

Groundwork Academy



The Welcome Packet 2026



**Groundwork
Academy**

069 688 0981

office@groundwordacademy.co.za

1050 Forest Street, Little Falls,
Roodepoort, 1735

FEE SCHEDULE 2026

1. Registration Fees

- Amount: R2,000.00
- Note: Registration fees are a one-time payment for new students and are non-refundable.

Payment Method:

Payments for the registration fee should be made to the designated registration fee account. For further assistance, please contact the admissions officer at:

- Tel: 011 634 0430 or 069 688 0981
- Email: office@groundworkacademy.co.za

Upon receiving the registration fees, accepted applicants will be formally notified of their placement at The Groundwork Academy.

2. Tuition Fees

- Annual Tuition: R54,000
 - 12 Monthly Payments: R4,500 per month
 - Termly Payments: R18,000 per term (3 terms)
 - 10 Monthly Payments: R5,400 per month

Terms and Conditions:

If fees are in arrears, the school reserves the right to take necessary actions as outlined in the contract conditions.

3. Aftercare Services

- Annual Aftercare Fee: R18,000
 - 12 Monthly Payments: R1,500 per month
 - Termly Payments: R6,000 per term (3 terms)
 - 10 Monthly Payments: R1,800 per month
- Ad Hoc Aftercare: Available on a daily basis at R150.00 per day

4. Extra Mural Activities (PlaySport)

**Please see the Fee Structure Overview page for more activities*

- Annual Fee: R4,800
 - 12 Monthly Payments: R400 per month
 - Termly Payments: R1,600 per term (3 terms)
 - 10 Monthly Payments: R480 per month

Please ensure that all payments are made promptly to avoid any disruption to services or learning opportunities. For any queries or further information, do not hesitate to contact the administration office.

Fee Structure Overview

1. Registration Fees

- A mandatory fee to be paid for each student.
- Covers administrative costs, including setup across all school systems, such as the parent communication app and its usage.

2. Tuition Fees

- This fee encompasses all standard academic activities, including classes, robotics, music, physical education, and the use of school tablets for math skill enhancement and AI design courses.
- It also includes in-school extracurricular activities like the chess club, outreach program, and book club.

3. Aftercare Services

- Provides a balanced lunch along with a snack.
- Offers homework assistance.
- Features supervised playtime.
- Ad Hoc Aftercare: Available daily at R150.00 per day.

4. Extramural Activities

- Covers afternoon sports activities, facilitated in partnership with Play Sport.
- Given the school's small size, all students will engage in the same sport for a three-week duration before transitioning to the next sport. Sports offered include soccer, netball, hockey, cricket, and rugby.

5. Other Fees

- The school will engage in public speaking events; parents will only need to pay registration fees for specific entries.
- Swimming, which is outsourced, involves students being accompanied by school staff to the swim school. Participation is optional; please contact the office for arrangements.
- Formal art classes at the studio with Magdaleen cost R400.00, covering one session per week, including all art supplies. Please reach out to the office to arrange participation.



SCHOOL CALENDAR 2026

3 Term Calendar

Term 1 (59 days)

Start	Wednesday 14 January	
Close	Friday 10 April	
Half Term	CLOSE	Thursday 19 February (12h00)
	RETURN	Tuesday 24 February
Public Holidays	Saturday 21 March (Human Rights Day)	
	Friday 3 April – Monday 6 April (Easter)	

Term 2 (62 days)

Start	Wednesday 6 May	
Close	Friday 7 August	
Half Term	CLOSE	Friday 26 June
	RETURN	Monday 6 July
Public Holidays	<i>(Monday 15 June)</i>	
	Tuesday 16 June (Youth Day)	

Term 3 (59 days)

Start	Wednesday 9 September	
Close	Friday 4 December	
Half Term	CLOSE	Thursday 22 October (12h00)
	RETURN	Tuesday 27 October
Public Holidays	Thursday 24 September (Heritage Day)	
	<i>(Friday 25 September)</i>	

Total 180 days plus 10 Saturdays

SCHOOL TIMES SCHEDULE

At Groundwork Academy, we start school later in the morning to enhance student readiness and reduce morning stress. This strategic decision aims to:

- Reduce morning stress and improve punctuality by avoiding peak traffic times, easing drop-offs for parents.
- Enhance attendance and focus, as studies link later start times with better attendance and student alertness.

This change fosters a more relaxed and productive learning environment, supporting our mission to nurture confident and capable learners. We anticipate a smoother start to the school day with this new schedule.

School Times	
Student Arrival from	07:00
Lineup	08:15
Classes Start	08:30
Classes End	14:00
Afternoon Activities	
Aftercare	14:00 - 18:00
Extra-murals	14:15 - 15:30

ENROLMENT AGES

Grade R (Reception)

- Age: Four turning five by 30 June in the year of admission.
- Details: Grade R is the optional reception year before formal schooling begins. Many children start Grade R in the year they turn six, with the option to start at an older age.

Grade 1

- Age: Five turning six by 30 June in the year of admission.
- Details: Grade 1 is the start of compulsory education in South Africa.

OUR VISION

To provide a world-class primary education in a micro-school setting, where small classes and personalised learning cultivate strong reading comprehension and problem-solving skills. Through a dynamic curriculum and technology integration, we empower students to become confident, capable, and future-ready learners prepared to excel in their academic journey and beyond.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to spark a lifelong love of learning. We believe that true understanding comes from discovery, not just instruction. That's why we are committed to providing a discovery-based, student-focused education in a supportive small-class setting. We nurture each child's natural curiosity, using technology like robotics and AI to expand their horizons. Our goal is to develop well-rounded individuals who are not only academically capable but also critical thinkers, creative problem-solvers, and emotionally intelligent members of our community.

OUR NAME

The name Groundwork Academy was chosen to reflect our core mission. "Groundwork" means laying a solid foundation—the essential, early preparation that is critical for future success. In an educational context, it signifies our focus on building core, fundamental skills and knowledge. Our school's name communicates our purpose: to establish a strong base upon which every student can build their entire academic career, from the foundation phase onward.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

At Groundwork Academy, our educational philosophy is rooted in the belief that a strong foundational education is the most crucial element for a child's future success. We are committed to providing a world-class foundation phase education that adheres to the South African CAPS curriculum while enriching it with additional, forward-thinking programs.

Our approach is student-focused and centres on discovery-based learning. We believe that children learn best by exploring, questioning, and engaging with their world. In our small classes, we ensure every student receives individual attention, fostering strong reading comprehension and problem-solving skills that are essential for all future academic and life challenges. This personalised environment allows us to guide each child along their unique learning journey, sparking a lifelong love for knowledge.

Recognising the rapid pace of change in the modern world, our philosophy seamlessly integrates technology and digital literacy. We provide early exposure to robotics and AI-integrated learning, not as a replacement for traditional methods, but as a powerful tool for enhancing critical thinking and creativity. Our goal is to equip learners with the necessary skills to navigate a technological world with confidence.

Ultimately, we are dedicated to developing well-rounded, future-ready individuals. By nurturing a balance of academic skills, critical thinking, creativity, and social-emotional intelligence, we ensure our students are not only academically capable but also confident, adaptable, and prepared to thrive in the next phase of their academic journey and beyond.

OUR MANAGEMENT

The heart of our school is found in the hands-on, dedicated leadership of our founders, Peet Cronje and Bianca Viviers. With a collective educational and school management experience of 25 years, their partnership is the cornerstone of our school's unique philosophy.

Both Peet and Bianca hold a Bachelor of Education from North-West University in Potchefstroom, bringing a shared academic rigor to their roles. Their extensive experience includes serving as Head of School, a testament to their deep understanding of educational leadership and management.

As the owner of successful Maths and English study centres in Randburg, Peet brings a proven record of academic excellence and business acumen to our academy. Bianca, a highly experienced Primary School Principal and teacher, possesses a strong and unwavering commitment to the foundational phase of a child's education.

Together, Peet and Bianca act as the guiding "parents" of Groundwork Academy. They personally handpick every member of our teaching staff, ensuring each one shares their passion for our school's vision. They also oversee a comprehensive training program to ensure all our educators are not just qualified, but fully aligned with our unique, student-focused philosophy. This commitment to mentorship and quality control means your child's education is in the most caring and capable hands.



Peet Cronje

Bianca Viviers



OUR UNIFORM

At Groundwork Academy, we believe a child's uniform should complement their learning environment, not complicate it. Our philosophy is that students should be comfortable and free to engage in discovery-based learning without restriction. That's why we've designed a simple, versatile, and affordable uniform that prioritises practicality and ease.

Instead of complicated and expensive ensembles, our uniform is built on foundational, high-quality pieces that allow for active play and intellectual exploration. It includes a comfortable branded golf shirt, paired with durable denim shorts for warmer days and long denim pants for cooler weather. This combination provides a resilient and comfortable base for everything from classroom activities to outdoor adventures.

For sunny days, a sun hat is a non-negotiable part of our uniform, providing essential protection from harmful UV rays during outdoor discovery and play. For warmth, a cozy tracksuit top and bottoms are perfect for cooler mornings or winter.

Every single item in our uniform can be easily mixed and matched, allowing students to come to school ready for learning in any weather. This straightforward approach ensures that our students are comfortable and confident, ready to focus on what truly matters: learning.



OUR CLASSROOMS

A Hub of Close Connections and Discovery

At Groundwork Academy, we create a learning environment that promotes strong connections and a passion for discovery. With small classrooms, each student receives personalized attention, shifting the teacher-student dynamic. Educators serve as guides who nurture individual potential, fostering curiosity and active participation, ensuring that every child feels supported throughout their educational journey.

Unlocking Potential Through Innovation

We believe every student has untapped potential. Our curriculum, starting in Grade R, introduces robotics and AI tools to foster critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Technology enriches learning, allowing students to engage with complex concepts in innovative ways.

Academic Excellence:

The Power of Reading and Problem-Solving

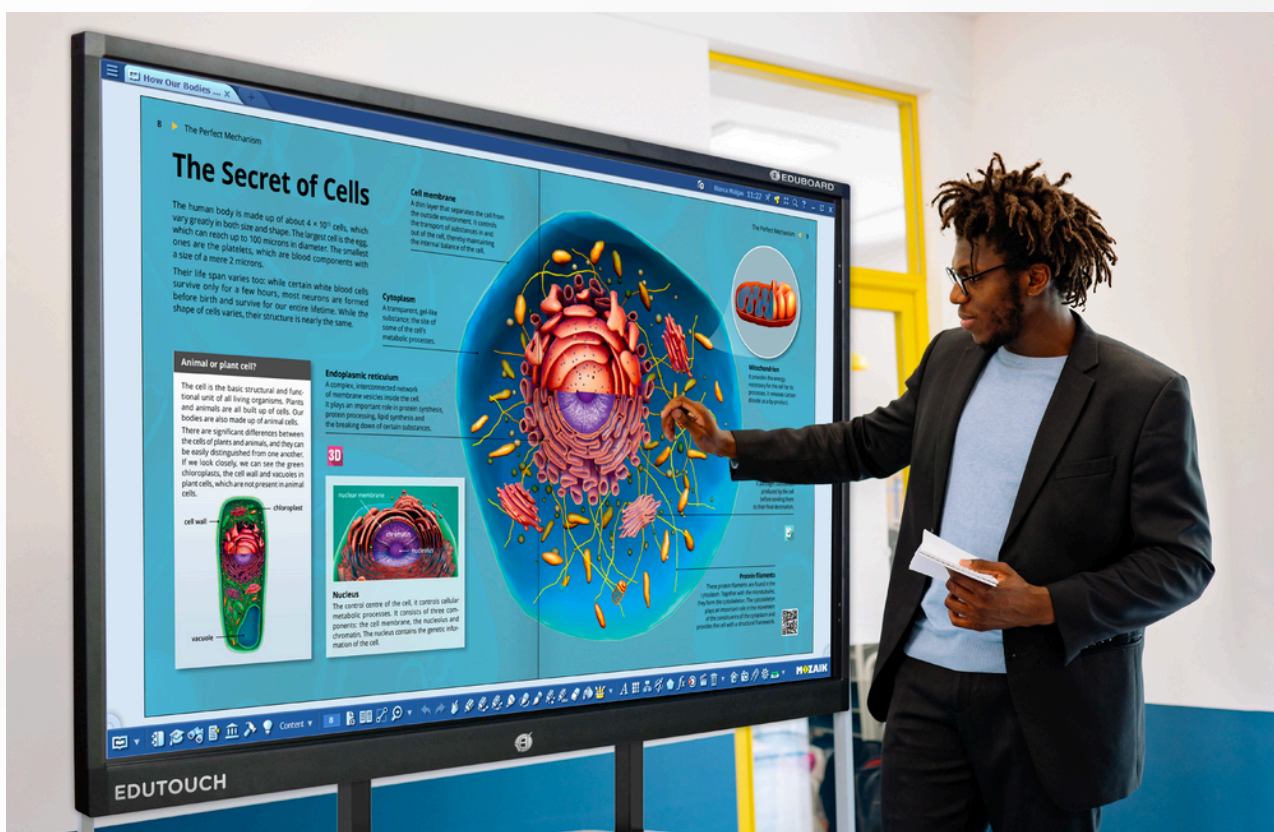
Academic excellence at Groundwork Academy is founded on reading comprehension and problem-solving. We emphasize critical thinking through dedicated daily classes in reading and math, separate from the core curriculum. This approach equips students with essential skills to analyse information, tackle challenges, and achieve future academic success.

Edutouch Panels: Shaping the Future of Classrooms

Edutouch panels signify the next generation of educational environments by seamlessly integrating advanced technology with effective teaching practices in our classrooms. These state-of-the-art interactive smart boards provide our educators with user-friendly tools that promote engagement and collaboration of our students.

Key Features:

- Run educational applications directly on the panel
- Access cloud-based documents
- Share content wirelessly



Edutouch panels will transform the learning experience, surpassing traditional limitations and enhancing instruction. As we navigate the digital age, our Edutouch panels will serve as a guiding light, leading our classrooms toward a future where innovation and education coexist, nurturing a generation of forward-thinking learners.

BEYOND THE CLASS

At Groundwork Academy, we believe education extends beyond traditional classrooms, focusing on developing the whole child. Our approach emphasizes physical well-being and a connection with nature, which are crucial for nurturing well-rounded individuals.

- We value gross motor skills, physical fitness, and spatial awareness.
- Partnerships with a swimming school and physical education coaches engage students in activities that build strength, coordination, and agility.
- Outdoor exploration is integral to our curriculum, allowing students to apply problem-solving skills and discover the natural world.

Emotional and social development is also key, with counselors and educators nurturing empathy, communication, and teamwork through collaborative projects and community service.

Our diverse arts program encourages creativity and self-expression, helping students appreciate cultural expressions and fostering self-worth.

Groundwork Academy is committed to nurturing intellectual, physical, emotional, and social growth, empowering students to thrive and contribute meaningfully to the world.

Groundwork Academy's Aftercare Program

Groundwork Academy's aftercare program goes beyond regular school hours, providing a safe and enriching space for children's well-being and growth.

- **Dedicated Staff:** Our committed team assists with homework, ensuring it is completed efficiently.
- **Healthy Lunch:** We offer nutritious meals to keep your children energized.
- **Structured Afternoons:** The afternoon schedule includes:
 - Educational play
 - Creative activities
 - Social skills development
 - Daily reading sessions to enhance literacy

Each afternoon is designed to be productive and in harmony with the school's philosophy.

School Transport: Safe and Convenient

At Groundwork Academy, we prioritize the safety and reliability of transportation for your child. To ensure a smooth and secure experience, our optional transport service is managed by a reputable, registered student transport company.

Key Features of Our Service:

- Available to all students residing within a 5-kilometer radius of the school.
- Flexible transport options tailored to your family's schedule:
 - Morning drop-off
 - After-school pick-up
 - Later drop-off for students participating in our aftercare program.

We implement every precaution to guarantee your child's safety during their commute to and from school, offering you peace of mind.

HOMework IDEOLOGY

Purposeful & Effective

We believe that homework should be a meaningful extension of the classroom learning experience, not a source of stress or busywork. Our small class sizes are our greatest asset, allowing teachers to maximise instructional time and provide personalised attention, which fundamentally shapes our approach to assignments outside of school.

Our Core Principles:

- **Purpose Over Volume:** Every assignment has a clear intent. Homework is not given for its own sake but is designed to reinforce skills introduced and practiced in class.
- **Quality & Balance:** We prioritise quality, focused tasks over large quantities of work. Our goal is to support a healthy balance between academic responsibilities, family time, extracurricular activities, and essential rest.
- **Skill Solidification:** The primary purpose of our homework is to provide an opportunity for students to independently practice and solidify key concepts and skills, leading to greater mastery and confidence.

By leveraging our intimate learning environment, our teachers can tailor instruction during the day, ensuring that homework is a purposeful and manageable next step in each student's educational journey. We are committed to fostering a positive and effective learning experience that prepares students for success without overwhelming them.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Our school offers a rigorous academic program that exceeds national standards, preparing students for future success. Built on the CAPS curriculum, it includes innovative subjects and specialized support for a holistic education, ensuring a strong foundational education in essential learning areas.

Specialised Learning by Phase

Foundation Phase (Grades R-3)

In these crucial early years, we focus on building literacy, numeracy, and life skills in a nurturing environment. Our core subjects include:

- English Home Language
- Afrikaans First Additional Language
- Mathematics
- Life Skills

Enriching this foundation, we proudly offer:

- isiZulu Second Additional Language: Introducing a third language to promote multilingualism and cultural appreciation.
- Music: A comprehensive program covering both instrumental practice and music theory to foster creativity and cognitive development.
- Technology & Discovery: A unique and innovative subject where young learners are introduced to:
 - Robotics: Basic coding and engineering principles.
 - Creation with AI: Age-appropriate exploration of artificial intelligence tools.
 - Scientific Method: Hands-on experiments that encourage curiosity, questioning, and discovery.

Intermediate Phase (Grades 4-6)

We build upon the foundational knowledge with a broader subject range designed to spark curiosity about the world.

- Core CAPS Subjects: English Home Language, Afrikaans First Additional Language, Mathematics, and Life Skills.
- Specialised CAPS Subjects: Social Sciences (History and Geography) and Natural Sciences and Technology.
- Advanced Robotics Program: A dedicated, progressive course that deepens students' understanding of coding, design, and mechanical engineering.

Senior Phase (Grades 7-9)

Our curriculum expands to prepare students for the subject choices they will make in the FET phase, emphasising critical thinking and practical skills.

- Core CAPS Subjects: English Home Language, Afrikaans First Additional Language, Mathematics, and Life Orientation.
- Specialised CAPS Subjects: Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and the new additions of:
 - Technology: Focusing on designing and practical problem-solving skills.
 - Creative Arts: Encouraging expression through visual art, music, drama, and dance.
 - Economic and Management Sciences (EMS): Introducing foundational knowledge of the economy and financial literacy.

Additional Academic Support

Understanding the importance of core skills, we provide extra reinforcement for all our students:

- Mental Maths Classes: Twice weekly sessions dedicated to enhancing calculation speed, problem-solving agility, and logical reasoning.
- Reading Development Classes: Twice weekly sessions focused on improving reading fluency, comprehension, and critical analysis skills.

LANGUAGE POLICY

Fostering Excellence in a Multicultural World

At our school, we believe language unlocks opportunities, fosters understanding, and leads to academic excellence. Our language policy is designed to support every student in our diverse community.

English as the Medium of Instruction

As an English Medium school, English is the primary language for teaching and learning across all subjects, from Mathematics to Robotics. This approach:

- Provides students with strong academic English skills for success in higher education and the global marketplace.
- Ensures a common language for collaboration and discussion, uniting our diverse student body.
- Develops critical cognitive and communicative skills through engagement with complex academic material.

Specialised Support for Every Learner

In our multicultural society, many students learn English as an additional language. To turn this into an opportunity for growth, we offer exceptional support:

- **Expert Teachers:** Our educators are not only subject specialists but also skilled in teaching English to second language speakers, using methodologies that make content accessible.
- **Scaffolded Learning:** Techniques such as visual aids, vocabulary building, and interactive activities help students understand, participate, and excel.

Inclusive Environment: We foster a supportive classroom atmosphere where students confidently practice language skills without fear of mistakes.

Valuing Multilingualism

While English is our medium of instruction, we deeply value our students' linguistic heritage and the cognitive benefits of multilingualism. Our offering of Afrikaans First Additional Language and isiZulu Second Additional Language reflects our commitment to:

- Preserving and celebrating important local languages.
- Equipping students with the skills to communicate in South Africa's rich multicultural context.
- Developing flexible minds and a greater appreciation for different cultures.

Our Commitment

In essence, our language policy is built on a dual commitment: to maintain the high standards of an English Medium education while providing the targeted, expert support necessary to ensure that every student, regardless of their home language, can thrive academically and socially. We are dedicated to empowering confident, articulate, and multilingual global citizens.

“

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of true education.

”

- MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.