



RAND PREPARATORY AND COLLEGE NPC

**74 Sixth Avenue
Bezuidenhout Valley
2094
Telephone: (011) 618-3331/2
Web Site: www.randschools.co.za**

**PO Box 66211
Broadway
2020
Fax: (011) 624-2420
e-mail: info@randschools.co.za**

NEWSLETTER NO. 1 OF 2026

20 January 2026

Dear Parents

'A new school year means many new beginnings, new adventures and new challenges'. Denise Witmer

On behalf of the staff, I would like to welcome back our fabulous parents and amazing learners. As we begin a new year, let us as parents, teachers and learners embrace new beginnings and challenges. Let us work together to make Rand Prep the school we enjoy coming to, working at and happily support.

A special welcome to our new parents and students. Welcome to our Rand family. May your journey with us be both happy and fruitful.

In the last week, the learners and teachers have settled into a routine. Timetables have been finalised, and most learners have the necessary stationery and textbooks. Some parents still need to buy their children's workbooks.

PARENT INFORMATION MORNING

New parents, Gr R & 1 parents and Gr 7 parents must please attend the Parent Information morning on Saturday 31 January 2026, 08:00 – 10:00 in the school hall. This is a valuable and informative meeting that will help you to understand what is happening in the school. 'Old' parents, we are not leaving you out, your attendance will be most welcome.

Please could I ask that you do not keep the teachers after 10:00 as many have other appointments after the meeting. If you need to have a personal appointment with the class teacher or myself, please make an appointment for a school day, morning or afternoon.

DRESS CODE / UNIFORM

'Appearances matter – and remember to smile'. – Nelson Mandela

All students will be required to wear school uniform to school each day. We take pride in the appearance of our children. Our policy remains that for the first transgression, students are given a warning. If they repeat this transgression, parents will be called and asked to bring the correct uniform to school for their child.

Please ensure that your child/children are dressed in the correct school uniform and that the uniform is clean, so that your child / children look neat. A uniform shows unity and we would like the children to be proud of their school and their uniform. Children are very sensitive and get upset and embarrassed if they are not dressed the same as their peers. It is your duty as a parent to make sure your child/children leave the house dressed in the correct uniform.

Girls – summer uniform – school dress, white socks, black shoes, jersey, and blazer (Gr 4 – 7 only).

Earrings – plain gold or silver sleepers or studs only!

Hair – neat, braids are allowed but must be off the face, no fancy bead colours, no multicoloured or decorative hair-bands or elastics.

Jewelry – no bangles or bracelets. Religious necklaces may be worn, but must be concealed.

Nails – clean, short nails. No nail polish.

Boys – summer uniform – grey shorts and an open neck white shirt, grey socks, black shoes, jersey and blazer (Gr 4 – 7 only). If the shirt has a top button, a tie is required.

Hair – short & neat, braids and cornrows are allowed, but must be tied off the face.

Earrings – boys may NOT wear earrings

Jewelry – no bangles or bracelets. Religious necklaces may be worn, but must be concealed.

Nails – clean, short nails. No nail polish.

Sport uniform – white shorts, house shirt (blue or green), white ankle socks, **white takkies** (sneakers) (designer takkies are not necessary), a sturdy takkie (sneaker) that supports their ankles when they run. The takkie must be predominantly white. School tracksuit.

On days when students have Physical Education, they wear their PE kit – white shorts, house shirt, white socks and predominantly white takkies, tracksuits may be worn. Grade 4 – 7 students also wear their PE kit on Thursday – Week 2 – when they have a combined Sport period.

SCHOOL START AND ENDING TIMES

A reminder that school **starts at 07:50 and ends at 14:30**. Parents, we need your assistance with ensuring that children arrive at school punctually. This is a very important part of training your child for adult life. We need to inculcate the culture and ethos in our learners that it shows huge disrespect to a fellow person if you are late as you are not respecting the other person's time. This applies in everyday life including lessons or meetings.

WAITING CLASS

The Waiting class is supervised by the teachers to allow children to do their homework and study while they are waiting for their parents to fetch them, if they do not go home by transport or immediately after school.

Time: 14:30 – 16:30 – the learners will go the duty teacher's classroom and do their homework, etc, until 16:30, if they have not been fetched by 16:30, they will be taken to the court, where one of the ground staff will watch them until 17:00.

As 'Waiting Class' is a service we are offering to the parents who need to use it, there is no charge. Please remember, it is **not a babysitting service**.

A fine of R50 (cash) will be issued if your child is not collected by 17:00. Please note the times for collection at end of term or mid-term break.

EXTRA-MURALS

The extra-mural timetable will begin from Monday 26 January 2026.

Time: 14:30 – 15:30.

Monday – Library – the library will be open for learners to take out books – Gr 1 – 7 -Mrs Wilde

Tuesday – Choir – Gr1 – 7 - Mrs van der Merwe

Wednesday – Board games – Gr 3 – 7 - a variety of board games will be played – scrabble, monopoly, snakes and ladders, Pictionary, 30 Seconds, chess, etc. – Mrs Kalala & Ms Mabilisa

Thursdays – tennis and volleyball – Gr 4 – 7 - Mrs Maupa, Ms Paton and Ms. van Wyk

CYCLE TEST SCHEDULE

Cycle tests are written by Grade 4 – 7 learners on a Friday; there are some occasions when the test will be written on a Thursday. Please check the timetable carefully and help your children to study. A learner who misses a Cycle Test will receive zero – 0, unless a doctor's certificate is provided. If a doctor's certificate is provided, the learner will receive their term's average.

Cycle tests will begin on Friday 30 January 2026. The Cycle Test timetable has been handed out to the children.

LOCKERS

The school has a number of lockers that the students may hire at the cost of R100 for the year. Mrs Oosterlaak is the teacher in charge of the lockers. The students need to bring R100, a lock and two keys. One key will be left with Mrs Oosterlaak. Students are urged to use these especially for textbooks that don't need to go home, PE kit, etc.

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

It is very important for us to maintain open communication channels with our parents. Please note that the first line of communication should always be between the parent and the teacher concerned. A list of all the teacher's email addresses will be circulated shortly.

The second line of communication occurs when you as parents feel you need to escalate a matter to the principal, Mrs J Oosterlaak – joosterlaak@randschools.co.za or the executive head Mr B Harris – bharris@randschools.co.za.

If your child is experiencing an issue relating to his or her relationship towards other learners or towards the staff, you can contact your child's register teacher or me and I'll arrange for intervention.

Should you still have a matter that requires further attention, or a serious matter that you would like to speak to Mr Harris about, please feel free to contact him on bharris@randschools.co.za or you may schedule an appointment with Mr Harris through Ms Ludolph on 011 618 - 3331.

SCHOOL FEES

A reminder to parents that school fees are due for payment before the 1st of each month.



Please could we appeal to parents to place the four-digit account number from your school fee account into the payment reference on your banking app when making EFT payments.

FUNDRAISING

The Grade 7 learners will kick start their fund-raising efforts by selling Valentine's gifts, holding a cake and candy sale and having a Valentine's Day civvies day 13 February. Valentine's Day gifts will be sold on Friday 13 February, but learners may place an order and pay for the gift they want before Friday 13. Please support the Grade 7 learners.

Valentine's Civvies day – R10 per child.

SHOWS AND OUTINGS

We are in the process of planning shows and outings for the year. A separate letter will be sent out with dates and costs once they have been finalised.

CAMP – Grade 4 - 7

Mrs Maupa is in the process of finalising camp details for this year. The camp will take place in October, but the first payment will be due at the end of February, as we need to put down a deposit to secure the booking. Details to follow.

VACANCIES

There are still spaces available in our school for children in Grades R – 11. If you know of someone looking for a place for their child, please refer them to us.

DIARIES

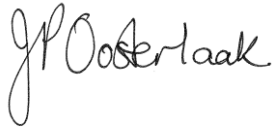
All students will receive a school diary. The Cycle Test timetable, class timetable and homework timetable are pasted into the diary. Please check these and sign them.

The students write down their homework daily; please check and sign the diary every day, including Friday. DO NOT sign the diary for the entire week on a Monday, as this defeats the purpose of you the parent checking the diary.

Students will receive demerits for unsigned diaries and incomplete homework.

Let's make this year unforgettable, filled with achievements, happiness, and cherished memories. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Yours sincerely



Mrs J P Oosterlaak
Head of the Preparatory School
joosterlaak@randschools.co.za

CYCLE TEST TIMETABLE – 1ST TERM 2026

Date	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7
30/01	Maths	IsiZulu	Afrikaans	Maths
06/02	IsiZulu	Maths	Maths	English
13/02	English	English	English	IsiZulu/Afrikaans
19/02 Thursday	Social Sciences	Afrikaans	IsiZulu	Social Sciences
27/02	Life Skills	Natural Science	Life Skills	Natural Science
06/03	CAR (Coding & Robotics)	Life Skills	Natural Science	Visual Arts
13/03	Afrikaans	Social Sciences	Visual Arts	CAR (Coding & Robotics)
20/03	Natural Science	CAR (Coding & Robotics)	Social Sciences	Life Orientation
27/03	No test	No test	CAR (Coding & Robotics)	EMS
02/04	No test	No test	No test	No test
10/04	Mental Maths	IsiZulu spelling	Afrikaans spelling	Mental Maths

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 1 2026

Day	Date	EVENT
Monday	19 Jan	Waiting Class begins – Gr R – 7 – Times: 14:30 – 17:00
Monday	26 Jan	Extra-murals begin – Gr 4 – 7 – Time: 14:30 – 15:30
Friday	30 Jan	Gr 4 – 7 Cycle Tests begin Gr 4 – Maths, Gr 5 IsiZulu, Gr 6 Afrikaans, Gr 7 Maths Civvies – R10 – wear sunglass, hats/caps & slops with your school uniform
Saturday	31 Jan	Parents Information morning – 08:00 – 10:00 – All Gr R, 1, 7 and new parents MUST please attend. 'Old parents are more that welcome to attend'.
Friday	06 Feb	Gr 4 – 7 Cycle Tests
Friday	13 Feb	Gr 4 – 7 Cycle Tests Valentine's Day Civvies – R10 – wear red, white, pink, (blue, black) think 'out of the box' when planning your outfit. Gr 7 to supply Cake n Candy to sell – please send money to support Gr 7 to sell Valentine's Day Gifts – please support Pool party – details will be sent in due course
Thursday	19 Feb	Gr 4 – 7 Cycle Tests School Closes at 12:00 for mid-term break – NO WAITING CLASS – <i>Learners must be fetched by 12:30 or the R50 per hour or part thereof fee will apply.</i>
Friday	20 Feb	No school – mid-term break
Monday	23 Feb	No school – mid-term break
Tuesday	24 Feb	Back to school 07:45 Progress reports handed out – New learners & learners experiencing difficulties.
Friday	27 Feb	Gr 4 – 7 Cycle Tests
Friday	06 March	Gr 4 – 7 Cycle Tests Civvies – R10 – Dress as the first letter of your name Gr 6 to supply Cake n Candy to sell – please send money to support
Friday	13 March	Gr 4 – 7 Cycle Tests
Friday	20 March	Gr 4 – 7 Cycle Tests
Thursday	26 March	Extra- murals end
Friday	27 March	Gr 6 & 7 Cycle Tests
Thursday	02 April	Gr R – 3 Easter Egg Hunt – R10 Mad Hatter / Easter Bonnet – R10 Gr 5 to supply Cake n Candy to sell – please send money to support NO WAITING CLASS
Friday	03 April	Good Friday – No school
Monday	06 April	Family Day – No school
Thursday	09 April	Parent / Teacher Interviews – 12:15 – 14:15 School closes at 12:00 NO WAITING CLASS – <i>Learners must be fetched by 15:00 or the late fee will apply</i>
Friday	10 April	Gr 4 – 7 Cycle Tests School closes at 11:00 for April holidays – <i>Learners must be fetched by 11:30 or the late fee will apply.</i>
THURSDAY	07 MAY	SCHOOL OPENS

