents to collect children who display such behaviour, and suspensions may follow.

We ask all parents to have conversations with their children about respectful and responsible behaviour. We also want to express our gratitude to the many learners who consistently demonstrate excellent manners and respect.

### Finances

A heartfelt thank you to all our parents who regularly pay school fees. Your contributions are vital in helping us meet the school's monthly expenses. We truly appreciate your dedication and view your investment in your child's education as one of the most valuable gifts you can give. **A solid education is something that can never be taken away.**

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## Late Pick-Up After School Activities

We are concerned about the number of learners being picked up very late after school activities such as netball, soccer, chess, RACA, or extra lessons. While we are happy to offer these opportunities, it has become unfair to staff who are left waiting for up to **two hours** after scheduled end times.

Going forward, **learners who are not picked up on time will be removed from teams or activities without further notice.** Please ensure your child is collected promptly. Their safety and well-being remain your responsibility as well.

## Updating Contact Information

It is essential that the school has your current contact information on record. We have recently been unable to reach several parents during emergencies and when learners fall ill, due to incorrect or outdated phone numbers. Please update your contact details with the school office and in your child's homework diary immediately if there are any changes. This ensures we can reach you quickly when needed. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our learners safe.

## School Uniform

It is very important that all our learners come to school dressed in the correct school uniform. Unfortunately, many learners arrive in clothing that does not form part of the official uniform, which is not acceptable. We rely on our parents' cooperation to ensure that learners are neatly dressed in a clean school uniform each day.

We receive daily requests for children to be allowed to wear "tekkies" or alternative shoes due to lost footwear. Please note that if your child's school shoes are misplaced, they should rather attend school barefoot than wear inappropriate footwear. This approach encourages learners to take better responsibility for their belongings.

Recently, we have noticed some inappropriate and unusual hairstyles among our learners. Please be reminded that our school rules do not permit extreme or unusual hairstyles. No signs, symbols, or lines may be shaved into hair or eyebrows. Boys' hair must be short and neat. Styles where the sides are shaved and only a patch of hair remains on top are not allowed. Afro hairstyles are discouraged, as they may obstruct the view of learners seated behind. Boys are not permitted to plait their hair or wear extensions.

Girls' hair must always be neat. Long hair should be tied back using ribbons or elastics in the school colours only. Hair should not be tied on top of the head, as this can also obstruct the view of learners behind them. Parents are kindly requested to accompany their children to the barber to ensure hairstyles comply with school rules.

Boys are not permitted to wear any jewellery except a standard wristwatch. Girls may wear a small sleeper or stud in each ear, in gold or silver only. Coloured or diamond-styled studs are not allowed. Any jewellery that does not conform to the school's guidelines will need to be removed.

Please remember that these rules are in place to promote a safe and disciplined learning environment. If learners are allowed complete freedom in matters of uniform, hairstyles, and jewellery, it becomes more difficult to maintain discipline at school. These rules apply equally to Grade RR and Grade R learners.

## **PRACTISES FOR NEXT WEEK:**

### **NETBALL, MINI NETBALL and MINI SOCCER PRACTISE:**

Please note that there will be **NO** Netball, Mini-Netball or Min-Soccer practices on Wednesday, 29 April 2026 and Thursday, 30 April 2026 due to the shortened school week.

Practices will resume as normal from Wednesday, 6 May 2026.

### **SOCCER PRACTISE:**

Soccer practise will take place as follows:

Tuesday 28 April – Under 11 boys – 13:40 until 15:00

Wednesday 29 April – **SOCCER LEAGUE MATCH**

### **Paardekraal vs Krugersdorp Town School**

**Venue:** Laerskool Paardekraal

**Time:** 14:0 – 16:00

Please arrange your child's transport accordingly. Should it rain, practices/matches will automatically be cancelled. Boy's must bring appropriate sporting clothes for practicing/matches. No player will be allowed on the field in their uniform with school shoe.

### **RACA and CHESS:**

Please note that there will be **NO RACA** or **Chess** practices on Tuesday 28 April 2026 and Wednesday, 29 April 2026 due to the shortened school week.

Practices will resume as normal from Tuesday, 5 May 2026.

### **World Book Day – 23 April**

Thank you to our learners for their enthusiastic support on in celebration of **World Book Day** on 24 April 2026! We were truly impressed by the creativity and effort shown by our learners. It was a fun and inspiring day for both learners and staff.

### **Short School Week**

Please note that we will have a 3-day school week due to public holidays.

**Monday, 28 April 2026:** Freedom Day observed – School closed

**Friday, 1 May 2026:** Workers' Day – School closed

## **EARLY CLOSURE:**

School will close at 12:00 on Thursday, 30 April 2026 due to the public holiday on Friday.

**Important:** Please make the necessary transport arrangements for your child. No supervision will be available after 12:15, and all learners must be collected promptly. Thank you for your cooperation and we wish you a safe and restful long weekend and enjoy this time with your family and friends.

## **General**

Thank you to all parents for your ongoing support of our school. We hope you have a restful and enjoyable week off. Please stay warm, take care, and be safe.

Kind regards



A Martignone  
Acting Principal

*"Never respond to rudeness. When people are rude to you, they reveal who they are, not who you are. Don't take it personally, just be silent." - Unknown*

### **VISION & MISSION OF LAERSKOOI PAARDEKRAAL**

- Our vision is a smart delivery of quality public education, which promotes a dynamic citizenship for socio-economic growth and development in Gauteng and South Africa.
- We will be at the cutting edge of curriculum delivery and provide access to quality lifelong learning opportunities.

# LEARNERS CREATIVE WORK IN CELEBRATION OF WORLD BOOK DAY



