



UCA | TERM 1 2026 NEWSLETTER

A Ministry of HIS Church

Celebrating 21 years of teaching our children God's Words, Ways and Wisdom

FROM THE PEN OF THE PRINCIPAL

As we move through the term, it was clear that education continues to shift and develop at a rapid pace.

Two areas that stand out globally—and that remain relevant to us as a school—are the growing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education and the increasing focus on student well-being.

AI is becoming part of everyday learning. Tools such as ChatGPT are changing the way learners access information, complete tasks, and even think about problem-solving. While this brings exciting opportunities, it also requires guidance. Our role is to help learners use these tools wisely—supporting their learning without replacing the effort, discipline, and understanding that meaningful education requires as well as integrity to disclose the use of it. It remains important that our learners grow in their ability to think critically, work independently, and take ownership of their learning.

At the same time, there is a strong and necessary global emphasis on student well-being. We are reminded that education is not only about results, but about developing the whole child. When learners feel secure, valued, and supported, they are far more able to engage, grow, and succeed. As a school, we remain intentional about creating an environment where every child feels seen and where their emotional, physical and personal development is taken seriously alongside their academic progress.

As we approach the Easter season, we are drawn back to the foundation of our faith—the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is more than a moment on the calendar; it is a reminder of renewal and transformation. In a world that often focuses on outward performance, we are called to something deeper. In Romans 12:2 we are reminded: “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

This speaks to the kind of growth we desire for our learners—not just outward success, but a steady transformation from the inside out.

We value the partnership we share with our parents as we continue to guide and support each learner on this journey.

Mr. Van der Venter





OUR HIGH SCHOOL HEAD

What a full and rewarding term it has been. Our focus has remained firmly on academics, and we commend our students for the dedication they have shown in managing their studies alongside busy schedules filled with sport, cultural activities, and extra-murals. Their ability to balance these commitments reflects a desire to grow as well-rounded individuals.

Our devotions this term were centred on the Holy Spirit and His work in our lives. Students were reminded that while academic success is important, spiritual growth and Christ-centred character remain foundational to who we are as school.

We were delighted to welcome our Grade 7 learners into the High School and have enjoyed watching them settle in and become part of our High School. Our Prefects were also privileged to attend a day out focused on hilarious ice-breakers, team-building activities, a Shipwreck Challenge, solving an encrypted case, and enjoying good food together at Scotties Coffee Shop. These experiences strengthened unity and leadership within the team. In addition, our bake sale fundraiser was a wonderful success, helping to raise funds for upcoming camps and supporting the school as a whole.

We eagerly look forward to the Senior High Camp (25–27 June), intentionally planned to strengthen bonds and uplift student morale, Career Day on 24 July as we guide learners in their future choices, and the Grade 7–8 Camp (1-3 December), aimed at growth and connection among our younger students.

As we continue through the year, my priority remains on the overall wellbeing of every student as we build healthy, inspired, and successful leaders on God's Word, Ways and Wisdom.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes.

Marion May Subramoney
Head of High School





OUR PRIMARY SCHOOL HEAD

As Head of primary school, I am proud to have a team of dedicated and passionate teachers who understand the incredible responsibility entrusted to us. Every day, we are mindful that we are not simply teaching lessons, we are educating future leaders. Our aim is to nurture confident, capable learners who are equipped with strong values, critical thinking skills, and a love for lifelong learning.

As a Cambridge Assessment school, we intentionally cultivate the Cambridge Learner Attributes in every child.

We strive to develop learners who are:

- **Confident** in working with information and ideas, able to think critically, communicate clearly, and respect differing viewpoints.
- **Responsible** for their own learning while being responsive to and respectful of others and their community.
- **Reflective** in understanding how they learn best and developing the habits of lifelong learners.
- **Innovative** embracing new challenges with creativity, adaptability, and courage.
- **Engaged** curious and collaborative, ready to make a positive difference locally and globally.

A key academic focus in our Primary School for Term 1 was the development of strong literacy skills. We believe that reading is the foundation of all learning and essential in shaping future leaders. This term, we continue to build a strong reading culture through daily Independent Reading time at the end of each academic day which contributes to developing confidence and fluency.

We encourage parents to partner with us by setting aside daily reading time at home. Even 10–15 minutes a day significantly strengthens literacy skills and fosters a genuine love for books.

Events to Look Forward to in Term 2

World Book Day – 23 April

Learners are invited to dress up as their favourite book character as we celebrate the joy and power of reading. We look forward to a day filled with creativity, imagination, and a shared love of literature.

Primary School Sports Day – 12 June

A new event on our calendar! Our Sports Day promises fun, teamwork, and school spirit as our learners showcase their enthusiasm and athletic ability.

Yours in Learning
Mrs. Baijnath





OUR PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL HEAD

As we embarked on a brand-new term, our preschool was filled with excitement, curiosity, and joyful learning.

We began with a vibrant Preschool Science Fair, where our young scientists proudly showcased their creative and imaginative projects. It was a delight to see the enthusiasm on their faces as they confidently shared their discoveries. We were especially grateful for the wonderful support from our parents, whose involvement made the event even more meaningful and memorable.

Our Water Fun Day at Rocky Bay was another highlight of the term. The children splashed, laughed, and enjoyed the sunshine in a safe and happy environment. A delicious lunch was served, adding to the day's festivities and creating beautiful memories for all.

Our preschoolers continued to learn through purposeful play, during free play sessions. They engage in rich sensory experiences, by exploring sand, water, and goop, while strengthening fine motor skills, creativity, and social interaction. These hands-on opportunities remain an essential part of our holistic approach to early childhood development.

One of the most treasured moments in our weekly rhythm is "Choose to Bless Tuesday." During this special time, children and staff come together in song and joy while contributing small collections of change. These contributions are gathered throughout the year to bless less fortunate children at year-end. Through this initiative, we intentionally nurture compassion and generosity, teaching our learners the profound value that it is indeed more blessed to give than to receive.

Our preschoolers also participated in World Environmental Education Day under the theme "Ending Plastic Pollution." The children collected recyclable plastics from home and worked collaboratively to create a beautiful "Under the Sea" themed mural. This meaningful project not only sparked creativity but also instilled environmental awareness and responsibility at a young age.

It has been a term filled with discovery, joy, service, and growth. We are incredibly proud of our preschoolers and grateful to our supportive families who journey alongside us in nurturing hearts and minds.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Davenee Govender". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Davenee Govender



World Read Aloud Day



Our primary school had the privilege of having Andi Lawless visit us for a morning book reading. Afterwards they sat outside to do some silent reading before starting their lessons. Andi set up a beautiful book display in our staff room for students and teachers to purchase books throughout the day. Overall, it was a lovely promotion of the joys and benefits of reading.

Pi Day



With hoola hoops around their waists, mini cream pies messed around their mouths and cream thrown around the Prefects and teachers' bodies... the students had a spectacular and circular experience! The primary and high school gathered around the quad for a morning of fun and laughter. A pi recital was also done in each class to see who could recall the most decimals in the number pi. Our winner was Daniel van Wyk in grade 10 with an astounding 200 digits!

The preschool had some circular shenanigans as well. The Donut eating contest was both magnificent and messy; the little ones found it quite exciting and thoroughly enjoyed their experience.

International Day of Women and Girls in Sciences



We celebrated International Day of Women and Girls in Science with our little ones this term. Miss Pillay spent some time teaching them a bit about different types of scientists and why we celebrate girls in the world of science.

The preschoolers learned about archeology and had the chance to be archaeologists by searching for and digging up dinosaurs.

The grade 1s learned about the 3 types of rock. They got to be geologists by searching for rocks, making observations of their structure and comparing them to the 3 types of rocks (sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic).

The grade 2s learned about moss. They got to be biologists by comparing plants that have roots to moss, which doesn't. They examined different root systems, searched for moss in different places and made scientific conclusions regarding the nature of moss.

All in all, it was a super day filled with little smarty-pants scientists!

FunX Kids Demo



Our Grade 1 and 2 learners had a great time during the FunX Kids demo at school. The session was full of energy as they got moving. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and smiles as they took part in the activities.

Preschool Science Fair



Our preschoolers had a wonderful time at the science fair, and finding a love for knowledge. It was lovely to see their excitement and curiosity, as they shared what they had learned.



IGCSE Results - Congratulations



A huge congratulations to our dedicated learners and all their hard work that paid off.



Special mention to Mieke Senekal and her IGCSE results(4 A's 2A*) – you have made us so proud!!

AS Results Congratulations!

Well done to our Gr 12's especially Liane Ackermann with obtaining a University Pass



Prefect Leadership Outing

Our prefects spent some time outside working together on teamwork based challenges.

These are the young leaders growing our future and we love seeing the people they are becoming.

It was great to see them sharing ideas and helping one another, while building confidence and a sense of teamwork.



The hardest person you will ever lead is yourself – Jenny Page (Founder of UCA)

Armed Forces Day

Our library was beautifully set up to bring awareness to Armed Forces Day. Learners enjoyed the displays, learning more about the role of the armed forces, and engaging with the topic in a meaningful way. It was a lively and informative experience that sparked interest and conversation.



Midmar Mile

A big well done to our UCA swimmers. These incredible young people are always pushing the limits.



World Environmental Education Day

Ending plastic pollution

Innovation, creativity and much enthusiasm was unleashed by the grades that participated in our Reused Plastic Art competition!

From turtles to sharks, murals to moving sculptures, the students showcased their artistic and engineering skills in celebration of this special Environmental day. The winners of the competition were the grade 5's with their out of the box narrative and beautiful sculptures - a turtle filled with plastic and its shark friend, getting revenge on the humans who polluted the water. The aim of this initiative was to raise awareness about plastic pollution and it can safely be said, that this was achieved.





Term 1 Sports Wrap Up

As we wrap up Term 1, we are delighted to share that it has been a truly successful and memorable start to the year. Our learners have shown incredible dedication, teamwork, and school spirit across all activities.

Swimming We are proud to announce that our swimming team once again brought home victory at the South Durban Zonal Swimming Gala—an outstanding achievement marking our 17th consecutive win! A special congratulations goes to Adrian Nel, Simone Nel, Logan O'Connor, Katy Jones, Hayden Kerkhof, and Isabella van de Merwe, who will represent us at the **SACSSA Nationals Gala on 28 March at Curro Hillcrest High School**.

Cricket Our cricket players displayed skill and determination, making it all the way to the semi-finals—a testament to their hard work and perseverance. A heartfelt thank you goes to Coach Lael for his invaluable guidance this season. Our school also attended the **KZN Mini Cricket Festival on 20 March at Hollywoodbets Kingsmead Stadium**, and while numbers were low, we hope to see greater participation next year.

Congratulations to Divan van Rooy, who attended the **KZN cricket trials** over three days. He represented the **Umdoni team**, made up of local schools, and was appointed **captain of the Ugu team**. At the end of the trials, Divan was awarded **All-Rounder of the Festival** for the **Umdoni Primary School Cricket Association**



Netball The netball season has already had a strong start thanks to the commitment of our coaches—Mr & Mrs Rungasamy, Miss Vosloo, Miss Pillay, Mrs Kandasami, Mrs Naicker, and Mrs Munien. We are glad that our girls enjoyed and build up valuable experience during the **Kuswag Festival at Kuswag High School**, facing teams from across the country.

Looking Ahead to Term 2 Term 2 promises to be just as exciting, with netball, soccer, and cross-country practices beginning soon. Parents are kindly asked to keep an eye out for the Term 2 sports timetable to help learners stay prepared and involved.



Term 2: Important dates

17 April – U11 Netball, Soccer & Volleyball Festival

18 April – U09 & U15 Netball, Soccer & Volleyball Festival

25 April – U13 & U19 Netball, Soccer & Volleyball Festival

09 May – SACSSA Online Chess

30 May – Zonals Cross Country & SACSSA Girls U9, U11 & U13 Netball & CRG10 Soccer Tournament

06 June – KZNCSSA Provincial Pickleball (U13 & U19) & SACSSA 6-a-side Soccer (Boys U9, U11, U13 & Girls U13)

13 June – SACSSA Online Chess

20 June – KZNCSSA Provincial Cross-Country

We are incredibly proud of our learners' achievements and look forward to another term filled with growth, teamwork, and success.



YEAR TERM DATES

Term 1	14 Jan – 27 March
Term 2	8 April – 26 June
Term 3	21 July – 17 September
Term 4	6 October – 9 December
School Closed	14–15 May

TERM 2 DATES

- April 7 - School Open Staff
- April 8 - School Open Learners
- April 13 - Academic Open Evening Gr R - 8: 16:00 - 18:00pm
- April 14 - 16 – Review meeting: Parent Conferences Gr 4-12
- April 17 – Tour de Preschool & U11 Netball & Soccer
- April 18 –U9 & U15 Netball & Soccer
- April 22 – Photo Day
- April 23 – World Book Day – Cambridge Exams Start
- April 25 – U13 & U19 Netball & Soccer
- April 27 – Freedom Day
- May 1 – Workers Day
- May 8— Sani2C
- May 9 – Sani2C & SACCSA Chess
- May 14 -Ascension Day
- May 15 – School Holiday
- May 30 – South District Cross Country
- June 6 – CKS Athletics Clinic - KZNCSSA Provincial Pickleball
- June 8 – School Exams/ Assessments Start - World Ocean Day
- June 12 – Primary Sports Day
- June 13– CKS Athletics Clinic & SACSSA Chess
- June 19 - Pre-School Mothers and Father's day Galla Dinner & Primary School Career day
- June 20 – KZNCSSA Provincial Cross Country
- June 22 – Mid Year Awards
- June 25 - 27 - High School Camp
- June 26 – School closes 10:00am

UPCOMING EVENTS & GIVING INITIATIVES



The poster features the UCA Pre-School logo (a tree with a rainbow) and the Umdoni Christian Academy logo (a shield with a cross). The main text reads "TOUR DE PRE-SCHOOL IS COMING" in large white letters, followed by "A fun day for our littlest learners at Scottburgh mall" and "17 APRIL 2026" in a blue box. Below is a photo of children on tricycles and a woman in a red dress. The website "umdonica.co.za" is at the bottom.

Phoebe's Pantry ♡

- Tinned goodies
- Personal Toiletries
- Pasta
- Sugar
- Flour ♡
- Coffee & Tea
- Juice
- Cereal
- Long life milk ♡

Donate monthly for a family in need
Drop your food stuffs at His Church any day of the week

ADVERTISE WITH US

Email admin@umdonica.co.za for more information. All advertising goes to our school building fund.

Want to submit school pics to be featured in social and on our newsletter - Submit to admin@umdonica.co.za

Follow us on social media and get updates first:



Umdoni Christian Academy



Umdoni Christian Academy - South Africa



Umdoni_Christian_academy



Umdoni Christian Academy