



Dear Oakhill School Family

I hope that the start of Term 3 finds our Oakhill families well and that you have been able to enjoy some time of rest and reflection during the winter break.

We extend a warm welcome to the new families that have joined Oakhill at the start of this term and wish them every success and much joy in this new chapter.

We are delighted to welcome back to Oakhill, Mrs Robyn Luyt (Grade 00), Mrs Tonya Platt (Grade 2) and Mrs Jane Horn (Grade 4). Mrs Horn will be filling in in Grade 4 ahead of the arrival of Ms Crystal Speak who will be joining Oakhill on 1 September 2026. We are very excited to welcome Ms Speak to Oakhill as she brings her experience, expertise, energy and creativity to the phase. We are also thrilled to announce the appointment of Mr Fred Davis as Head of Water Polo at Oakhill commencing from 1 September 2026. Mr Davis is not only a passionate and very capable sportsman but also a highly respected and knowledgeable educator. Having spent time teaching overseas in recent years Mr Davis and his family are very excited to be back in Knysna with which they have a strong connection.

We are particularly proud of the large number of our students and staff that were involved in various sporting events held across the country as they represented our region during inter-provincial tournaments. Oakhill was well represented with players not only showcasing their playing talents but also their leadership strengths as two of our players served as captain and vice captain of their respective Eden teams.

The matrics are commended on the manner in which they engaged in the Matric Winter School programme run at Oakhill during the last week of the holidays. We trust that their efforts and time invested during this will be well rewarded come exam time. The Grade 11 Leadership camp took place in Oudtshoorn this week with the Grade 11 group responding incredibly well to the challenges and opportunities they have been given. The group enjoyed both personal and collective growth through the rigorous and meaningful programme expertly facilitated.

While we were on holiday our campus was busy with a variety of projects including the commencement of the construction of the new Prep boy's bathroom and changeroom which will continue this term. The Milkwood block (housing Grade 4 and IsiXhosa) has had a face lift with the window frames being upgraded and replaced with aluminium frames.



The College quad now features two new trees contained in neat tree boxes incorporating some additional seating. A large number of College desks have been refurbished and we thank our grounds team for their assistance with

this process. Little Oaks have had a new post and rail fence installed. The Yellowwood block (Foundation Phase) has had new sinks and cupboards installed following some flood damage last term. The gardens and parking area around the front of the school have also received attention. The purchase and installation

Head of School: James Cross





of new swimming pool covers during the holiday has already made a big difference in getting our pool temperature raised in order to accommodate a significant pre season water polo programme which has already come into effect. Sincere thanks go to our Business Manager, Joy Beggs for overseeing these and many other developments while school was closed.

This Saturday we are officially opening the OSC Hub as part of the Winter Inter House Sports Day and we are looking forward to a day filled with house rivalry and the gathering of our community.



You are also reminded that 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, Oakhill parents and supporters are able to enjoy a relaxed social gathering at **Ons Huisie in Blouberg on Saturday, 1 August**. Later in the day, we will also be hosting an Oakhill Alumni Social in Woodstock. Another important date to note is when Oakhill will be hosting the **Bridge House Derby on 7 and 8 August** where we are looking forward to reciprocating the wonderful warm hospitality we experienced when visiting Franschhoek last year.

We are marking Mandela Day by engaging in a number of phase specific activities and initiatives starting in the Prep and Little Oaks today and then moving into the College next week. Amongst the initiatives undertaken today was the IP making pet toys for animal welfare organisations. We thank our Oakhill families and community for their support of these initiatives as we try to honour the call to give more of ourselves in service of others.



Grade 5 & 7s with their handmade pet toys



Wishing you a wonderful weekend and a great term ahead.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

James



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Head of School: James Cross

