

Newsletter



1 January 2021

Welcome to a fresh new start!

To all our new pupils and their parents, welcome to Solid Foundations. We are so glad to have you join our family, and are honoured to be an integral part of developing your child's potential. To all our families who were with us last year, welcome back! We trust you had a wonderful Christmas and are in for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Once school begins, every Wednesday you will receive a newsletter like this one from us via email. Please let us know if you change your email address at any time during the year. If you are experiencing email trouble and do not regularly receive mail, you can download a newsletter each week from our website at www.solidfoundationsprimary.com.

Please note that our school emailing system is set up in such a way that each individual child will receive an emailed newsletter. If you have more than one child in our school, you will receive more than one of the same email each week. We will also email newsletters (but not statements) to all the email addresses that you listed on your enrolment form. If you would like to remove an address, simply pop us a request via email.

School Terms for 2021



Term 1	13 Jan - 26 March
Term 2	12 April - 25 June
Term 3	19 July - 23 Sep
Term 4	11 Oct - 2 Dec

Please note that we are NOT following the government's terms. **We are starting much earlier in January**, and will have a longer March and September break. After Care will remain open during all the school holidays and until the 15th of December 2021. After Care starts this year on Tuesday, the 5th of January 2021.

Settling the sums...

We are always impressed with the number of parents who settle their accounts punctually for January. It is such a great indicator of your interest in prioritising your child's welfare. Just a reminder that school fees are paid in advance before the 7th of each month, and the school fees for January are due this coming week. Please check that you have received a



financial statement for January 2021 from us. If you did not, contact the school immediately (admin@solidfoundationsprimary.com). For privacy, our school bookkeeping programme only permits statements to be sent to one email address. Let us know if you wish to change the address that we have selected.

Unfortunately, if you do not pay within the first week of a month an automatic penalty is added to your account. **Always use your child's name and surname as your payment reference and NOT THE STATEMENT KDZ NUMBER please!**

You have the option of an eleven-month or a twelve-month payment scheme. You do NOT have to indicate which plan you've selected, as we will deduce your option automatically from your payments. POP can be sent to admin@solidfoundationsprimary.com, but this is not a compulsory requirement.

Families who pay for the year in one lump sum up-front do get the "Outings" fee waived as a discount.

School fees amounts are listed on our website (www.solidfoundationsprimary.com) under the fees tab. Our school banking details are as follows:

Nedbank

Glen Acres (143342)

Account number: 1524 0198 79

Use child's name and surname as a reference (Remember, **don't** use the KDZ number).



Keeping in touch...

If you have not already done so, please download the D6 App. It is a helpful way for our school to communicate with you through posting short alerts and providing homework information. Also remember to customise the app each year to your child's grade.

School hours...

All pupils have to be at school by the latest 7h20 every morning. The Moorivier Gate is open from 6h30 onwards, and other gates at 7h00. The bell rings at 7h30 sharp and late pupils are often very embarrassed and distressed. Let us make every effort to keep our pupils punctual and relaxed this year. The current exception to this rule is Thursday mornings, as our staff have their weekly staff meeting until 8h00. Dropping your child off by **7h50 is ONLY applicable to Thursday mornings.** This is not compulsory, and you are welcome to drop your child off each and every day at 7h20.



Collection times:

Grade RRR & RR	12h45
Grade R- 3	13h00
Grade 4 - 7	13h30 (some classes in senior primary grades end at 14h10. Please see your child's personal time-table which will be given out on the first day of school)

A reminder that pupils should be collected within a $\frac{1}{2}$ hour of their last class of the day. Children collected after 14h30 will be charged After Care fees for the afternoon.

Children collected after 14h30 must be SIGNED OUT on a clipboard kept by the After Care staff. In this way, we DO NOT CHARGE YOU if your child remains after hours for an extra-mural activity. To benefit from this, your child does have to be collected within a half an hour of the extra-mural's conclusion time.



We can accommodate any family who wish to use the After Care facilities on very short notice (e.g. your boss asks you to stay for an unexpected afternoon meeting). Please let the school know via a telephone call or email if this should happen and you require this service.

Which school gate to use...

Our school gates are open at the following times:

Moorivier Veld Gate/ Troll Bridge Gate (drop-and-go or park)	6h30 - 7h30	12h45 - 17h30
Maraboe Gate by teacher's parking lot (drop-and-go)	7h00 - 7h30	x
Korhaan Gate by cul-de-sac (drop-and-go)	7h00 - 7h30	x
Korhaan Gate by prefab classes	Only used by After Care during school holidays	

Our school has several entrances, which can make drop-off and collection a bit tricky to grasp for new families. If you would like to park and walk your child in, please park in the veld (Moorivier Drive) and use the gate by the "troll bridge" - ideally don't wear your stilettos for this one mummies ☺. You cannot park and leave your vehicle near the Maraboe or Korhaan gates, as these areas are allocated for free-flowing traffic. You are, however, welcome to park in a parking bay around the school and walk your child in through any gates.

The ONLY gate available for collection in the afternoon, however, is the Moorivier Street gate ("Troll Bridge Gate"). By restricting collections to one gate, one responsible staff member checks each child as they leave, ensuring the security and safety of our pupils. And to keep our pupils safe, please let the office know if someone new or unexpected collects your child from school. Teacher Joanne will flag any "strangers" and we will not allow your child to leave in their company unless you have given your permission.

Please be courteous and respectful in obeying our car guards and gate staff. They have your child's safety in mind and are following strict policies regarding the control of traffic and child safety.





After Care...

An After Care newsletter will be sent out as an attachment with this newsletter. Please read it carefully if you would like your child to attend After Care this year.

Just a reminder that no full-time After Care resignations will be accepted after the **1st of November 2021**, and all After Care pupils pay for December (with a half-price discount for the month), even if they do not use the After Care services in this last month.

Outings and stationery fees...

This annual fee (listed per grade on our website under the "fees" tab) is due by the 1st of February 2021.

With regards to stationery requirements for Grade 5-7, to cut down on costs, we are quite happy with pre-loved Grade 4 stationery being used again in Grade 5 and beyond.

You can confirm that your Grade 5-7 child is ready for the new year by going through this stationery check-list:

- Blue pen (preferably Bic)
- HB pencil
- Eraser
- Sharpener
- Ruler
- Pair of scissors
- Pritt glue stick
- Coloured pencils
- Coloured pens (to assist with study notes)
- Maths set (compass, protractor etc.)
- Calculator (does NOT have to be scientific)
- Homework diary (a notebook does suffice)



Apart from pens, maths sets, calculators and homework diaries, the school bursar stocks all other stationery items and you are welcome to purchase them from Mrs Bradshaw when school opens. We also recommend that our Grade 5-7 pupils have an assortment of A4 book bags (plastic coloured sleeves work just as well) to keep their books for each subject separated and sorted in their suitcases. This isn't compulsory, but definitely helps to keep their little lives more organised.

School uniforms...

A full break-down of uniform requirements is available on our school website (see "Policies"... "School Uniform Policy" or the "Prospectus" of the school). A reminder that our school uniform is available from either of these suppliers:

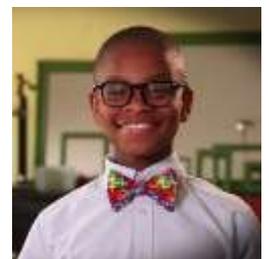
MS Uniforms

92 Monument Street

011-050-7842

076-711-1443

info@msuniforms.co.za



Boundary Silk Bazaar

Corner Pomona Road & Sarel St
Caryldale
Kempton Park
011-975-2119

Grade RRR - 5 Parent's Meeting...



We are having our first Parent's Meeting at school on Saturday the 23rd of January, at 8h00 sharp for Grade RRR - 5 parents.

The Grade 6 and 7 parents can attend with pleasure if they would like a refresher speech or an opportunity to meet with the staff.

Due to social distancing restrictions, please could **only ONE parent per family attend the meeting**. Pupils may not attend. As per our reputation, we will be starting all meetings at 8h00 **SHARP**, so don't be late!

Covid concerns in 2021...

Due to the resurgence of CoVid in December, our school will be taking the same precautions that we put in place during the last terms of 2020. These include:

- Wearing of masks (please select your own style and colour)
- Screening of temperatures at the school gate
- Sanitising of hands whenever pupils enter a classroom
- Sanitizing of desks between classes (senior primary grades) and twice daily for junior primary grades
- Keeping desks 1m apart in Grade 1-7 classes. (All our double desks were cut into single desks during 2020).
- Sadly, no school indoor assemblies or large gatherings (so no school concert or Sports Day planned for now)
- Multiple educational shows with small groups (maintaining social distancing) instead of single shows with big groups



We will ease off these restrictions as soon as CoVid recedes, the government reduces its restrictions and we can ensure the safety of our precious pupils.

As 2020 has taught us, online schooling is not ideal. Most children showed some form of academic regression without the love and support of a "live" class teacher, and many children developed apathy and feelings of fear and loneliness without the love and support of their friends. Pray with us that South African schools will not be subjected to a lock-down again in 2021, as we would like to stay the course throughout this year.

School policies...



Our school policies are working documents and get updated at least once annually to reflect the true operation of the school. Attached to this email, we have sent you a break-down of the amendments made to the policies at the end of 2020. If you have not done so already, take the time to view our policies (on the website) to get a more comprehensive understanding of the "ins and outs" of our school.

I still have a question...

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email at any time or call the school during the school terms. We're really here to help.



Enjoy 2021 with us.

Let's team up in prayer that God will carry all our families safely through this New Year and keep our school a haven of health and joy for our precious young ones.

Blessings

The Solid Foundations Staff

admin@solidfoundationsprimary.com

011-976-5300

