



# CLARENDON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Dear Parents*

29 September 2023

## 3<sup>rd</sup> TERM NEWSLETTER

There is no doubt that this term has been a jam-packed one, and that every member of the Clarries Family has been provided with a wide range of opportunities to grow, develop and experience all that Clarendon Park has to offer.

As we take stock of a busy term, it is important that we don't lose sight of that which is truly important in our educational space. It is so easy to judge a school's or person's success by only looking at results, and determining whether one has enjoyed a constructive term by analyzing various sets of indicators. Yes, results are obviously important to take into account, but even more important are the critical values and attitudes that we hope for our young people to learn and exhibit on a daily basis.

The growth and signs of a child's honesty, kindness and integrity need to be seen in the same light (and dare I say, an even greater light) as their academic, sporting and cultural achievements. Our aim is to work with parents and guardians to produce holistic young people, and therefore we must constantly check ourselves to ensure that our expectations and attitude towards growth and success reflect such a holistic pursuit. Let us ensure that we take this important perspective into account as we reflect on the past 11 weeks.

### Staff News

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Term we bid a farewell to Mr Damian Lynch, a member of our Management Team and a Grade 7 educator. We were delighted to welcome Mr Stash Truter to Clarendon Park at the beginning of September. Mr Truter has joined our Grade 7 team, and has, in a short period of time, shown that Clarendon Park will undoubtedly benefit from his experienced and enthusiastic approach. We were also extremely grateful to Miss Gay Best who assisted us as a temporary teacher prior to Mr Truter's arrival.

Mr Erle Felkers, our Head of Music, also left us during the term (to take up a music post in the United Kingdom). We are thrilled to announce that Miss Andrea Morris, a vastly experienced and competent music educator, has been appointed as from the start of 2024. Miss Morris returns to Clarendon Park after a number of years, and brings with her a wealth of experience in music and performing arts education.



At the end of the year, we will be bidding a sad farewell to Mrs Verity Van Wyk (our beloved Bursar) and Mrs Glenn Rowley (our kind-hearted and experienced Grade 5 teacher). Both ladies will be retiring at the end of the year after a number of devoted years of service to the school. We will be celebrating all that they have done for Clarries towards the end of the year in a meaningful and appropriate manner.

We will also be saying a sad farewell to Mrs Rene Webster, a member of our Grade 7 team, at the end of the year. Mrs Webster and her family will be immigrating to Australia in December, and Australia's gain will most definitely be our enormous loss. Mrs Webster has touched a number of lives, and her kind-hearted and nurturing approach has been life-changing for so many.

Mrs Donne Francis, a much loved and respected Grade 2 teacher, has decided to take a break from teaching to take care of her young family, as from the start of next year. Mrs Francis has made an enormous difference in the lives of many young pupils, and her presence in the Grade 2 passage will be sorely missed. Both Mrs Webster and Mrs Francis' contribution to the school will be honoured towards the end of the year.

As a result of the retirement of Mrs Van Wyk and Mrs Rowley, and the departure of Mrs Webster, the following appointments and internal staff changes will be taking place at the start of next year:

- Mrs Lisa Taverner will be moving to Grade 5;
- Mrs Lynne Woods will be moving to Grade 7;
- Miss Caitlyn Bradfield has been appointed to our Grade 5 team;
- Mrs Delna Cloete has been appointed as the school bursar;
- Miss Tyler Basson has been appointed to our Grade 3 team;
- The Grade 2 position will be finalized at the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> Term.

Mrs Yolandi Stone, our much loved 1<sup>st</sup> Team Netball Coach, as well as a Sports Academy and Athletics Coach, will be further developing her coaching career at a High School level from next year. We will be very sad to see Mrs Stone depart Clarendon Park, but wish her well with this new and exciting opportunity.

At the start of next year, we will also see a change in our media centre (library). Miss Chelsea Pike (our current librarian) will be moving to Grade 4, and Mrs Penny Kohler (a current Grade 4 teacher) will be taking over the media centre as our new librarian. We wish both of these wonderful teachers all of the best in their new roles.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Mrs Mandy Pretorius' father, Miss Unathi Mdyongolo's grandmother, and Miss Noreen Wrankmore's mother, during the course of the term. Our thoughts and prayers are with these staff members and their families as they mourn this enormous loss.



We were delighted to hear that Mrs Claire Fletcher will be expecting a new addition to the Fletcher family. A baby boy is due to arrive in January next year, and we wish Mrs Fletcher and her family much happiness and joy as they await the arrival of their little boy.

It was with great excitement that Miss Donne Moss and Mr Chris Stockwell announced their engagement earlier in the term. We wish Miss Moss and Mr Stockwell many years of blessing as they embark on their new lives together. In addition, Mr Ray Pretorius and Mrs Mandy Pretorius' daughter, Savannah, was married to Guillaume Fourie, during the course of the term. Congratulations to the Pretorius family on this exciting and wonderful occasion.

During the course of the term, it was wonderful to hear that Mrs Penny Kohler has become a grandmother for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. Sienna Grace arrived on 15 September, and we have no doubt that she will bring immense joy to the Kohler family.

#### Academic Reports

Please find the 3<sup>rd</sup> Term academic report enclosed with this newsletter. Please work through this report carefully, taking particular note of the comments contained therein. Should you wish to meet with your child's class teacher early in the 4<sup>th</sup> Term with regards to the report, please feel free to set up a meeting through the front office (041-581 4231).

The Academic Awards Assembly (Grades 4 to 7) takes place on Friday, 13 October at 07h55, where Gold and Silver Badges will be awarded (as indicated on the report). Parents of the recipients are invited to attend this assembly, and seating will be available in the gallery.

#### End of Year Dates

##### *Awards Ceremonies:*

The dates of the Awards Ceremonies at the end of the year are as follows:

Grade 1:	14 November	Grade 2:	14 November
Grade 3:	15 November	Grade 4:	15 November
Grade 5:	16 November	Grade 6:	16 November
Grade 7:	16 November		

Further details with regards to the Awards Ceremonies will be provided in due course.

##### *Grade 4 to 7 Exams:*

The Grade 4 to 7's will write their final exams from 22 November to 30 November.

##### *Final School Day:*

The final day of the school year for pupils will be Wednesday, 6 December. Attendance at school on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of December will be optional for all pupils. The Aftercare will close on Friday, 8 December.



### *Collection of 4<sup>th</sup> Term Reports:*

The final Academic Report for the year will be handed out on Wednesday, 13 December. Details pertaining to the report collection will be provided in due course.

### School Shop Arrangements for the 4th Term

Please note that due to the high volume of business in the school shop in the 4th Term (due to the new Grade 1's purchasing their uniform for next year), from Monday, 23 October to Thursday, 2 November, parents may only attend the shop if a prior appointment has been made. Unfortunately no walk-in purchases will be allowed during this time period. To make an appointment, please phone (not WhatsApp) Mrs Laurien Sutton on 082 923 4691. Please only contact Mrs Sutton during business hours to make an appointment.

From Tuesday, 14 November until the end of the school year, no appointments will need to be made.

### Second Hand Clothing

The final date for the handing in of 2<sup>nd</sup> hand clothing at the school shop (for resale purposes) will be Friday, 1 December. These items of clothing will be processed at the start of 2024. The shop will begin to receive 2<sup>nd</sup> hand clothing again on Monday, 12 February 2024.

### Girls Skorts

Please note that as from the start of the 2024 winter sports season, it will be compulsory for all girls to wear the new skorts for all official sport matches.

### Outdoor Education

It was wonderful to see so many of our Clarries pupils involved in our Grade 5, 6 and 7 camps this term. We were so proud of all of our pupils, who embraced their outdoor educational experience with such a positive and enthusiastic attitude. Their willingness to be stretched, to grow and to step out of their comfort zones was phenomenal. An enormous amount of determination, camaraderie and Clarries spirit was shown as they tackled many obstacles, both mental and physical.

The "Hobbiton" (Grade 7), "African Imprint" (Grade 6) and "Bushpig" (Grade 5) experiences continue to provide our seniors with many incredible outdoor learning opportunities, not only in terms of self-awareness, but also unique moments to savour our beautiful surroundings and to discover the value of team-work, co-operation and mutual respect.

### Matric Reunion

It was very special to host 68 past Clarries pupils who are currently in matric at our Matric Reunion Dinner on Wednesday, 27 September. There is no doubt that these Grade 12's still hold Clarendon Park very close to their hearts, and it was wonderful to be able to share an evening of reminiscing, photos and laughter with them. We are very proud of all that our pupils have achieved at their respective high schools, and we wish them all of the best for their upcoming final examinations.





### Sports Derby Days

It was so special to enjoy three wonderful Derby Days this term. Our annual fixtures against Union and Herbert Hurd (away) and Westering (at home) were highlighted by competitive matches, good sportsmanship and great support along the touchlines. Our weekly league fixtures also produced some fantastic performances, and it has been heart-warming to see so many Clarries pupils involved in the many extra-mural opportunities offered at the school.

### Grandparent Day

Our Foundation Phase staff and pupils ensured that our annual Grandparents Day Shows were a huge success, entertaining many, and creating some very special memories. A great deal of hard work went into the concerts, and there is no doubt that these concerts remain a very meaningful event on our calendar.

### Music Events

This term proved to be a very busy and successful one for our Music Department. Our young musicians and music staff were involved in a number of concerts, and it is clear that music is alive and well at Clarendon Park. Some of the highlights of the term included:

- **Jazz Spectacular:** an incredible two night concert, featuring Jazz Bands from Clarendon Park and 6 local schools, as well as a Clarries Alumni Band and a combined band (comprising of musicians from all participating schools);
- **The Herbert Hurd Band Concert:** a wonderful evening of music from the concert bands of various local schools. Our Senior Concert Band made us proud as they performed superbly;
- **The Herbert Hurd Choir Concert:** a fantastic evening, spent listening to the senior choirs from many primary schools. Our Senior Choir provided the audience with a fantastic performance, and created many special memories;
- **Spring Walk:** our newly revised Spring Walk provided our Senior Concert Band, Jazz Band and Beginner Band with wonderful opportunities to perform on the Jordan Field after the walk;
- **Trinity Studio Concert:** our Trinity music pupils performed incredibly well at their 1<sup>st</sup> lunch-time studio concert, with each one of them continuing on to achieve fantastic results in their Trinity Exams.

### 100 Club Parents Dance

The 100 Club Dance was an incredible evening of fun, dancing and wonderful camaraderie amongst our parents. This event is undoubtedly a highlight on the Clarendon Park calendar, and this year was no exception. A huge thank-you is extended to the 100 Club Committee, for their immense efforts in organising such a magnificent occasion.

### Spring Walk

Our annual Spring Walk was a great success this year, and the newly revised format was thoroughly enjoyed by all. An opportunity to listen to our various music ensembles, to participate in some fun netball, touch rugby and soccer, and to relax as the Clarries Family proved to be very meaningful and enjoyable. Thank-you to so many families who joined us for the morning, and enjoyed the walk, and the wonderful time together afterwards.



## Books2You Book Fair

Our annual Book Fair will be taking place in the Scott Hall next term on Monday, 16 October and Tuesday, 17 October. A variety of good quality fiction and non-fiction books will be on sale. Pupils will be provided with an opportunity to browse and purchase books during the course of the school day. Parents are also welcome to pop in and purchase books throughout the day (access via the Scott Hall Gate in Church Road). Prices will be kept at a reasonable level (approximately R70-R165 per book). Cash and card facilities will be available. A commission from the total sales will be given back to our school by way of free books for the library.

## Uniform Arrangements: 4<sup>th</sup> Term 2023

School starts for the 4<sup>th</sup> Term on Tuesday, 10 October, and you are requested to please ensure that your son/daughter returns with shoes polished and with a school regulation haircut. With regards to the school rules pertaining to hairstyles, we wish to remind all parents of the following: "All hairstyles are to be acceptable to the school and should not draw unnecessary attention. If pupils arrive at school with an inappropriate hairstyle, parents may be requested to fetch their children from school in order to have the hair suitably cut. Boys' hair should be short, neat and of an even length with no steps or lines. No fashionable hairstyles are acceptable. Hair dying or colouring is not permitted." We thank you for your co-operation and support in this regard.

With regards to uniform requirements for next term:

- summer uniform must be worn from the start of the term;
- if a pupil is dressed in school uniform on a Friday, blazers are compulsory for assemblies;
- on Phys Ed days, Phys Ed kit is to be worn to school.

## Earrings

All parents are reminded of the rules pertaining to earrings:

"Studs or earrings are not permitted. Bristles or retainers (used to keep the holes open) are not allowed. Plasters may not be worn to cover the holes from piercing. Ear piercing should only be done early during the long holidays, giving enough time for healing."

## SGB AGM (Finance Meeting)

The SGB AGM (Finance Meeting) will take place on Monday, 30 October at 17h30 in the Scott Hall. At this meeting, the school's budget for 2024 will be presented, which will include the proposed 2024 school fees. Your attendance at this very important meeting will be highly appreciated.

## Pupils departing Clarendon Park

If your son or daughter will not be returning to Clarendon Park at the start of 2024, please could you kindly let the school office know in writing by Friday, 13 October. We have a number of applicants on our waiting list, and we need to confirm our 2024 numbers as soon as possible.



We trust that you will have a wonderful holiday with your children and that some special “family time” will be the order of the day. Thank you to each one of you for

your support and positive involvement in all that Clarendon Park is – we look forward to an exciting, memorable and successful last term of 2023.

HONOUR AND TRUTH

*Regards,*

*Derryk Jordan*

*Principal*