

Newsletter

13 January 2021

First day...

We miss seeing all the smiles hidden behind little masks, but we know that they're there! As usual, we have a few little tears in Grade RR and RRR, but we know our precious newbies will feel at home very soon.

Welcome! May 2021 be a gentle and bountiful year for our school and its families.

For our new parents, we may refer to our preschool pupils (Grade RRR-R) as "Mickey Mouse pupils" in our school and newsletters...in loving reference to our preschool's founding history.

School arrival time...

We will not be having a staff meeting tomorrow morning. Please ensure all pupils are at school by 7h20, as we will start the school day at the normal time.



Staying connected...

As we have requested, EVERY parent MUST download the D6 App (for free) as essential school information is often communicated this way. 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 2020, this means you need to change your child's grade on the app for 2021. If you have any problems downloading or customising the app, please pop in to see Mrs Obbes for support.



Parents' Meeting change...

We have been watching the progress of COVID very carefully and in the light of President Ramaphosa's address this week, have decided to **CANCEL** our live Parent's Meeting on Saturday the 23rd. The teachers will email the minutes of their prospective meetings to you personally. Please read through these minutes very carefully. The teachers will be available for private meetings before or after school (by appointment through the office) should you wish to meet with them face-to-face



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 payers do unfortunately pay penalties. A reminder that you NOT use the KDZ number on your invoice as a reference. Only ever use your child's name and surname for us.

Brain food...

Did you know that our school has a healthy lunch policy? This means we frown 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 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!





Cake sales and Tuck for 2021...

Unfortunately, due to ongoing COVID concerns, cake sales are cancelled for 2021. However, tuck will be back up and running on Fridays, as well as our hotdog sales. Hotdogs are now R15 each. To ensure the safety of our pupils, only items that are wrapped/sealed will be sold at tuck (a very limited selection) and tuck will be sold per class, separately, so no lining up or crowding. Teacher Kathy will also be selling ice-creams on Fridays to raise funds for school sports activities.

Extramural activities...

We have allowed extramurals who can maintain social distancing and general COVID safety to continue this year. Most, but not all, of our extramural activities start in February. Their prices and days will be updated on the school website (www.solidfoundationsprimary.com) this coming week.

All the extramural staff have been invited to the Parents Meeting on the 23rd of January, so you can enrol your child at this meeting and ask any questions you may have.

A reminder that payment collection and administration of extra murals is the responsibility of the private coaches and extramural teachers. Please always deal directly with them and do not make their payments into the school account.



Grade 5-7 extra bits...

Our Grade 5 - 7 pupils do need a homework diary, a calculator and a maths set (compass, protractor etc.). 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/notebook, 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 (English and Afr/Eng) 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. Remind your child to pop on their hat at breaks please.
3. A spare change of clothes daily (especially 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 preschool reading programme and vocab within two weeks. We would like our brave pre-schoolers to settle in before adding this extra responsibility. More info will follow in future emails.

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 ("Glad wrap" and foil rolls)
- Washed (ideally with 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
- 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, or pop it into the big green bins outside of our school.



Classifieds...

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

How ready are you?

Every year our school sends several of our staff members for medical aid training, always keeping us up-to-date and ready to handle medical emergencies that may arise on the premises. Do you know how to do CPR? Would you be able to help a family member who is choking? If you are interested in joining our staff for their first aid course, we have scheduled one for Saturday the 6th of February. The cost per person is R600. If you're interested, please add your name to the list by contacting the office.



It's a boy!

Congratulations to Paballo (Grade 2) and Kganya (Grade R) on the arrival of your baby brother, Letlotlo. This little champ arrived on the 5th of January at a healthy 3,8kg. May he bring the Nkadimeng family much joy.

Keep in touch...

You are welcome to contact us at any time during the year (011-976-5300). If you would like to email your child's teacher, please send your correspondence to the school's email address and we will forward it to your child's teacher immediately (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 family prayers throughout 2021. Prayerfully and playfully

The Teachers

admin@solidfoundationsprimary.com

011-976-5300



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 2021:

- 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?!!). We also dislike our inability to control the contents of party-packs, which can be quite hair-raising. 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! 😊
- Your child is **NOT** 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. In the current pandemic, we request that any child who is sick (coughing, runny nose, head-ache) remain at home until the symptoms clear. We will also respond to any non-pandemic related contagious condition (e.g. lice, ring worm or chicken pox). Your children will 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.



Blessings

The teachers

