



Welcome to an exciting 2026 (Letter: 1/2026)

Dear Parents / Legal Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health and high spirits. As we embark on our 2026 journey, with our theme **STRONGER UNITED**, we would like to keep you informed and involved. Your support and participation play a crucial role. Your children will be part of engaging projects and activities that celebrate the rich history of our school while instilling a sense of community and school spirit. We will keep you updated on specific details and dates for the upcoming events, ensuring you can actively participate in your child's educational journey.

Term 1:

23 Jan – Parent committee sales during break	29 Jan – R 10 Civvy
26 Jan – Summer sport and extra mural activities start	11 Feb – Grade 4 & 5 Valentine's dance (More details will follow)
6 Feb – Parent committee sales during break	13 Feb – R10 Civvy
12 Feb – Grade 6 & 7 Valentine's dance (More details will follow)	27 Feb – R 10 Civvy
24 Feb – Grade 5 sales (R5)	6 March – Parent committee sales during break
3 March – Grade 4 sales (R 5)	17 March – Grade 6 sales (R5)
13 March – Grade 7 sales (R 5)	24 March – Parent evening (Term 1 progress discussion)
20 March – Parent committee sales during break	27 March – Learners receive progress reports: School closes @ 11:00
26 March – Soccer tournament (More details will follow)	

At De Vrije Zee Primary School, we begin with the value of **respect** because it is the foundation upon which all other values are built. Respect shapes how we speak to one another, how we treat ourselves, and how we care for our school, our community, and our environment. When respect is present, learners feel safe, valued, and heard, which creates a positive atmosphere for teaching, learning, and personal growth. Starting with respect helps learners understand that every person matters, regardless of differences, and that dignity, kindness, and self-discipline are essential in all relationships. It encourages accountability, empathy, and responsible behaviour—qualities that support both academic success and character development. The colour **yellow** represents this value because it symbolises **light, positivity, and hope**. Just as yellow brings brightness and warmth, respect brings clarity, encouragement, and a sense of belonging to our school community. It reminds us that respectful actions can uplift others, guide our choices, and set the tone for a united, caring, and values-driven school.



Medical information / Prescribed medication: If your child has any medical conditions or requires prescribed medication, please inform the class teacher. This information must be communicated to all staff members who teach your child. Kindly note that the school may not administer any medication without the completion of the prescribed medical consent form. Should you require a form, please inform the class teacher and one will be sent home with your child.

Payment of school fees, aftercare fees and music fees: Payment via EFT is the preferred payment method of school fees as ATM deposits and direct bank deposits result in high bank charges for the school. Parents are reminded of their statutory obligation to pay school fees. Should any parent experience challenges regarding the payment of school fees, they are requested to contact the finance office immediately for guidance and/or assistance.

Road safety and traffic related issues, particularly during school closing times: We have three entry/exit points for our learners. Two pedestrian gates in Dingle Road and one in Molteno Road. We are acutely aware of the volume of traffic at closing time and appeal to parents to be patient, to be courteous towards other road users and also to obey the road traffic rules.

Transport: I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support and cooperation in ensuring the safety and well-being of our learners. We kindly request you to liaise with the transportation service providers to ensure your child is picked up on time. Please take note that the school gates close 15 minutes after the official school closing time each day. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter to ensure the safety of all learners. Educators are not available to look after learners as they have other duties.

School hours and aftercare:

- Official school hours are from **07:50 to 14:30** from **Monday to Thursday**, and from **07:50 to 13:00, on Fridays**. Learners must be at school when the bell **rings at 07:45**. The support team will be on duty at the entry points **from 07:05**.
- Teaching starts as soon as the learners enter the class and are seated.
- Aftercare facilities are available at school for the learners. Please liaise with the front office regarding the aftercare.



Learners must be dropped off and picked up on time. Learners who have not been picked up by the times mentioned in the second bullet, will be taken to aftercare. An invoice will be sent to these parents should this become a regular situation, or if the learner is not collected within 30 minutes after the school closing time. Please note that learners will not be allowed to wait on the front porch of the school for their transport.

Communication with teachers:

Please note that teachers are engaged in teaching during school hours and will be available during their breaks if they are not on duty. The preferred communication channels with teachers are as follows:

- Email
- A note in the home workbook
- A phone call to the front office, where you can leave a message for the specific teacher.

Teachers will respond as soon as possible. Kindly refrain from sending messages to a previous teacher to communicate with your child's current class teacher.

Academics: The whole school will have a scheduled period on the timetable every Friday morning dedicated to Mathematics and Language. Language will alternate weekly between Afrikaans and English. This forms part of our intervention strategy / plan and is aimed at consolidating work covered during the week.

Stationery: Please ensure your child has the correct stationery. (Refer to stationery list in the homework book.) If you have any uncertainties, please liaise with the class teacher. Please ensure that **all stationery is clearly marked with your child's name**. This helps us return lost items quickly and prevents mix-ups.

Textbooks: Each learner has been issued textbooks with a unique number. Parents or legal guardians and learners signed for these textbooks on the textbook forms indicating the unique textbook numbers. If a textbook is lost or damaged, an invoice will be sent to the parent or legal guardian for payment.

School uniform: Please ensure your child wears the correct summer school uniform, including proper PE clothes and tracksuits purchased from Rothmans or NatMar. Please ensure that your child's school skirt and PE shorts are of appropriate length, in line with the school's dress code. **Any deviation from school policy must be submitted to the SGB in writing for consideration**. Please ensure that **all school clothing is clearly marked with your child's name**. This helps us return lost items quickly and prevents mix-ups.

Hairstyles: Kindly refer to the school policy regarding hairstyles. We will be strictly enforcing these rules, including restrictions on eyebrow grooming / cutting of patterns in the hair / eyebrows. **Any deviation from school policy must be submitted to the SGB in writing for consideration**.

Absenteeism is a serious concern. Some learners stay at home without a valid reason, please refer to our **Absenteeism Policy** for guidelines. Please note that **any work missed due to absenteeism must be caught up by the learner**. Please take note that the diagnosis of any illness must be made by a doctor. This must be accompanied by a medical note or sick certificate. Please take note that family holidays / breakaways are not classified as valid reasons.



Absenteeism without a valid reason: Refer to extracts from "The Basic Education Laws Amendment (BELA) Bill". The BELA Bill proposes to increase the compulsory school attendance age in South Africa and to introduce penalties for non-attendance. If a learner is absent for three consecutive school days without valid reason, the class teacher concerned must report the absence to the principal who must investigate and address with SGB. In South Africa, a learner's school attendance record can be cancelled if they are absent for 10 consecutive school days without a **valid** reason. Furthermore, **persistent absenteeism** beyond that point may lead to further action, including disciplinary action.

What is the minimum attendance percentage for school? A child should attend school every day and attendance over **96%** is considered to be good attendance. If attendance drops to 90% or lower the government classifies the child as having persistent absence (PA) and if attendance is 50% or less the child is classified as severely absence (SA).

Increased penalty: The BELA Bill proposes an increase in the **penalty for parents** who fail to send their children to school, moving from a maximum of 6 months imprisonment **or a fine, to a potential 12 months imprisonment or a fine, or both.** "

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to a fantastic year ahead.

Warm regards,
Mrs W. Blake (Principal)
2026/01/22

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Please read the letter with your child (ren), sign and send the reply slip back to school by 27 January 2026

LETTER 1 OF 2026

I, have read the letter and understand the content of the letter.

Name and surname of the parent / legal guardian)

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SIGNATURE: PARENT / LEGAL GUARDIAN

.....
DATE:

.....
NAME AND SURNAME OF LEARNER

.....
GRADE AND CLASS NUMBER

