



SPARK Schools Need-to-Know Guide 2018

Read these notices carefully so that your family is prepared for the 2018 school year!

First Day of School

The first day of school is **Wednesday, 17 January 2018**. Sparks Fly, our daily morning assembly, will begin promptly at 7:45am, and Grade R parents *only* are welcome to view Sparks Fly on Wednesday and remain at our school until scholars are dismissed to their classes at **8am**. At that time, we ask that you say your goodbyes and allow us to transition scholars into their new daily routines.

Mark your calendars now for an exciting opportunity to view Sparks Fly and tour your child's school during our third week of Term 1.

- 29 January- Grades R and 4
- 30 January- Grades 1 and 5
- 31 January- Grades 2 and 6
- 1 February- Grades 3 and 7

Look for more information on social media in January about this special event hosted by your child's school leaders.

Placard Pickup

In order to ensure the safety of our scholars, please note that parents are required to pick up their child's placard, which is used during daily dismissal, before the school year begins. **Placards for students returning to their current school will be available during the final week of this school year, 4-7 December 2017, to be picked up during report card conferences. Placards for students transferring within the SPARK Schools network or beginning their first year at SPARK will be available for pick-up 8-12 January 2018.**

When you pick up your child's placard, you will meet your school's office manager or School Operations Manager, learn about our arrival and dismissal procedures, update your contact information, and sign-up for aftercare. **Please note the dates and times for placard pick up, as this is mandatory.**



“Back to School” Open Evenings

We are thrilled to be able to invite all SPARK parents for a series of open evenings to meet our spectacular SPARK educators. **During our "Back to School" evenings, parents will be able to come at any point during the open house to tour their child's classrooms, Learning Lab, and general school facilities.** Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter to find out the dates for your school's first parents evenings of the new school year.

School Hours

Please note that school hours for all grades levels are as follows for 2018:

Grade R and 1 Regular Days (Tuesday-Friday): 7:45am- 2:30pm

Grade 2 and 3 Regular Days (Tuesday-Friday): 7:45am- 3:00pm

Grades 4-7 Regular Days (Tuesday-Friday): 7:45am-3:30pm

Minimum Days (Mondays and Report Card Conferences) 7:45am- 1:00pm

Minimum Days are indicated on the attached instructional calendar with an underlined date.

Aftercare, Holiday Care, and Extracurricular Activities

Aftercare until 5:30pm Monday-Friday will cost **R500 per month** in 2018. Aftercare until 5:30pm on Mondays only (our weekly “minimum day”) will cost **R230 per month** in 2018.

All families of returning students that wish to enrol in aftercare for 2018 will be able to do so during report card conferences the last week of school, at the same time as placard pick-up occurs. **All families of students transferring within the SPARK Schools network or beginning at SPARK for the first time will be able to sign-up for aftercare from 8-12 January 2018.**

Please note that a full list of the extracurricular activities offered in 2018 will be available from 8 January 2018.

Holiday care is not provided at our schools during term break. Please make note of term break dates on the instructional calendar to ensure that you have arranged care for your child in advance.

Stationery

The annual fee for stationery for 2018 is **R500**, which will be invoiced through the e-mail address you have supplied in January 2018. **This fee covers all stationery required at school, and no additional stationery should be purchased or sent with scholars.**

Please ensure that your child has sufficient stationery at home to complete daily homework.



Uniform

SPARK Schools uniforms may be purchased through two vendors:

- **School and Leisure**

- Phone: 021-705-0288
- E-mail: online@schoolandleisure.co.za
- Website: <http://www.schoolandleisure.co.za/schools/gauteng/spark-schools/>

- **Rufaro Garments**

- Phone: 011-028-6691 or 073-927-0832
- E-mail: rufarogarments@gmail.com
- Website: www.rufarogarments.com

The summer uniform will include a navy blue golf shirt with school badge, a navy blue peak cap or floppy hat with school badge, khaki shorts or skort, white socks, and white takkies. Scholars should carry a backpack that does NOT have wheels, but has sufficient space for a homework folder, water bottle, and lunch box.

Social Media and Website

Keep up-to-date with SPARK news and spread the SPARK love to family and friends by liking us on [Facebook](#) and following us on [Twitter](#) (@SPARKSchools)!

All school locations and contact information are posted on www.sparkschools.co.za.



January 2018				
M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

Instructional Days: 11

February 2018				
M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28		

Instructional Days: 19

March 2018				
M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

Instructional Days: 19

Key

- 00 Professional Development- School Closed for Students
- 00 Public Holiday- School Closed for Students and Staff
- 00 Minimum Day- Dismissal at 1:00pm for All Students

April 2018				
M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

Instructional Days: 13

May 2018				
M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

Instructional Days: 22

June 2018				
M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

Instructional Days: 15

- 00 Term Holidays- School Closed for All
- 00 Beginning or End of Term



July 2018

M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

Instructional Days: 11

August 2018

M	T	W	TH	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

Instructional Days: 21

September 2018

M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

Instructional Days: 18

October 2018

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

Instructional Days: 17

November 2018

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

Instructional Days: 22

December 2018

M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

Instructional Days: 4

Total Instructional Days: 192

Term Dates

- 17 January- 28 March, 2018
- 10 April- 21 June, 2018
- 17 July- 27 September, 2018
- 9 October- 6 December, 2018

School Hours

- Grade R and 1 Regular Days 7:45am- 2:30pm
- Grade 2 and 3 Regular Days 7:45am- 3:00pm
- Grades 4-7 Regular Days 7:45am-3:30pm
- Minimum Days 7:45am- 1:00pm

Report Card Conferences (Minimum Days)

- 10-13 April, 2018
- 17-20 July, 2018
- 9-12 October, 2018
- 3-6 December, 2018

Public Holidays

- 1 January- New Year's Day
- 21 March- Human Rights Day
- 30 March- Good Friday
- 2 April- Family Day
- 27 April- Freedom Day
- 30 April- School Holiday
- 1 May- Workers' Day
- 16 June- Youth Day
- 9 August- National Women's Day
- 10 August- School Holiday
- 24 September- Heritage Day
- 16 December- Day of Reconciliation
- 25 December- Christmas Day
- 26 December- Day of Goodwill