

Newsletter

13 January 2016

Welcome to Our Home

To all our new pupils and their parents, we are so glad you have joined us. This year has the promise of being a beautiful and blessed celebration of family, faith and of course... excellent education! 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 one, you can download one each week from our school's website at www.solidfoundationsprimary.com.

To all our families who were with us last year, welcome back! We trust you had some quality rest-time and are re-charged for an exciting 2016.

To avoid confusion, in our newsletters, our preschool children (Grade RR and Grade R) are referred to as "Mickey Mouse pupils", and Grade 1 - 7 pupils are referred to as "Solid Foundations pupils".

Grade 1 - 7 Parent's Meeting...

We are having a Grade 1-7 Parent's Meeting at school THIS WEEK SATURDAY at 8h00 sharp. We do apologise for claiming your glorious Saturday morning sleep-in time, but we do find a morning meeting a safer option than an evening meeting, and more parents can attend if it's early.

Please note that your meeting is compulsory. If you are unable to make the meeting, send a family member or friend as a representative please. Children are welcome to play on the playgrounds - but they will not be supervised by staff during this time. With all of our teachers meeting at once, space is limited in the classrooms. If both parents are attending, bear with us regarding the limited seating available.

As per our reputation, we will be starting at 8h00 SHARP!



Footloose and fancy free...

As we strongly believe in growing healthy children from the ground up, we are introducing a bare-foot policy from Grade RR to Grade 7 at our school. This means that the wearing of school shoes is voluntary as of this year. We would still like our Grade 1 - 7 pupils to come to school wearing shoes which they may take off during morning prayers. We're as excited as our pupils are about the toe-wriggling change!



What gate must I use?

We have got two main school gates - Korhaan Street and Maraboe Street. The gate on Korhaan is opened at 7h00-8h00 each morning and Maraboe gate from 7h30 until 8h00. The gate on **Maraboe Street** is used for **DROP AND GO** traffic **ONLY!** Please do **not park here** and walk your child in. You will irritate the other parents and teachers who cannot access their parking bays.

For your convenience we have appointed a traffic guard on Korhaan Street, and you are welcome to park near this gate if you would like to walk your child in.

We would also like to remind you to respect the "no stopping" signs on the street opposite the school gates, and PLEASE don't allow your child to cross the street unassisted while all the parents are arriving and dropping off their little ones.

In the afternoons, the Korhaan gate will be opened from 12h30- 13h30.

We know it takes a bit of getting used to, but it helps with the traffic flow and with the monitoring of the school gates for security. If you are planning to drop off or collect your child out of normal school hours, please do so at the office.

It would also be great if you could kindly relay this information to your child's transport club/ taxi so that they know which gates to use.

Settling the budget...

We are so impressed with the number of parents who have settled their accounts for January. Thank you for your obvious demonstration of interest in your child's welfare and good education. Just a reminder that school fees are payed forward, and the school fees for January are due. We have also put the "Outings and Shows" fees, stationery fees and book fees (where required) for 2016 onto your account.

Rest assured, we do work out our annual budget down to the last Rand. The stationery and books are bought directly from publishers and wholesalers and will undoubtedly be cheaper than any store you frequent. Your fees will be channelled into a "work hard and play hard" ethos in our school.

For our new parents, we appreciate that the first month of the year is a financial shocker, but we have always tried to bundle all the expected expenses together to avoid knocking on your door again for the entire year!

Our school's banking details are:

Nedbank

Branch: Glen Acres (143342)

Account: 1524019879

PLEASE USE YOUR CHILD'S NAME AND SURNAME AS A REFERENCE e.g. Sandy Baker- Jan school fees



Your choice of brain-petrol influences your child's learning performance...

Did you know that our school has a healthy lunch policy? This means we will clamp down on chips, fizzy cool-drinks, sweets and cookies in your child's lunchbox. The exceptions to this rule are Fridays and cake sale days. On Fridays you can spoil as much as your sweet-heart desires and we will join the binge by selling hotdogs (R10) and opening a small tuck-shop. Our tuck selection is very limited and R10 for tuck should suffice. If you are looking for alternative treat ideas for Mondays to Thursdays, why not consider pop-corn, bran muffins, rusks, nuts, cereal, dried fruit and biltong?

Thank you for helping us out with this.

Extramural activities...

We are still collecting all the dates and costs of the extramural activities from the various teachers involved, and will let you know as soon as we have finalised this list. It should be added to our newsletter shortly.

Grade 5-7 keeping their finger on the pulse...

Please could all our Grade 5 - 7 pupils have a homework diary. This diary will be brought to every class and will teach your child the importance of planning ahead. We are fine with any type of diary, but you may want to consider purchasing something light-weight.

The SA sun isn't any fun...

We have second break at midday and the Solid Foundations pupils do P.T. at midday as well. Although our playgrounds are very shaded, our children do get to run in the sun. Please can you send a sunhat to school daily. Write your child's name in it clearly. The younger Mickey Mouse pupils keep their hats in a large tub on the playground, where they can be reminded to wear them.



COMPULSORY CLOTHING LABELLING!!

As you are aware, school clothes are expensive! Have you labelled everything? We are really on your side in this battle - but if clothing isn't labelled it will be donated to our school swop shop (116 Moorriver Drive). It just makes our lives so much simpler if lost property has a name.



Starting on a clean and sniffle-free note...

Please could our Mickey Mouse pupils bring an old grown-ups t-shirt to school this week. After many years of experience, we have concluded that adult-sized t-shirts are by far the best aprons and are much more effective than kiddie-aprons. It is also much appreciated if you send a box of tissues to school at any point during the school year.

Parent volunteers...

We have a wonderful vocabulary programme for our Mickey Mouse pupils. Every week you will receive 10 words to teach your child. The words are meant to provoke family discussion and family time. We test your child's knowledge of these words every Friday. To help with the process, we rely on the support of parents who can volunteer an hour on Friday mornings (8h00 - 8h45) to test children. If you are able to give us a hand, please let the office know as soon as possible. We'd really appreciate your help!

Juicy junk...

You've all heard the phrase "reduce, reuse, recycle". We love to reuse your junk! Don't ever toss these again:

- Old calendars and desk pads
- Toilet roll inners and long roll inners
- Washed (ideally with Jik or bleach please) plastic milk cartons and water-rinsed coke bottles
- Magazines and paper used on one side
- Matchboxes, toothpaste tube boxes, cereal boxes, cigarette boxes and shoe boxes
- Wool and buttons
- Paper plates and pipe cleaners
- Old cards (Christmas or birthday)
- Polystyrene trays. (If used for meat - please bleach rinse for health reasons)



Send all your junk to Teacher Kathy's store-room.

We also have a fantastic Mondi paper-recycling programme. Don't hesitate to send your used newspaper and office paper to us.

Let's all do our part to save the planet and have fun in the process!



Keep in touch...

You will receive progress report cards during the year. The Mickey Mouse pupils receive two (May and November) and the Solid Foundations pupils receive three. Please DO NOT wait for a parent's meeting after the first report (only in May) to come and see us! Our door is ALWAYS open and we love chatting to parents as it really creates a pleasant bond of trust between our school family and your home family. We must know about any changes in your child's life, like recent births, deaths, moves, parental relationship changes etc. This can really influence your child in far more ways than you would think, so we want to help them through any rough spots and provide extra support for them and yourself. Teachers are available before and after school and you can phone the office (011-976-5300) to arrange an ideal time. You can also email us at any time at admin@solidfoundationsprimary.com if a face-to-face meeting is difficult. No issue is too small, so see you soon!

Classifieds..

(Placing an advert in the classifieds section of our newsletter costs R10. Please email your ad to the office by Monday of the week that you want it to feature.)

- Pam's transport services to and from school: 082-969-5638
- ABC TRANSPORT: to and from school to surrounding areas. Safe and reliable. Contact Grant 083-411-8533
- Jack Russel puppies for sale. R300 each. There are 3 black and white puppies to choose from (2 females and 1 male). They can be taken immediately. They were born on the 12th November 2015. Contact Marcel: 084 855 7535.



Mickey Mouse children's theme for next week: (feel free to send goodies for our interest tables or books relating to the topics)

My amazing body!

We are thrilled to begin this year with an absolutely wonderful group of pupils and parents!

"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every New Year find you a better man."

Benjamin Franklin

Prayerfully and playfully
The Teachers



THE FOLLOWING SECTION IS FOR NEW PUPILS AND PARENTS ONLY:

We would just like to remind you of the following facts which will help you to navigate your journey with us in 2016:

- Our school has regular cake sales as fund-raisers. The money generated through these sales is given to the hosting class to purchase luxury items for their classroom. Participation in these cake sales is completely voluntary, but is a great way to demonstrate support for your child's teacher! If your child's class is hosting, you are invited to bake or buy something delicious and send it to school.
- If it is your child's birthday and you would like to send something special to school for your child to celebrate, please could you stick to cup-cakes only. Party packs and fizzy juices are really impractical for us, and when last did you try to cut a round, creamy cake into 24 attractive slices? Cupcakes are neat and fuss free. Thanks for your understanding.
- Please don't allow your child to bring toys or technology devices to school. If you would like your child to have a cell phone at school, we would kindly ask that for security reasons your child hands it in at the office in the morning and collects it at the end of the school day. As teachers, we spend all our



energy interacting with our children. Looking after their Christmas presents too is a little more than we signed up for☺!

- The Mickey Mouse book-programme discussed at the 2015 Parent's Information Morning will only be launched some time in February or March. We are unfortunately waiting for our shipped books to arrive. We'll let you know as soon as we're on target.
- No child is allowed to have medicine in their school bag. If your child is sick, send the medicine directly to the office through an adult, with clear instructions on when and how you would like us to administer the medication. This policy is for the safety of all of our children. If your child has a contagious condition (e.g. lice or chicken pox) they unfortunately have to remain at home until given the clear by a health-care professional.
- Please update your telephone number and email address with us as soon as it changes. It is very frightening for a child to experience an injury or feel sick and not be able to contact mom or dad. Thanks.
- Our Mickey Mouse pupils will be divided into small maths groups for early morning instruction. Please insure that your child is at school by 8h00. Trust us, they do not like missing out on this special time with their teachers.

Trusting you will have a blessed 2016!