



Laerskool **Paardekraal**

Registration Number (EMIS): 700250803

Pay Point Number: 902076 / School ID Number: 4028002050009

Newsletter 23/ 24 July 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians

A Message from the SGB Chairperson

Welcome to Term 3

Good day Parents / Guardians

Welcome back to all our learners, parents, and teachers for the start of Term 3!

As we step into the new term, please note that the winter season is almost over, though we still encourage parents to keep our learners warm during these remaining chilly days so they can focus comfortably on their studies.

I want to warmly congratulate both our teachers and learners who worked exceptionally hard and achieved wonderful results in the previous term. Your dedication truly shines through. To those who did not make it quite where they wanted to be, do not be discouraged; use this as an opportunity to roll up your sleeves and work even harder, knowing that with perseverance, success is within your reach.

At the same time, we must continue to address the ongoing issue of ill-discipline among some of our learners. For our school to thrive, order and respect are essential, but this behaviour starts with the values and discipline taught at home.

I kindly appeal to all parents to play your active part at home in enforcing discipline, ensuring our children remain focused and respectful.



Let us work together to make Term 3 a season of growth, positive behaviour, and great achievement.

Best regards,

Edwin Makhari
SGB Chairperson,

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We are already through the first week of Term 3, and there is a lot of important work ahead for both our teachers and learners.

With the continued support of our parents, we are confident that we will have a smooth and successful term. A warm welcome back to all our learners and parents. We trust that you had a restful and enjoyable holiday.

A special welcome also to our new children and their families. We hope you settle in quickly and soon feel part of the Paardies family.

To our dedicated teachers, I hope you are well-rested and ready for the term ahead. Thank you for your hard work and commitment — it is truly appreciated.

School Times:

Please be reminded that school starts at 07:20. All children must be at class at 07:15. No late coming will be tolerated. Please remember that it remains the parents' responsibility to make sure the child is at school on time and be fetched on time after school even when you pay a service provider. School closes at 13:40 daily, Monday to Friday, and children should be gone from school by latest 14:00. The teachers cannot look after children who are not being fetched on time. Please be reminded that Social Services are now part of this problem's solution and all children who remain at school after school times, will be referred for investigation on why children are left at school until late.

School Attendance:

We are dealing with a serious problem regarding children who are absent on a regular basis. Those children are missing out on valuable teaching time as well as on assessments. In most cases no doctor's letters are handed in and children are marked absent as ***"absent without a valid reason"***. Many children stay at home after assessments at the end of the term, while teachers continue with teaching. When those children return at the beginning of the new term, they start with a huge disadvantage already. Please ensure that your child attend school regularly. When in doubt, please contact the school for guidance.

Transport:

Parents, please be mindful of the transport arrangements you make for your children to and from school.

Unfortunately, many drivers are operating illegally or using vehicles that are not roadworthy. We experienced an incident at school on Tuesday morning due to a lack of basic vehicle maintenance. Fortunately, no one was injured, but the situation could have been much more serious. We urge all parents to make use of registered and qualified transport providers to ensure the safety of our learners.

Discipline:

During term 2 we had several children who displayed extremely rude and bad behaviour towards fellow pupils and teachers. Some of those children are up to mischief again and are already in line for a detention. In future, formal disciplinary hearings will be held by the SGB, and their recommendations of suspension or possible expulsion, will be send through to the MEC. We can and will not allow certain children to continue to make life miserable for fellow learners and teachers. If children do not know how to exercise self-respect as well as respect for others, Laerskool Paardekraal would not accommodate such learners anymore.

Please make sure that your children understand that their actions will have serious consequences.

Another serious problem that is emerging is the use of cell phones. Please take note of the following regulation as stipulated by Facebook: *"Facebook requires everyone to be at least 13 years old before they can create an account (in some jurisdictions, this age limit may be higher). Creating an account with false info is a violation of our terms."*

PLEASE KNOW WHAT YOUR CHILDREN ARE USING THEIR CELL PHONES FOR AND WHAT INFORMATION THEY LOOK AT AND SHARE WITH OTHERS. SOME PARENTS WILL BE HORRIFIED TO KNOW WHAT CERTAIN CHILDREN USE THEIR CELL PHONES FOR.

Please remember that Laerskool Paardekraal has a zero-tolerance regarding cell phones. All cell phones confiscated at school can be fetched by the parent only after paying a R200-00 penalty fine.

Lack of Motivation towards Schoolwork:

Daily we have to deal with children who refuse to do their classwork or homework. The motivation to excel and perform better is just not there. Children ask teachers to take a zero for assignments, as they *"do not want to do the assignments"*. It seems as if certain children think that they will promote to the next grade without putting in the work from their side. This is an increasing problem, and more children will start to repeat grades to get on standard again. Please assist us by motivating your children to do their work well, as they are preparing for their own future.

School Uniform:

Please assist us by making sure your child is dressed in the official school uniform when coming to school. Many children come to school dressed in all sorts of different colours and different types of shoes. Please ensure that your child wears the proper uniform. If in doubt, please contact the office for guidance.

We are experiencing problems with a few children who cut lines and patterns into their hair and eyebrows over the recent holidays. It is unacceptable and should be fixed please. The code of conduct prohibits the cutting of patterns into the hair and parents should please assist us by not allowing it to be done. Please note that earrings for boys are also not allowed. Please contact the school should you need further information.

School fees:

The handover process for all accounts in arrears has started. Accounts are handed over on a weekly basis as the accounts in default reach the 90 days mark. Please remember that all extra interest, collection costs, lawyer's fees, court fees, etc, will be for the defaulter's account. Please avoid extra costs by paying your school fees or make an acceptable arrangement with Mrs Lynch. Thank you to the many parents who pay the school fees regularly and on time.

Practices:

Chess:

Knockout Stages for the Paardies Internal Chess League!

The exciting knockout stages of our Internal Chess League are here! Please note the crucial dates and updated details:

Quarter-Finals: **Wednesday, 29 July 2026** *Time: 13h50 to 15h00*

Semi-Finals & Finals: **Wednesday, 5 August 2026** *Time: 13h50 to 15h00*

Venue: **Mr Ueckermann's class**

Attendance: The qualifying players whose names are on Mr Ueckermann's door.

Netball:

Mini Netball & Senior Netball

We are excited to invite all girls born between 2014 and 2020 to join our Mini Netball and Senior Girls Netball practices!

Practice Days: Every Wednesday and Thursday

Time: 13:45 – 14:30

Parents are kindly requested to arrange transport accordingly.

Please note:

Girls must wear comfortable sports clothing. No short or revealing clothing is permitted.

All girls must wear tekkies during practice.

Please ensure your child brings a water bottle.

We look forward to welcoming all girls who are interested in learning new skills, making friends, building confidence, and enjoying the game of netball!

Cross Country:

Cross country practise will take place this term.

Practice Days: Every Wednesday and Thursday

Time: 13:45 – 14:30

All learners need to attend practise with the proper running shoes.

Please ensure that all learners are fetched on time

6 ways to handle a disrespectful child:

- **Try to understand the underlying cause of the behaviour**

Step into your child's shoes and try to get to the bottom of why they are behaving a certain way. It could be that they are upset by something that happened at school that day, or it could be simply because they are seeking your attention. Understanding the root cause of their behaviour can help you address it more effectively.

- **Make it clear that their behaviour is not acceptable**

If your child is being rude or disrespectful, do not ignore it. Be clear and firm in making it clear to them that certain behaviours will not be tolerated. For example, if you are speaking to your neighbour and your child keeps interrupting your conversation, tell them to give you

some time and that you will be available once you finish your conversation. This helps them understand that interrupting conversations is rude, and that instead of ignoring them you are simply asking them to wait until you can address their needs.

- **Explain the consequences to your child**

If your child continues to be rude and disrespectful even after you calmly set expectations for what they should and should not do, explain the consequences that will occur if they do not adjust their behaviour.

- **Be consistent and follow through**

Always be consistent in following through with enforcing both rules and consequences for misbehaviour. If you only punish them sometimes for the same disrespectful behaviour, your child will quickly learn that they can get away with certain actions and may not take your warnings seriously. However, avoid being too harsh or aggressive with your child when they misbehave.

- **Avoid the power struggle**

Your job as a parent is to teach your child proper way of behaving and helping them grow into a respectful adult. Avoid allowing your child to engage you in a power struggle. Stay calm, avoid overreacting, and set clear limits about what will and will not be tolerated.

- **Model good behaviour**

Your child will imitate you, whether you are aware of it or not. So, it is important to model the respectful behaviour and problem-solving skills you would like your child to develop. Set a good example for your child by treating others with respect. Your child will take cues from your behaviour and learn how to interact with the world the way you do.

General:

Enjoy the weekend and be warm and safe.

Kind regards



A Martignone
Acting Principal

*"Education is the passport to the future,
for tomorrow belongs to those who
prepare for it today. – Malcolm X*

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.

CHOOSE WISELY!

