



NEWSLETTER

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Newsletter 13/2026

21 July 2026

Enter to Learn: Leave to Serve

Dear Parents

Welcome to the start of Term 3!

I hope that you and your family enjoyed the school holiday and I am sure that your children are ready and excited to start the new term. As we start this new academic journey, we are filled with enthusiasm and are committed to providing learning, growth and adventures for your children. May this be the start of another successful voyage for your children.

Important dates

Tue	21	Start of Term 3
Wed	22	Gr 6 Camp: Villiersdorp (till Friday 24 July)
Mon	27	Mari Gillespie's Birthday Sport starts
Thu	30	Sport/Extra Mural photo day
Fri	31	Melisha Bock's Birthday Dyslexia Workshop

AUGUST

Sat	1	Lesleigh-Anne Eksteen's Birthday Choir Mingle
Sun	2	Abdullah Johnstone's Birthday
Mon	3	Gr 2-7 WCED applications open

90 Years of Groote Schuur Primary

Celebrating 90 Years – 13 July 1936 to 13 July 2026. On Monday, 13 July, Groote Schuur Primary School turned 90 years old. Ninety years of laughter in classrooms. Ninety years of sports on the field. Ninety years of learners walking through these gates ready to learn, grow, and become the people they are meant to be.

Our History. Groote Schuur Primary was officially established on 13 July 1936. In those early years, the school started as an Afrikaans medium school, serving the community with dedication and pride. As our community grew and changed, so did we. In 1995 the school transitioned to a dual medium school, offering education in both Afrikaans and English to meet the needs of more families. Then in 2010, we became an English medium school, the school you know and love today. Through every change, one thing has remained constant: our commitment to excellence in teaching, learning and character.

Built by Many Hands. A school does not reach 90 years on its own. It is built by people. Today we pause to say a heartfelt thank you to every principal, educator, SGB member, and parents who have served Groote Schuur Primary over the last 9 decades. To the previous 4 principals who led before me – thank you for laying the foundations, for your vision and for your service. As the 5th Principal of this school, I walk in footsteps made strong by your leadership. To the governing bodies past and present – thank you for your time, your wisdom, and the countless decisions made to protect, grow, and develop our school. From adding classrooms, to sports equipment, to policies that keep our children safe, your service has shaped Groote Schuur. To the teachers, admin staff, cleaners, grounds staff, and parents who have volunteered over 90 years – this milestone belongs to you too.

Aim High is not just our motto. For 90 years it has been our way. We look through the lens of respect, hard work and community. And because of that, we have achieved so much. As we start Term 3 in our 90th year, our challenge to every pupil and staff member is this: What will you add to the next chapter of Groote Schuur's story?

Parent meetings

Your child's class teacher should have contacted or will contact you for a meeting. These meetings will take place during the first week of the new term or took place last term. If you are not contacted by your child's teacher for a meeting and would like to meet with them, please send them an email to arrange this.

Arriving late for school

Please remember that school starts at 07:50 daily. Last term many pupils were late for school and this disrupts the classes and your child's learning. It is essential that our pupils develop good habits and a strong sense of responsibility, and punctuality is a crucial aspect of this. Please ensure that your child arrives at school before the start of the school day.

School Budget Meeting

A reminder that the School Governing Body will present the proposed budget and annual school fees for 2027, at a meeting on Monday 7 September, at 18:00 in our school library.

Chocolate raffle

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Chocolate Raffle last term. The winner was SHADIEL. He bought a ticket from Mya Jantjies in Gr 3A.

Library

As we welcome Term 3, we want to encourage you to continue supporting your child's love of reading. Reading is a wonderful way for children to use their free time, learn new things, and expand their imagination. From 22 July to 18 September (Term 3 circulation dates), we will be circulating books for students to enjoy at home. We invite you to encourage your child to borrow books regularly and spend time reading together as a family. Sharing stories and reading aloud can make reading even more fun and helps build strong reading habits.

Hearts for hunger relief drive: Wellness Warriors

Welcome to the start of Term 3! We hope this new term brings exciting learning opportunities and joyful moments for your children. We want to sincerely thank all the families who have generously supported our Hearts for Hunger Relief Drive as part of the Wellness Warriors outreach programme. Your kindness is making a real difference in our community. This is a friendly reminder that the drive will continue until August 11. If you haven't had the chance to contribute yet, there is still time to join us in helping those in need. Every donation counts and helps provide essential ingredients for nourishing meals. Please remember to send donations to the school library. Here are the suggested items based on your child's grade:

Grade R & Grade 1: Soup mixes (lentils, split peas, or mixed soup packs)

Grade 2 & Grade 3: Tinned vegetables (beans, tomatoes, mixed vegetables)

Grade 4 & Grade 5: Stock cubes, powdered soup bases, or spices

Grade 6 & Grade 7: Pasta, rice, or other hearty additions

We are also excited to share that fresh produce from our Wellness Warriors Gardening Project will be added to the donations, helping us provide even more wholesome meal packs.

Sport/Extramural photos

All group photos for extra murals (sport and cultural) will be taken on Thursday 30 July 2026. All these photos will be taken in full winter's school uniform, not in PT uniform.

Grade 7s: please do not come to school dressed in your PT uniform as per usual on a Thursday – please come in your school uniform and bring your PT uniform with you.

Born to Read

We are excited to announce that Groote Schuur School will be hosting our much-loved annual reading event, Born To Read, on 12 August 2026. This special event is designed to inspire our learners by showing them the joy of reading and helping them see that readers come from all walks of life.

Born To Read has been a wonderful success in previous years, with inspiring guest readers such as Mikhail Williams, Emile Jansen, Zephne Lanbrook, comedians Kagiso Mogadishu and Nik Rabinowitz, Paxton Fielies, the SPCA, medical experts, social workers, and many more who have shared their love of reading with our children.

This year, we are reaching out to you, our parent community, to help us find enthusiastic guest readers who would be willing to spend time reading to our learners. We keep the event a surprise for the children, so all planning and recruiting happens quietly behind the scenes.

How You Can Help:

If you know someone — a family member, friend, or colleague — who would enjoy reading to one of our classes and sharing a little about how reading has influenced their life and career, please share this invitation with them. We would love to welcome a diverse group of readers who can bring stories and inspiration to our learners.

Event Details:

Date: 12 August 2026

Arrival Time: 07:50

Meet, Treat and Greet: 08:00

Reading Sessions Begin: 08:30 in allocated classrooms

What Guest Readers Will Do:

Share a brief insight into their life journey.

Talk about how reading has played an important role in their lives.

Read a short story, book excerpt or poem to their assigned class.

Bring their own reading material or choose from our school library.

How to Recommend a Guest Reader:

Please ask your recommended guest reader to email us directly at library@gspcs.co.za to express their interest. We would like to have one guest reader for each class to make this morning truly special.

Thank you for helping us make Born To Read an inspiring and memorable event for our learners. Your support in sharing this invitation means a great deal to us and to the children.

SPORT

Extra-murals

Our extra-mural programme for Term 3 will commence on Monday, 27 July 2026. Please take note that as of next week, all extra-mural activities for Grades 4 to 7 that are run by the school will start promptly at 14h45 and end at 15h45. This arrangement will be for the remainder of the year. An updated copy of the extra-mural timetable has been shared with you indicating the amended times. Sport matches and events will get under way from next week, and for children to be in contention for selection they must ensure to attend the respective practices as they happen.

Coding Club

Please note that due to timing conflicts, Coding Club will be moving its weekly sessions from Wednesdays to Mondays, running from 14h45 to 15h45. We apologise for any inconvenience this shift may cause and truly appreciate your flexibility and understanding as we continue building exciting projects with our young coders. If you have any questions regarding this change, please feel free to contact Miss Walsh.

Upcoming events

Thursday, 30 July 2026 - Sport Photos

Friday, 31 July 2026 - U9 to U13 Netball tournament at Timour Hall Primary School

Upgrade of Tennis/Netball Courts

A project that Groote Schuur Primary would like to undertake is to convert our current Tennis/Netball courts into a multipurpose facility that would cater for Tennis in summer, and Netball and Hockey in winter. The surface will also be used for Phys Ed lessons during the school day. The school has been visited by various service providers, and quotes have been received indicating the costs of such a conversion. If any parents have contacts of corporates or potential sponsors who would like to get involved with such a project, please contact Duron Wright, the Sport Co-ordinator at school.

Yours sincerely

VALENTINE NEFT
PRINCIPAL

Hearts for Hunger Relief Drive

START DATE: 5 MAY--END DATE: 11 AUGUST 2026

As part of our Wellness Warriors programme, we are proud to launch our **"Hearts for Hunger Relief Drive"** for Terms 2 and 3.

We kindly invite families to contribute by donating the following soup ingredients according to grade allocation

- Grade R & Grade 1:** Soup mixes (lentils, split peas, or mixed soup packs)
- Grade 2 & Grade 3:** Tinned vegetables (e.g., beans, tomatoes, mixed vegetables)
- Grade 4 & Grade 5:** Stock cubes, powdered soup bases, or spices
- Grade 6 & Grade 7:** Pasta, rice, or other hearty additions

All donations can be sent to the school library.

Please note that our Wellness Warriors Gardening Project will also be starting this term. Harvested fresh produce from our school garden will be included as part of our donations, further supporting this initiative.

LITTLE LEARNERS, BIG STORIES!

OUR LIBRARY IS
JUST FOR YOU!

Grade R learners are welcome to take books out given that a **parent accompanies** the child to the library to collect books.



BORROWING RULES



Take out
2 BOOKS
for a 2-week period.

COLLECTION & RETURN TIMES



**WEDNESDAY
MORNING**

07:30 - 07:50

**FRIDAY
MORNING**

07:30 - 07:50

Read today,
Lead tomorrow!

Let's grow a love for reading
together! 😊



BIG MINDS, BIGGER WORLDS!

YOUR LIBRARY, YOUR ADVENTURE!

Our library has just under **4 000** books,
all fairly new to brand new!

Please be reminded that if a book is damaged
during the loan period, you will be liable to
cover the cost of the book.



BORROWING GUIDELINES

GRADES
1-3

Take out
3 BOOKS
for a 2-week period.



Books will be
issued during
their scheduled
class library
visits.

GRADES
4-7

Take out
4 BOOKS
for a 2-week period.



Grade 4, 6 and 7
learners are
encouraged to
collect books
during 1st or
2nd break,
(Mon - Thurs)



LET'S READ, LEARN & GROW!

Reading opens doors, sparks imagination
and builds a brighter future.

BE A READER. BE A LEADER!



Encourage reading.
Inspire success.
Read together, grow together!

