

Newsletter

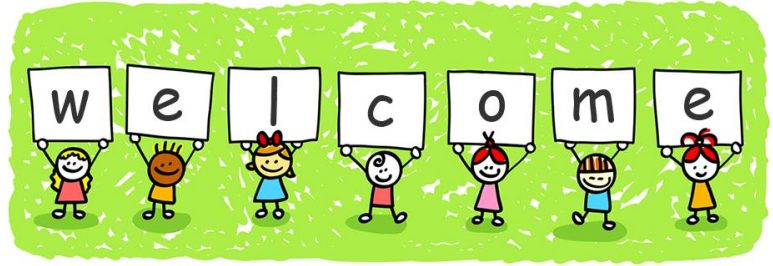
11 January 2017

Welcome back, welcome home!

To all our new pupils and their parents, welcome to a journey of love and educational excellence with our family. This year has the promise of being a fabulous celebration of growing little people into bigger people of distinction! 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 a special Christmas and New Year with your families and are ready for an exciting 2017.



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 NEXT WEEK SATURDAY (21 January) at 8h00 sharp for Grade 1 - 3 and 9h00 sharp for Grade 4 -7. 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 attendance at the meetings is compulsory for our Grade 1-5 parents. The Grade 6 and 7 parents can attend with pleasure if they would like an opportunity to meet with some new staff.

If you are unable to make the meeting, send a family member or friend as a representative please.

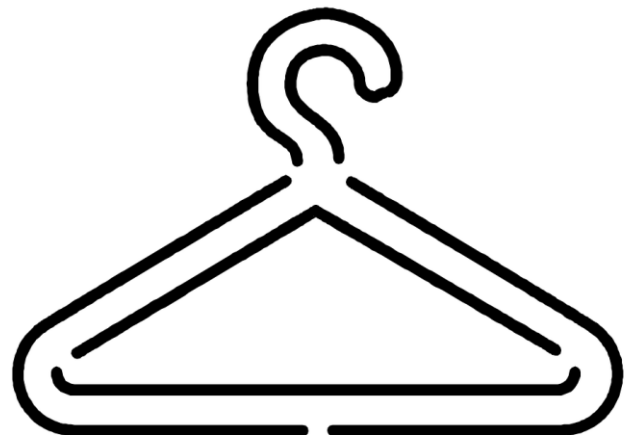
Children are welcome to play on the playgrounds - but they will not be supervised by staff during this time. With all of our teachers meeting at once, space is limited in the classrooms. If both parents are attending, bear with us regarding the limited seating available.

As per our reputation, we will be starting all meetings **SHARP!**

School uniform questions...

Just some clarification again on our uniform changes... Grade 1 - 7 pupils will be doing P.T. on one particular day during the week (they should find out today which of these days will be their "P.T. day"). On your child's "P.T. day", please make sure that they are wearing their P.T. uniform to school.

This uniform entails their house shirt (Eagles=red, Hawks=yellow, Falcons=blue) and black rugby shorts, with plain white or black takkies. If it's cooler, your child may wear their school tracksuit on a "P.T. day" or plain black tracksuit pants with the school jersey. School P.T. tracksuits are only available from Teacher Kathy at school for R410-R460 (size dependent).



The preschool pupils do not have a separate P.T. uniform. Their daily golf shirts bought at Boundary have all been embroidered with "Grade R". Sorry - we are taking this up with Boundary. For now, if your child is in Grade RR, we are fine with the "Grade R" embroidered shirts.

Our school does maintain a bare-foot policy from Grade RR to Grade 7 at our school. This means that the wearing of school shoes is **voluntary**. For neatness and safety, we would still like our Grade 1 - 7 pupils to **come to school wearing shoes** which they may take off during morning prayers. This is particularly helpful to Grade 1's who find their new school shoes quite restricting for their wriggly and busy toes.

COMPULSORY CLOTHING LABELLING!!

As you are not doubt 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 swap shop (116 Mooiriver Drive). It just makes our lives so much simpler if lost property has a name, so take a few minutes and mark, mark, mark!

What gate must I use?

We have got two main school gates - Korhaan Street and Maraboe Street. The gates will be opened at 7h00 for early parents each morning, but full staff supervision on the playgrounds only occurs at 7h30. 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. Children dropped off in this area must please not walk through the teacher's parking bays, as this is a dangerous zone for pedestrians.

For your convenience we have appointed traffic guards at both gates. Please give them your co-operation and support to keep our pupils safe. You are welcome to park near the gate on Korhaan Street 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.

In the afternoons, only the Korhaan gate will be opened from 12h30 onwards. If you have to fetch your child between 12h30 and 13h30, please note that you will have to enter the school premises to find your child playing on the opposite playground to where you parked. Our senior pupils are still in class at this time, and we need the playground at Korhaan side to be quiet for this hour.

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 outside 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.

Lastly, please be patient and schedule some extra time for dropping off and fetching your child in the first week. Many of our new parents are still learning the ropes, so traffic jams are inevitable. Smooth traffic flow is only to be expected within a week or two. Thank you.



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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 paid in advance, and the school fees for January are overdue. Unfortunately if you do not pay within the first week of a month an automatic R100 penalty is added to your account.

We have put the "Outings and Shows" fees, stationery fees and book fees (where required) for 2017 onto your account. This needs to be

settled by February.

Rest assured, we do work out our annual budget down to the last cent. The stationery and books are bought directly from publishers and wholesalers and will undoubtedly be cheaper than any store you frequent. 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. DO NOT USE THE EMAILED STATEMENT REFERENCE NUMBER/KDZ NUMBER. Our computer programme generates a random number that is irrelevant to your child, so tracing the reference numbers are a bit of a headache for us. Simply use your child's name please.

The school fees for 2017, may be paid over 11 or 12 months. The statements emailed to you are generated over a twelve month payment plan. We do have parents who would rather compress payments over 11 months and enjoy a more financially relaxing Christmas period. You may select either option:

	Monthly payments over a twelve month payment plan (per month)	Monthly payments over an eleven month payment plan (per month)
GRADE RRR	R1500	R1640
GRADE RR	R1800	R1970
GRADE R	R 2100	R2290
GRADE 1 - 3	R 2300	R2510
GRADE 4 - 7	R2600	R2840

The same payment plans are available for permanent After Care members:

	Monthly payments over a twelve month payment plan (per month)	Monthly payments over an eleven month payment plan (per month)
Permanent After Care attendance	R650	R680

We would like to remind our After Care pupils that a full plan must be accepted regardless of your child's attendance or non-attendance in December holidays. We do pay our After Care staff December salaries, so we do not accept permanent After Care resignations in November.



Brain food...

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 in the binge by selling hotdogs (R10) and tuck. Our tuck-shop 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?

Good food = good mind!

Extramural activities...

We are still collecting all the 2017 dates and costs of the extramural activities from the various teachers involved, and will update our website as soon as we have finalised this list. Current contact info and pricing is available on the school website (www.solidfoundationsprimary.com) under the "extra mural" tab.



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

Please could all our Grade 5 - 7 pupils have a homework diary, dictionary, calculator and maths set (compass, protractor etc) for school? The diary must be brought to every class and we would love your assistance in checking that your child is recording their homework and in helping them to plan ahead. We are fine with any type of diary, but you may want to consider purchasing something light-weight.

Protect your assets...

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 new mini-field isn't and the 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 please.



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 (even if just for a term or season), 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 soda bottles
- Magazines and any 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 obvious 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 creative fun in the process!



Keep in touch...

In keeping with good education practice, 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 meeting time. You can also email us at any time at admin@solidfoundationsprimary.com if a face-to-face meeting is difficult. Emails sent to this address will be forwarded to your child's teacher on the same day. No issue is too small, so see you soon!

Classifieds..

(Placing an advert in the classifieds section of our newsletter costs R50. Please email your ad to the office by Monday of the week that you want it to feature.) Unfortunately, we no longer do adverts as attachments. Adverts may be a maximum size of ¼ A4 and will be pasted in the weekly newsletter under the classifieds section.



TERMS FOR 2017

If you are planning a holiday, keep an eye on these dates. We generally follow government terms, but have extended our September holiday by 4 days to include the observance of Heritage Day. We are also planning a later closing in December than last year.

Term 1	11 Jan - 31 Mar
Term 2	18 April - 30 June
Term 3	24 Jul - 22 Sep
Term 4	9 Oct - 6 Dec



Wheels to and from school...

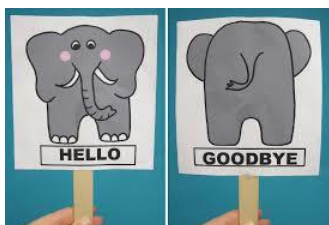
We would recommend the following transport companies for transport arrangements to and from school:

- Liz Joshua: 079-029-8047
- Grant Small: 083-411-8533
- Kathy van Wouw: 071-919-5921

If you are going with another transport company please confirm that the drivers have the appropriate licences and are not overloading their cars. Our children are too precious to take any risks!

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!



Hello and goodbye (sniff)...

The turn of a school year always results in a few staff changes. We were surprised this holiday with Teacher Wilna's sudden decision to emigrate to the UK to be with her daughter and grandchild. We understand the importance of family and wish her well in this huge change! She is being replaced by Teacher Shannon as of the 1st of February. Andrea (our school secretary) is studying further this year and will be replaced by Melissa. We welcome on board Mrs van Dijk, Mr Swiegers and Mrs

Babcock who are the new additions to our growing senior primary staff. Mrs van Dyk is teaching Geography (5-7), Zulu (5-7) and Grade 5 English. Mrs Babcock is taking on NS for Grade 5 and 6 and Mr Swiegers is our Grade 5 and 7 history teacher.

Ms Tosoni is teaching the Grade RRR class.

Remember to regularly include a prayer for your child's teachers. Only with the guidance of Our Father can they flourish to utilise all their excellent training and talents!

Last thoughts...

We are thrilled to begin this year with a full house and an absolutely wonderful group of teachers, pupils and parents! We are grateful to share 2017 with you.



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 2017:

- 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 a normal school day. If you would like your child to have a cell phone or tablet 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 new Christmas presents too is a little more than we signed up for! 😊
- The Mickey Mouse book-programme discussed at the 2016 Parent's Information Morning will only be launched in February. We spend two weeks settling our kiddies before we start with further responsibilities for them. You will be notified as soon as we begin.
- 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, ring worm or chicken pox) they unfortunately have to remain at home until given the clear by a health-care professional.

Important
Information

- 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 7h45. Trust us, they do not like missing out on this special time with their teachers.

Trusting you will have a blessed 2017!