

Dear Oakhill School Family

I would like to thank our Oakhill community for their support and involvement over the past term. Despite the interruptions due to the extreme weather it has been a wonderfully busy and productive period. The exciting derby days, cultural events, tours and special days have been well supported by the whole community and have created great moments and memories. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank, most sincerely, our Oakhill staff team across all departments and phases for their dedication and service contributing so much to the successful and meaningful year we have enjoyed thus far.



Upcoming Events

There are many more great occasions to look forward to next term.

OSC Hub Opening & Inter House Sports Day

We will kick off the term with the official opening of the OSC Hub as part of the Winter Inter House Sports Day on Saturday, 25 July and I would like to encourage all our Oakhill community to join us for this special day. There will be activities and opportunities for Oakhill parents to also take part in the day - please [click on this link](#) for further details as shared by the Sport Department.

Oakhill in Cape Town

The senior Prep and College teams will be travelling to Elkanah House in Cape Town for our first Elkanah House

Derby on 31 July and 1 August. After what promises to be an exciting Elkanah House Derby, we'd love for our travelling Oakhill parents and supporters to join us for a relaxed social gathering at *Ons Huisie* in Blouberg on Saturday, 1 August. Further communication from the Sports Department with full details of the derby as well as the social event will be shared before the end of the term. During this weekend we will also be hosting an Oakhill Alumni Social in Woodstock late afternoon Saturday. This initiative proved very successful when we did this last year and we are looking forward to once again connecting with our alumni.



PROUD OAKS
IN CAPE TOWN

SATURDAY, 1 AUGUST 2026
Ons Huisie, Blouberg
14:00

Oakhill Families and Friends are invited to celebrate and socialise

Wine & Canapé Pairing, Wine Tasting or
Welcome drink and à La Carte experience

Note: Should you wish to stay on for a meal (after 5pm),
the restaurant recommends that you book ahead

Book via Karri App



OLD OAKS
IN CAPE TOWN

SATURDAY, 1 AUGUST 2026
Woodstock Breweries
15:30 - 18:00

Reconnect, reminisce, and raise a glass
with fellow Old Oaks in Cape Town.

Complimentary first round of drinks
Cash bar thereafter.
Old School Oakhill Supporter jersey lucky
draw for those in attendance.

Stay on for Battle of the Bands at 18:30

RSVP using Google Link

[Click on this link to RSVP for the Old Oaks function](#)



Bridge House Derby

Another important date to note is the Oakhill vs Bridge House Derby on 7 and 8 August. We are looking forward to reciprocating the wonderful warm hospitality we experience when visiting Franschoek.

Term 2 Wrap Up

Still to come this term is the highly anticipated Prep School Family Soccer Day taking place on Thursday, 25 June. With a Soccer World Cup Theme, it is a great opportunity to celebrate the beautiful game and to dust off your boots and show off your skills. The Prep School Light Blue performance also takes place next week on Wednesday, 24 June and is not to be missed.

Little Oaks

The Little Oaks family fun day held today was a wonderful experience and a celebration of sports and games as well as gathering with our community. I was reminded of the very special energy and spirit that is always so evident in Little Oaks each and every day. The dedicated and hard working staff are always preparing for special days, themed lessons and making the most of every learning opportunity that comes their way.



A great example of what makes Little Oaks so special was the Children of the World Day celebrated in some style last week.

It was a wonderful occasion made even more memorable due to the special performances and presentations by some older children, staff and parents. A highlight of the morning is most certainly the feast that is prepared representing dishes from all around the world and kindly prepared by the Oakhill families.



Despite the disappointment of the opening game in the Soccer World Cup, we continue to wish Bafana Bafana well and are hoping for a strong finish in the tournament. In support of Bafana Bafana, the Proteas Women's Cricket Team, Springboks and other teams who are all involved in tournaments or series at present, we have been wearing green and gold shirts on Fridays.

Staffing

At the end of this term, we sadly bid farewell to staff who will be leaving us. As much as we are pleased that these staff will now be spending more time with their families it is nevertheless always difficult to say farewell to those who have meant so much to us. Elzette Bennett leaves Little Oaks following more than four years of dedicated service having added a great deal to this environment. Her energy, great sense of fun and professionalism will be greatly missed but has left an indelible mark at Little Oaks.

Melissa Hodgkinson leaves us following 10 years of service to focus on family. Melissa has made a significant difference in the lives of the children and families that have been in her care. As a knowledgeable, passionate and dedicated educator she has always put the children first and they have been so fortunate to have had her guiding their learning. Melissa's attention to detail, deep care and tireless support of the children are just some of the qualities we have appreciated so much.

Deborah Hayward has taught Grade 4 for 8 years and has contributed considerably to this phase of our school. With her passion for teaching, her wealth of experience and her technological prowess enriching learning she has had a significant impact on the young children in her care. We are





truly grateful for Deborah’s time at Oakhill and for her commitment to growing young minds and setting children on the path to success.

It is with a heavy heart that I announce that Ann Van Zyl will be leaving Oakhill at the end of the term. This follows a lengthy review of our support structures which led to a recent restructuring process aimed at meeting the ever evolving and growing needs of our College. To provide the specific clinical support required going forward, the school has had to make the difficult decision to transition the role into a more specialised position. For more than seven years, Ann has been a pillar of strength, comfort, and guidance for our staff, students, and parents alike. She has held our community through some of Oakhill’s most trying and painful periods, offering her wisdom, compassion, and unwavering loyalty precisely when it was needed most.

I would like to thank Ilse Fourie who has filled a relief position in the College teaching Afrikaans and Life Orientation this term. Ilse has fulfilled similar roles in the past and we are always so appreciative of her invaluable and professional contribution whenever the need arises.



We are delighted to welcome back to Oakhill, Tonya Platt (Grade 2) and Robyn Luyt (Grade 00) who will be rejoining the team from the start of Term 2. The wealth of experience, expertise and passion for teaching that Tonya and Robyn share means that our children are in expert and wonderfully nurturing hands. We are in the process of concluding the appointment for the new Grade 4 teacher.

Best of Knysna & Plett – Vote for Oakhill!

Oakhill School and Little Oaks (Oakhill) has once again been officially nominated in the 2026 Best of Knysna & Plett Readers’ Choice Awards in the following categories:

- Education Lessons & Coaching: Best Creche/Playschool
- Education Lessons & Coaching: Best Pre-Primary School
- Education Lessons & Coaching: Best Primary School
- Education Lessons & Coaching: Best High School
- Education Lessons & Coaching: Best Private School

Please learn more about this process and show your support by [voting for our school by clicking on this link](#). Every vote counts – please share with your family and friends to encourage them to vote too!

For more photos follow Oakhill School on social media  

I would like to wish all our Oakhill families a restful and enjoyable winter break starting at the end of next week. Thank you for your ongoing support of our school and for partnering with us in making our school so remarkable. We are looking forward to an exciting Term 3 ahead.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

James

Head of School: James Cross

