1st Quarterly Report, January – March 2026

This report covers the first academic term of 2026.
Schools reopened in mid-January and closed on the 27th of March.

Update & Developments

The first quarter of 2026 has been a period of strong growth, programme expansion, and consolidation for TVS. We successfully reignited the 2026 *Reading Stars* Programme in February, and maintained consistent, high-frequency literacy support across the Tyume Valley.

Holiday Clubs: Ending the Year, Starting the Next

The Holiday Club programme which was launched in December 2025, continued during the first two weeks of the year, across **6–7 locations** in the Tyume Valley.

An estimated **150–180 children** were reached. Many attended regularly, creating continuity and strengthening the overall impact of the programme.

Reading Ambassadors facilitated a range of activities:

- Reading and storytelling sessions
- Numeracy-based games
- Creative arts and group activities
- Outdoor play and team-building

Children responded positively to the structured yet relaxed environment.

Reading Stars Programme

The *Reading Stars* Programme resumed in February, expanding into **four additional schools**, and bringing the total number of Primary schools supported to **twelve schools**.



Each new school was equipped with a **projector** and accessories whilst undergoing a chalkboard to whiteboard conversion as well as a colourful **Reading Corner (**within a selected classroom) created by the TVS **Reading Ambassadors**.

The Reading Ambassadors continued to deliver **two structured literacy sessions per week, at 9 of the partner schools**. Sessions remain focused on: phonemic awareness; reading fluency; vocabulary development and reading comprehension.



Programme Reach:

- **231 learners reached**
  - 195 learners (Grades 4–5)
  - 36 learners (additional support across Grades 3, 6, and 7)



Programme Delivery:

- **2 sessions per week per school**
- **18 sessions per week across all schools**
- **Approximately 144 sessions delivered** (February–March)









Reading Clubs



We expanded our Reading Clubs from six to **seven active Reading Clubs** this year.

A notable development was the successful revival of the Auckland Reading Club in March, led by new team member Alunge Jack, with support from former Reading Club leader and Zazi iZandi trainee, Lucy Ntantiso.
This has become the **largest Reading Club** in the valley, with strong attendance driven in part by encouragement from the school principal.

To further enhance engagement at all of the community Reading Clubs, TVS introduced new play-based learning resources, including:

- Skipping ropes
- Domino sets
- Educational games

These tools support literacy development through interactive and enjoyable learning experiences.





Impact:

- Increased Reading Club attendance and participation
- Strengthened learner engagement through play-based learning
- Reinforced reading culture within school communities

The total number of reading Club members for this quarter, stands at **351 children**.

The approximate number of Reading club members are as follows:

Location of Reading Club	Number of members
Auckland	133
Bergplaas (Festile Soga)	30
Dyamala	25
Gwali	40
Khwezana	45
Krwakrwa (Mabandla)	48
Msobomvu	30

Teacher Training & Development: Practical Maths Workshop

On **13 March 2026**, TVS hosted a Practical Maths Workshop at the TVS Learning Centre, facilitated by retired Maths and Art educator, **Hiltrud Aliber**.

Participation

- **10 teachers** from partner schools (out of 12 invited)
- **2 officials** from the Department of Education
- **7 Reading Ambassadors**



Workshop Overview

The session focused on practical, low-cost teaching strategies, enabling educators to create and use maths resources in under-resourced classrooms. The workshop consisted of four rotating workstations where each station provided hands-on activities designed to build concrete understanding of foundational maths concepts.

Resources Provided

Each participant, school, and Reading Ambassador received:



- Laminated charts
- Dice sets
- Domino sets
- Activity guides

The workshop concluded with a reflection session and a shared lunch, during which teachers expressed strong interest in ongoing collaboration and additional workshops.

Impact:



- 19 education stakeholders trained
- Practical resource development for immediate classroom use
- Strengthened relationships with teachers and the Department of Education
- Increased demand for future skills-based workshops

Training



- **4** team members attended a 1-day, **KWANTU App** (required for the **SEF** programme) training during February.
- **5** team members attended an **ASSITEJ Creative Arts** curriculum, training programme (March)

ASSITEJ South Africa Creative Arts Kickstarter Programme Training; 23 – 25 March 2026

- **5 TVS team members** attended this intensive three-day training programme



The workshop focused on integrating creative arts (visual art, music, and performance) into the CAPS curriculum. It brought together **6 organisations** from across the region, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing.

While not all content directly aligned with TVS's core literacy focus, several components offered valuable tools to:

- Enrich existing programmes
- Enhance facilitator engagement
- Introduce creative methodologies into learning environments

Impact:

- 5 staff members upskilled in arts-integrated learning approaches
- Expanded regional network across 6 organisations
- New opportunities for collaboration and programme enrichment

Partnership Engagement

Mlumbi Funeral Group Annual School Shoe donation day – Amakuze Primary School

On the 26th of January, TVS was officially invited to attend the Mlumbi Group's annual school handover ceremony. At this event, selected learners from schools across the Tyhume Valley received school shoes, and in some cases, full uniforms for families facing severe economic challenges.

The ceremony was attended by traditional leaders, representatives from the Department of Social Development and Basic Education, as well as school alumni, prominent community members, teachers, and parents.









BEFSA, SEN Centre Visit – Adelaide

On **19 March**, TVS visited a newly established **BEFSA** Special Educational Needs (SEN) support centre in Adelaide, led by **Keith and Catherine Borien** under Basic Education for All South Africa.

The centre is the first of three proposed hubs aimed at supporting learners and schools with special educational needs across the Amathole District.

TVS Team Transitions

One of TVS's longest-serving Literacy Support Assistants / Reading Ambassadors, **Zanele Mamkeli**, concluded her journey TVS after accepting a learnership opportunity in Johannesburg. Zanele joined TVS in early 2021 as part of the Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator initiative and has been a valued contributor to the growth of our literacy programmes.



This transition was effectively managed through:

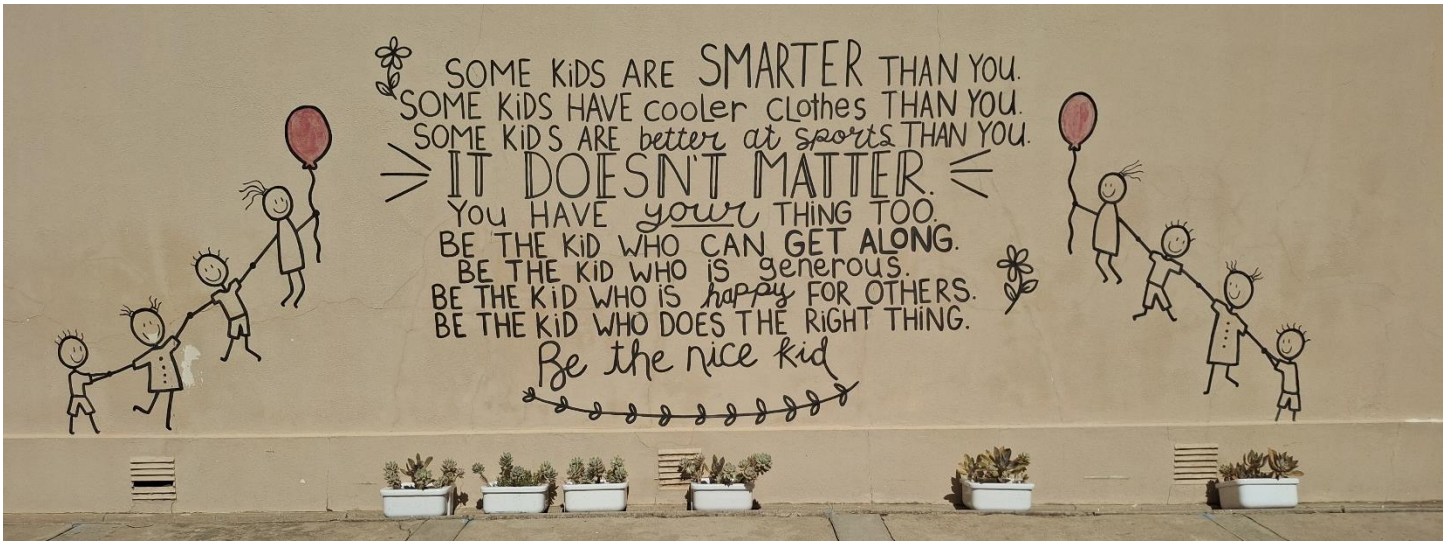
- The appointment of a new team member based in the Auckland area
- The return of a former Reading Club participant to the programme

Measured Impact: First quarter 2026

- **231 learners reached** (core programme)
- **150–180 learners reached** through Holiday Clubs
- **12 partner schools supported**
- **4 new schools added**
- **~144 literacy sessions delivered**
- **18 sessions per week**
- **7 Reading Clubs active**
- **351 Reading Club participants (March)**
- **10 teachers trained**
- **9 team members upskilled**

Conclusion

The first quarter of 2026 demonstrated a sustained engagement across schools and communities along with a strong balance between expansion and stability.



Seen on playground wall at Adelaide Primary School

Compiled by Lydene Naylor