

Newsletter

9 January 2018

First day...

There is nothing quite as "alive" as watching pupils come back to school after a long and fulfilling holiday, or coming to school for the first time! There is a tangible buzz in all the classes and hallways, and loud exclamations of joy and reunion.

Welcome! May 2019 be a blessed and fruitful year for our school and its families.



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



Staying connected...

Before we start, please can EVERY parent download the D6 App (for free) for easier communication from the school. We will post daily homework, weekly newsletters and all important alerts and info through this app. Please also remember to customise it for your child's grade and sport. If you used the D6 in 2018, remember to change your child's grade when you customize for 2019. If you have any problems downloading or customizing the app, please contact us or come in to see Mrs Obbes.

Parents' Meeting reminder...

We have a Grade 1-7 Parent's Meeting scheduled at school NEXT WEEK SATURDAY (19th January) at 8h00 sharp for Grade 1 - 3 and 9h00 sharp for Grade 4 -7. Attendance at this meeting is compulsory for our Grade 1-5 parents. The Grade 6 and 7 parents can attend voluntarily if they would like an opportunity to meet with the senior primary staff or have a "refresher talk". This meeting is not for our Mickey Mouse parents however. See you there.



Budget blues...

Thank you to our prompt payers. Don't forget that school fees are paid ahead for 12 months and are past due for January. The "Outings and Shows" fees are due at the beginning of February together with February's school fees. Late payments do unfortunately pay penalties. Please **DO NOT** use the KDZ number on your invoice as a reference. Only ever use your child's name and surname for us.

That being said, we have a payment made this week with the reference of "stationery". Who does it belong to?

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 exception to this rule is Friday lunch. On Fridays, you can spoil your children with a pre-weekend "less healthy" option.

We will also sell hotdogs (R10) and tuck on Fridays. 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 popcorn, muffins, rusks, nuts, cereal,



dried fruit and biltong?

We also strongly recommend water instead of juice in your child's bottle because it really helps with spills and keeps our playgrounds bee-free.

Remember... good food = good brain performance!

Extramural activities...

Most, but not all, of our extra-mural activities start in February. Their prices and days will be updated on the school website (www.solidfoundationsprimary.com) this coming week. Many of the extra-mural coaches have asked to pitch their particular extra-mural to the pupils during assemblies in January, so keep your ears and eyes open for the best option for your child for 2019. A reminder that payment collection and administration of extra murals is the responsibility of the private coaches and extra-mural teachers. Please always deal directly with them.



Grade 5-7 extra bits...

Our Grade 5 - 7 pupils do need a homework diary, a calculator and maths set (compass, protractor etc.) and a box of tissues 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. In addition to the diary, we will be uploading homework daily on the D6 App. We also recommend that you invest in a good dictionary for home.

...and the extra bits for Mickey Mouse pupils...

We have a few extra requests for our little people in Mickey Mouse (Grade RRR to Grade R). Can all of our preschool children bring the following items to school:

1. A grown-up's t-shirt to use as an apron for painting. This must be packed in your child's bag everyday, as we can't guarantee which days will be the "painty" ones! Please wash the shirt whenever necessary during the year.
2. A sunhat. Our playgrounds are largely shaded, but certain parts get full sun, so let's protect those precious young skins.
3. A spare change of clothes daily (if your child is prone to little accidents).
4. A box of tissues during the course of the year. We go through hundreds in our war against runny noses!



Mickey Mouse reading programme and vocab programme...

We will launch our reading programme and vocab programme in a week's time. We would like our brave pre-schoolers to settle in before adding this extra responsibility. More info will follow in next week's newsletter.

Junk monster...

Our school has a cute little tradition... a little "junk monster" lives in the storeroom and loves to eat all your rubbish! Please will you help us feed him?

Don't ever toss the following items 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)

You can leave all your junk outside the kitchen door at the preschool centre and watch how it magically just disappears! We also have a fantastic Mondi paper-recycling programme. Don't hesitate to send your used newspaper and office paper to us.



Classifieds...

Placing an advert in the "classifieds" section of our newsletter costs R50. Please email your ad to the office -in WORD format- by Monday of the week that you want it to feature. Unfortunately, we do not send out any adverts as attachments. Adverts should be $\frac{1}{4}$ A4 size or less.

Wheels to and from school...

If you are looking for a transport company for your child, please contact Liz Joshua at 079-029-8047, and she will assist you in finding the best fit.

If you are going with your own transport company please confirm that the driver has the appropriate licence and is not overloading the car. Our children are too precious to take any chances!



Personal information checklist...

We are sending home personal information forms today. Please check your child's form and return it to us tomorrow. We need to ensure that your contact information hasn't changed.

If any personal information changes at any time, drop us an email.



Keep in touch...

Our staff are excited and ready to start in 2019. They really do enjoy hearing from you though.

You are welcome to contact us at any time during the year. If you would like to email your child's teacher, please send it to the school's email address and we will forward it on the same day (011-976-5300 or admin@solidfoundationsprimary.com). We will always have an open door.

Teachers are available before and after school for appointments and can return phone calls during breaks. No queries or concern is ever too small, because you matter to us!

Remember to regularly include us in your prayers.



Prayerfully and playfully
The Teachers

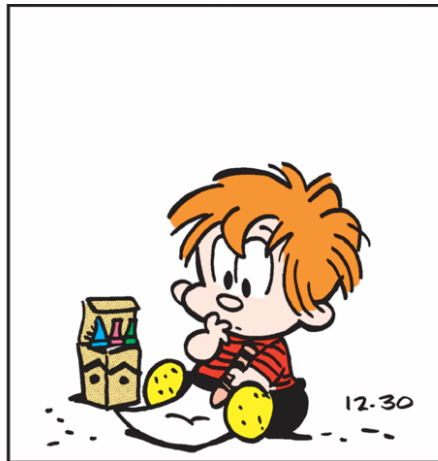
THE FOLLOWING SECTION IS FOR NEW PUPILS AND PARENTS ONLY:

We would just like to remind you of some facts that will help you to navigate your journey with us in 2019:

- 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 - but still send your child with pocket money to purchase goodies too!
- 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 send 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. 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☺!
- 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 "all 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.
- Our Mickey Mouse pupils will be divided into small maths groups for early morning instruction. Please ensure that your child is at school by 7h20. Trust us, they do not like missing out on this special time with their teachers.



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