Parent letter 1 /2025

20 January 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome back to Primary School Parys for a brand-new school year. This year promises to be filled with new opportunities, challenges, and adventures. Let us begin this year with the words of Nelson Mandela: *"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."* We are grateful to walk this path of growth, learning, and success together.

1. **Office Hours**
   Please note that the office is open from **Monday to Friday**, from **07:30 to 14:00**.

2. **School Hours**
   School starts daily at **07:30**. Classes adjourn at **13:00** for Grade 1 and 2, and **13:30** for Grades 3 to 7. Please ensure that our learners arrive **on time** for school. For safety reasons, please do not drop your children off too early at school. There is no supervision before **07:00**.

3. **Communication**
   Effective communication is very important to us. Please take note of the following channels used by the school:
   - **Facebook**: https://www.facebook.com/parysprimer
   - **WhatsApp (Gr. R - 7)**: There are class and grade groups. Please contact the staff if you are not part of the group(s).
   - **Website**: https://prim.parys.co.za/

4. **Parents' Evening**
   The first parents' evening will take place on **Wednesday, 22 January**, between **16:00 and 18:00**. More accurate time slots and arrangements will be communicated on the class or grade whatsapp group. Make use of this opportunity to meet your child's class or subject teacher and raise any concerns. If the time slot is not convenient for you, please contact the office or arrange an alternative appointment **via email** with the teacher.

5. **Absenteeism**
   Regular and avoidable absenteeism places unnecessary pressure on both the household and the school. Learners will need to catch up on missed classwork and assessments. Where possible, we request that learners do not stay home unnecessarily, and **that doctor's appointments and other appointments are not made during school hours**.
   Please communicate absences with the class teacher or the office. **Learners who are absent for formal assessments MUST submit a medical certificate**. If not, the learner will receive a zero for the assessment.

6. **Clothing Bank**
   There is a great need for second-hand school clothes in our community. School clothes in good condition can be dropped off at the office.

7. **Parent / Guardian Contact Details**
   Please ensure that the parent, learner information and contact details are correct and up-to-date. Kindly update cell phone numbers, email addresses and residential address with the class teacher or office. In case of emergency, we contact parents based on the information on our system. **We often find that learners do not know their parents' phone numbers.** Ensure that (especially with younger children) your numbers are written in their homework books or bags.

11. **Sports Day**
    We would like to draw your attention to the school's **Sports Day**, which will take place on **27th January(afternoon)** and **28th January(morning)** This is an exciting opportunity for our learners to showcase their sport skills and participate in a healthy competitive environment.

    We ask you to encourage your child to participate in the Sports Day. It is not only a chance for learners to improve their skills but also to work together as a team and have fun.
    Parents are also welcome to attend and join in the celebration of our learners' achievements. Come and support the school and make this day special!

12. **Learner Code of Conduct**
    Good discipline is directly dependent on the boundaries set by acceptable behavior. The learner code of conduct at Parys Primary School is based on promoting a culture of mutual respect in an orderly and safe environment. After thorough review and consideration, the governing body has decided to implement an improved merit and demerit system. This system is designed to better monitor the behavior of our learners and encourage positive behavior while providing a clear framework to address negative behavior.

    We request that you go through the **abbreviated code of conduct** and the **merit and demerit system** handed out to your child. This document will explain how the new system works, what the expectations are, and how the system will evaluate learners' behavior in a fair and consistent manner. (The full document is available on our website.)

    After reading the document, we ask that you sign the tear-off slip and return it to the school. This will confirm that you have read the contents and understand the new system.

    We appreciate your cooperation in this process, as it will help create a positive learning environment for all our learners.

May this be a year of discovery, collaboration, and wonderful achievements.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,
The Teaching Team

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ACTING PRINCIPAL