2nd Quarterly REPORT April – June 2025

This report mostly covers the second academic term of 2025.

Schools opened on the 8th of April and (officially) closed on the 27th of June.

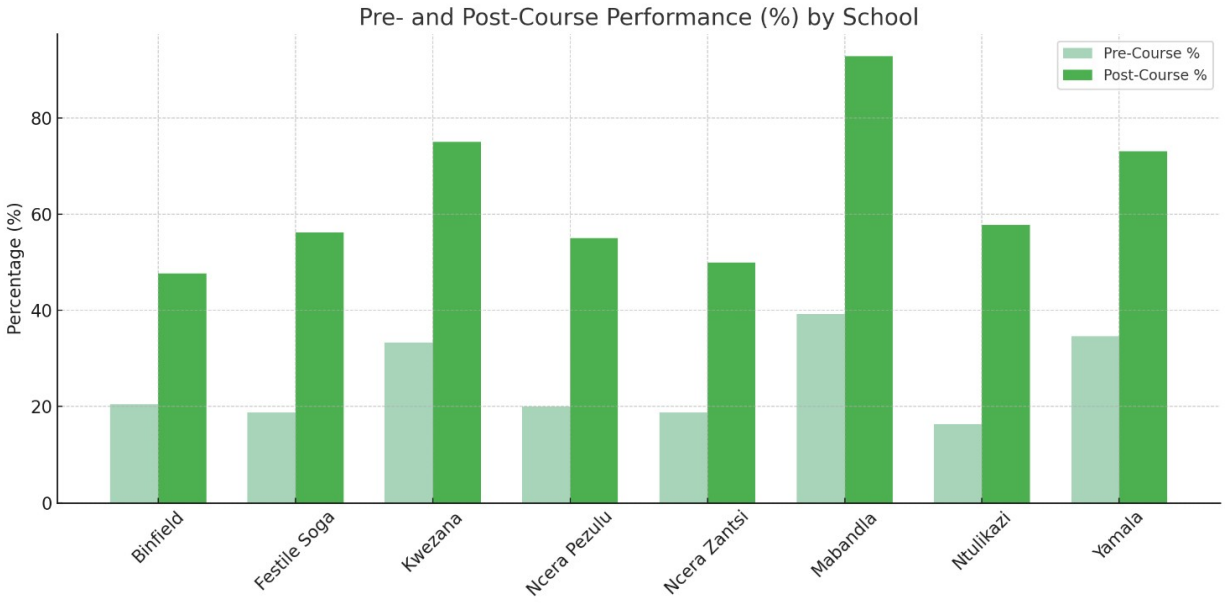
Update and developments:

★ Reading Stars Programme

The reading Stars Programme resumed at the beginning of Term 2 with lessons taking place in the mornings at each respective school. The focus was primarily on phonics and the blending of sounds. High frequency words were introduced each week and learners then went on to enjoy a short text with accompanying illustrations.
Reading sessions are not limited to one class and work with many grades, however the main focus is on the Grade 4's & Grade 5's where the learners are grouped according to their reading abilities.

★ TVS Starting English & Starting Maths Programme:

This year's *Starting English and Starting Maths* after-school programme began on 12 May and ran for five weeks. Each of the eight Fresh Start Schools participated twice a week, with a total of 83 Grade 4 learners enrolled.
Over 40 learners attended each afternoon session and they were divided into three ability-based groups. These groups rotated between English, Maths, and ICT lessons, which took place simultaneously in separate classrooms at the TVS Learning Centre. Each classroom had two tutors, placing the learner-to-tutor ratio at roughly 6 learners/tutor.
The children were supplied with a light meal upon their arrival and lessons began at 12:45pm. Each lesson duration was 45 mins with the last lesson ending at 3pm.
A local small bus operator was contracted to transport the learners to and from the TVS Learning Centre and this proved to be reliable and consistent.
Attendance and participation from the learners were high as they applied themselves to the lessons with great enthusiasm and attention.



This chart presents results from our pre-course and post-course comprehension assessments for Grade 4 learners. We used the same test to gauge the learner's ability to read English with understanding.





Our Library group was further split into two groups to allow for more individual attention with reading and ICT lessons.





Interactive *Starting English & Maths* Lessons at the TVS Learning Centre.



Our final lesson at the Learning Centre culminated in a party for Elmer, the patchwork elephant. Learners crafted and wore elephant masks to celebrate colour and inclusion. Each learner also made their own sandwich by following written instructions in English.





Being transported with our own designated bus was a major improvement for both learners and tutors.

★ **Reading Clubs**

Our 5 community Reading Clubs continued to meet on a weekly basis with our Reading Club Leader providing the learners with a safe space to enjoy books along withg various reading activities and games.

Our Ntulikazi Reading Club was treated to lunch and an excursion to the Alice Library by the Nali'Bali Organisation.





Members from Nali'Bali at the Alice Library.

Reading Ambassadors

With no confirmation regarding the continuation of the Social Employment Fund, our Reading Ambassadors' monthly stipends are no longer supplemented by the South African Presidential Stimulus Campaign. They are now contracted to work 3–5-hour sessions, for which they are paid accordingly. Each session is recorded, and the Reading Ambassadors are expected to complete a weekly progress report detailing the work done and goals achieved.









Training

Due to many Public holidays and the implementation of our afternoon Programme, we did not have the opportunity to hold a teacher training session this term. However, a Teachers group has been established by Vuyokazi Tomi and they have indicated an interest in holding a ‘Spelling Bee” competition, for a few core Primary schools, at the TVS Learning Centre. We will work on this theme along with some technical lessons on digital resources and projector inclusion during the second half of this year.

Our regular, ongoing Friday sessions with the Reading Ambassadors focused on resources, reflection on preparation for the Reading stars and afternoon lessons.

The TVS Project Manager attended a two-day online fundraising webinar with Papillon, sponsored by SOLON, followed by an intensive crowdfunding campaign course facilitated by Erica Schofield. This specialised training was key to strengthening our fundraising strategy and equipping us with practical tools to launch and manage impactful online campaigns.

★ SOLON visit

Nathalie Koening of SFSA conducted a site visit on 28 May 2025. Together, we visited Festile Soga Primary School and spoke with Vuvu Tomi about the challenges of multi-grade teaching in the Foundation Phase. We also joined a Reading Stars session led by Alex, before making our way to Ncera Zantsi, where we collected four Grade 4 learners for the afternoon *Starting English and Starting Maths lessons* at the TVS Learning Centre. Nathalie’s background in teaching and her experience in rural classrooms provided valuable insights and practical advice, encouraging us to continue striving for excellence in teaching and learning despite the many challenges we face.



Nathalie observing a spelling dice game facilitated by Alex

★ Update on key meetings and external relationships

- Our 2000 books sponsored by Book Dash have been printed and are expected to arrive by the end of July 2025. We hope to hold another fun Book Day at our Learning Centre to distribute the majority of these books, during the anticipated October visit by TVS Trustees.
- A principals' meeting is scheduled for 30 July 2025, where we aim to engage the principals from our eight Fresh Start Schools around the Reading Stars Programme and encourage them to continue strengthening reading activities within their respective schools.
- TVS has been invited to attend the second Eastern Cape Rural Public–Partnership (Axium) Conference, scheduled for early August. We look forward to engaging with key stakeholders and representatives from the Department of Basic Education, while strengthening alliances with like-minded organisations working to improve rural education.
- We are still awaiting communication from ASSITEJ South Africa regarding SEF 4 and have not yet been invited to submit an application or proposal.

