



# Laerskool Paardekraal

Registration Number (EMIS): 700250803

Pay Point Number: 902076 / School ID Number: 4028002050009

## Newsletter 15/08 May 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we wrap up this week, we'd like to share a few important updates and reminders for the week ahead. Thank you for your ongoing partnership in supporting your child's learning and our school community

### **LATE COLLECTION OF LEARNERS AFTER SCHOOL AND PRACTICES:**

We have observed an ongoing issue where learners are not being collected promptly after school or after extracurricular practices (netball, soccer, chess, or RACA). In many instances, teachers are left waiting with learners until as late as 17:30. This is not acceptable, especially when prior communication has clearly outlined collection times.

Please remember that transport arrangements are the responsibility of parents. If a transport service fails to collect your child on time, the responsibility remains with you. In many cases, we struggle to reach parents due to outdated contact information or unanswered calls.

Going forward, learners who are repeatedly collected late will unfortunately be removed from their respective teams or activities. This is not intended as a punishment, but rather to ensure the safety of all and to avoid unnecessary inconvenience for staff and others.

### **LUNCH BOXES, STATIONERY, TRANSPORT FEES, KEYS, ETC.:**

Learners must bring everything they need with them in the morning. The administrative and security staff cannot take on the responsibility of managing forgotten items. Parents are kindly requested **not** to drop off money, lunch, keys, or similar items during the school day.

If you are sending cake or refreshments for a birthday celebration, please ensure the cake is pre-cut into squares and include disposable cups if cold drinks are sent in bottles.

### **SICK LEARNERS:**

Parents are urged not to send sick children to school. If your child exhibits flu-like symptoms, please keep them at home and inform the school. While we understand the difficulty of having no caregiver at home, we must prioritize the health and safety of all learners and staff.

We are not equipped to care for sick learners during school hours. If your child becomes ill during the day, you will be contacted to collect them immediately.

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## **BULLYING INSIDE AND OUTSIDE SCHOOL PREMISES:**

We continue to receive complaints from parents regarding bullying during and after school hours. While we acknowledge that bullying is a serious societal issue, it is important to distinguish between true bullying and typical playground behaviour.

**Bullying** is defined as:

- **Hostile intent** – the harm is deliberate.
- **Imbalance of power** – the bully has a real or perceived advantage.
- **Repetition** – the behaviour occurs more than once or has the potential to do so.

Additional indicators include:

- **Victim distress**
- **Lack of provocation** (i.e., the victim has not done anything to warrant the behaviour)

Minor incidents such as pushing during play, bumping into one another, or accidental trips are not classified as bullying. Please speak to your child about the difference, and help us focus on addressing **genuine cases** of bullying.

### **Examples of bullying include:**

- Name-calling
- Spreading rumours
- Physical aggression (hitting, pinching, biting, pushing)
- Theft or damage of belongings
- Threats or intimidation
- Social exclusion or manipulation

If you believe your child is being **genuinely bullied**, please report it to the school immediately. Laerskool Paardekraal maintains a **zero-tolerance policy** for bullying. Any learner found guilty of bullying will be **suspended** and face a **formal disciplinary hearing**.

We are currently dealing with several cases of extremely rude and disruptive behaviour, particularly in Grades 4 to 7. These learners are not only bullying their peers but also showing disrespect towards teachers. Such behaviour will not be tolerated. If it continues, parents will be contacted to collect their children immediately. In cases where parents cannot be reached or are unavailable, the learner may be taken to the **Krugersdorp Police Station** for collection.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation in ensuring a safe, respectful, and disciplined learning environment for all our learners.

## **PRACTISES FOR NEXT WEEK:**

**Week of 11 - 15 May:**

### **SOCCER PRACTICE SCHEDULE:**

Please take note of the soccer practice and match schedule for next week:

- **Monday, 11 May:**  
Under 11 players will practice at school until **15:00**.
- **Tuesday, 12 May:**  
Under 13 players will practice at school until **15:00**.

- **Wednesday, 13 May:**  
League Match against Kingswood **at** Laerskool Paardekraal  
Under 11 and Under 13 teams will play matches against Kingswood.
- *Venue: Laerskool Paardekraal*
- *Time: 14:00 – 16:00*

### **Netball Practice Schedule – Week of 12–16 May:**

- **Tuesday, 12 May:**  
Under 12 and Under 13 players will have practice at school until **14:45**.
- **Wednesday, 14 May:**  
Friendly Match against Kingswood **at** Laerskool Paardekraal  
Under 12 and Under 13 teams will play matches against Kingswood.
- *Venue: Laerskool Paardekraal*
- *Time: 14:00 – 16:00*

### **MINI NETBALL and MINI SOCCER PRACTISE**

- Practices will take place on **Wednesday and Thursday** from **13:45 to 14:45**.

### **CHESS:**

#### **Chess Fever at Laerskool Paardekraal! ♀**

- Selection trials for the Chess League have officially concluded, and the competition is heating up! Congratulations to our 27 selected players who will now enter a thrilling round-robin phase starting next week. Players will be divided into three teams of nine, all battling for a coveted spot in the knockout stages. Mark your calendars: our ultimate Chess Champion will be crowned on 17 June 2026!
- **Important for all trialists:** Please visit Mr. Ueckermann's classroom to check the final selection lists. You will also find your match dates and the official rules for the upcoming round-robin and knockout rounds.
- Practices will take place on **Wednesday** from **13:45 to 14:45**.

### **RACA:**

- Practice for all categories this week. Please check the WhatsApp groups for more details as they are shared. Parents, kindly make the necessary transport arrangements for your child to be picked up on time after practice

### **PLEASE ARRANGE TRANSPORT ACCORDINGLY AFTER ALL PRACTICES AND MATCHES.**

### **SCHOOL TIMES:**

Please ensure that your child is at school by the latest 07:15, as classes start at 07:20 already. Our gates open promptly at 6:50. Many of our learners still come to school late and then parents or transport providers are very upset with us when the child is late for school. Please understand that we will continue to follow protocols as prescribed to us, therefore, all late comers will be marked absent for the day. If parents notified the school that the child will be late for a legitimate reason, special arrangements will be made to collect a late comer from the gate by a staff member of the school.

In the afternoons, many learners wait for their transport until very late.

All learners, grades RR – 7, go home every day at 13:40. No learner will be allowed to leave the school premises before 13:40, unless signed out by a parent or legal guardian, who must identify him-/herself by means of a Green Bar-Coded Identification Document, Smart ID Card, or valid Passport. Please make suitable arrangements for your child to be fetched before 14:00, as teachers will not be supervising children who are not fetched on time.

## **SUNDAY 10 MAY 2026 - HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL OUR SPECIAL MOTHERS:**

*Dear Mom*

*The words "thank you" will never truly be enough to express everything you've done—not just for me, but for everyone lucky enough to know you. Two small words can't possibly measure up to the countless late-night phone calls, impromptu grocery runs, or the endless commutes between home, work, and school. You deserve to be celebrated in the grandest way—shouted from rooftops or written across the sky. And even then, it wouldn't feel like enough.*

*A mother is so much more than someone who gives life—she's a shapeshifter, a superhero, a constant source of strength. You become whatever is needed in any given moment: a comforting shoulder, a patient tutor, a fierce protector. You do all of this without hesitation, sacrificing your own comfort and time so others can thrive. But at what cost to yourself...*

*There are so many times when you've put my needs ahead of your own, and I can never fully express how much that has meant to me. Still, I want you to know this: **you deserve the world in return.** I know there have been moments when you doubted yourself—your worth, your strength, your role as a parent. We all have those moments. But speaking as someone who has been on the receiving end of your love, your wisdom, and your courage—I assure you, you have nothing to doubt.*

*You Are Strong. Your strength isn't just physical—it's emotional, mental, and spiritual. You've stood tall when others would crumble. You've remained steadfast in the face of unkind words and hard days, especially when they came from those closest to you. You may not always show it, but I see the pain you carry and the grace with which you carry it. It's okay to let your guard down sometimes—but in the moments that count, you rise. Always.*

*Mother, you Are the Best Parent. Being a parent is not easy—especially when faced with judgment, unsolicited advice, and constant expectations. But despite it all, you never wavered in your love and devotion. You didn't just meet our basic needs—you taught us how to be kind, how to communicate, how to stand up for ourselves, and above all, how to love without limits.*

*You Are Worthy. You are worthy of every title you hold—mother, daughter, sister, friend, partner—and of every bit of love and appreciation this world has to offer. While many people think their mom is the best, I know mine is one of a kind. You don't deserve just one day of*

recognition. You deserve to hear every day how valued you are, how impactful your presence is, and how much you mean to those around you.

"Thank you" will never feel like it's enough. But thank you for being my mom. Thank you for raising me with strength, compassion, and integrity. Thank you for being you.

With all my love

Your loving child.

H A P P Y

# Mother's Day



## General:

Thank you to all our parents for their loyal support to the school. I hope everybody have an enjoyable weekend.

Kind regards



A Martignone  
Acting Principal

*Let's not confuse traditional behaviours with good manners. The definition of etiquette is gender neutral - it simply means we strive at all times to ensure a person in our company feels at ease. - Lynn Coady*

### VISION & MISSION OF LAERSKOOL 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.

## ONLINE SAFETY ADVISORY: ROBLOX

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding children's wellbeing, we wish to draw parents' attention to the potential risks associated with the online gaming platform **Roblox**. While the game is widely popular among primary school learners for its creative and interactive features, it also presents several concerns that families should be aware of.

Key risks include:

- **Unrestricted interactions** – children may encounter strangers through in-game chat and friend requests.
- **User-generated content** – some games created by other users may contain inappropriate themes or imagery.
- **In-game purchases** – children can spend money quickly without fully understanding the costs involved.
- **Exposure to scams** – fake offers or links may attempt to trick children into sharing personal information.

We strongly encourage parents to:

- Regularly **review privacy settings** to limit communication with unknown players.
- **Supervise gameplay** and discuss safe online behaviour with your child.
- Establish clear **screen time boundaries** to balance digital play with offline activities.

By remaining vigilant and engaged, parents can help ensure that children enjoy digital platforms in a safe and age-appropriate manner.