

Newsletter



11 January 2023

First Day news...

Our little ones look so grand in their shiny new uniforms. We have had a great start this morning, with plenty of smiles and excitement. Welcome everyone! May you have a peaceful and prosperous 2023!



Staying connected...

Please remember to download the D6 Connect App (for free) if you have not already done so. Essential school information is often communicated through this app. We will post daily homework, weekly newsletters and all important alerts through this app. If you have any problems downloading the app or with receiving school messages, please contact us. Please also ensure you download D6 Connect (grey icon) and NOT D6 Communicator (blue icon).

For our parents who returned their enrolment forms this week, please give us until next week Monday to upload your details onto the app before you will have access.

Parents' Meeting confirmation...

Please remember our compulsory Parents' Meeting next week Saturday (21 January) for Grade RRR to 5. Any Grade 6-7 parents may voluntarily attend if they would like a refresher chat. Due to the size of our classrooms, please could **ONLY ONE PARENT** attend per classroom, and we're sorry, but **no pupils are invited**. All grades will begin their meetings at 8h00 sharp, so plan to arrive at school by latest 7h50. The preschool meeting will be held outdoors, and the Grade 5 meeting will be in the hall. All other meetings will be held in your child's classroom. Should it rain, the preschool meeting will be postponed by an hour. We will confirm if we need to postpone on the D6 App.



Budget talk...

Thank you again to all of our prompt payers. Don't forget that school fees are paid ahead for 12 months and are past due for January i.e. if you haven't paid for January, you will be paying an extra penalty fee this month. The "stationery, books and shows" fees are due at the beginning of February, together with February's school fees (see our website, under the fees tab, for a breakdown of these fees per grade). Late payment for "stationery, books and shows" will unfortunately translate into your child being excluded from any of these fun activities until payment is made. A reminder that you must NOT use the KDZ number for any payment references. Please only ever use your child's name and surname when making a payment.



Checking your lunch boxes...

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. Please help us to keep our children happy and healthy in 2023!



Extra mural activities...

Most of our extra-murals launch in February, excepting swimming, which has started today. Please contact your extra-mural coach directly if you would like more clarity. All numbers, days and prices are listed on our school website (www.solidfoundationsprimary.com) and the D6. A reminder that payment collection and administration of extra-murals is the responsibility of the private coaches and extra-mural teachers, and that the school uniform policy does stipulate a specific uniform for sports and ballet. You are welcome to meet the extra-mural coaches at our Parents' Meeting next week Saturday.



Grade 2 and 3 extra's...

Please do not toss your child's chair bag or book bag from Grade 1. They may be needing it again (based on the teacher's preference). If your child no longer has a chair bag and the teacher requires one, they are for sale in the office.

Grade 5-7 extra's...

Our Grade 5-7 pupils do need a homework diary, a calculator and a compass (for drawing circles). The diary must be brought to every class, and it would really help if you could check that your child is writing down their own homework requirements daily. Any type of diary/notebook is great, 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 (with the exception of Grade 7- as we expect them to make full responsibility for recording and managing their homework). If your child does not have unlimited access to "Google Translate", we also recommend that you invest in a good dictionary (English and Afr/Eng) for your home.



...and the extra bits for our preschoolers...

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 every day, as we can't guarantee which days will be the "painty" ones! Please wash the shirt whenever necessary during the year.
2. A sunhat (labelled with your child's name). Our playgrounds are largely shaded, but certain parts get full sun, so let's protect those precious faces. Remind your child to pop on their hat at break time please.
3. A spare change of clothes daily, especially our Grade RRR and RR pupils who are prone to accidents.
4. A box of tissues during the course of the year. This is not compulsory at all, but is always highly appreciated.
5. Grade RRR only... a sheet and small blankie (labelled with your child's name). This will be sent home each Friday for washing. Please return it every Monday. Naps are a part of the Grade RRR daily routine until about June.



Reading and vocab programmes...

We will launch our Grade RRR-2 reading and/or vocab after the first week. We would like our brave little pupils to settle in before adding this extra responsibility to their load.



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 in a bag outside the kitchen door at the preschool centre (near Teacher Kathy and Jayde's classes) and watch how it magically just disappears! We also have a fantastic 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 advert 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.

Staying safe...

Our staff will be attending their annual first aid and fire-fighter training on the 11th of February. Public are welcome to participate for R1000 pp. Contact the office if you would like to enrol.



Uniform changes...

A reminder that the following uniform changes are in effect as of 2023:

1. No coloured (red, yellow, blue or maroon) house-shirts/ PE shirts are allowed for any grades from RRR-7. Only the grey and black golf shirts.
2. No black rugby shorts allowed. Only the long black KDA shorts (basketball length).



3. No grey school trousers allowed in preschool (they are only permitted from Grade 1 as part of the formal uniform).

4. Black OR maroon bomber jackets are allowed for colder days. They must be school bomber jackets with the school logo on them, bought from official school suppliers please.

5. As usual, no COMB OVERS, no steps, no "lightning bolts", no shaved path lines in hair and no other unique interpretations of hair-styles. Please keep it a neat and standard "school boy" haircut.

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). Teachers are also available before and after school for appointments and can return phone-calls during breaks.



No queries or concerns are ever too small, because you really matter to us!

With regret, due to POPI restrictions, our staff may NOT have class WhatsApp groups. Some staff members may opt for having a "WhatsApp Broadcast Group" for their class, to which parents cannot reply. It is the staff member's personal decision if he/she would like to make their cell number made public. Most of our staff do not give out their cell numbers though.

Edit to school terms...

We unfortunately sent out term dates with an error for term 2 in our last newsletter. Please note that the term ends on the 23rd and not the 30th (see highlighted change).

Please find the updated dates:

TERM 1	11 January - 24 March 20 March special DBE school holiday 21 March Human Rights Day
TERM 2	11 April - 23 June 27 April Freedom Day 28 April special DBE school holiday 1 May Workers Day 16 June Youth Day
TERM 3	17 July- 22 September 9 August Women's Day
TERM 4	9 October - 5 December



Pray with us...

We are sad to announce that Ms de Waal had multiple strokes between Christmas and New Year. She is currently in ICU but is stable. As we have no definite prognosis, we were initially going to put Ms Lee (our resident substitute teacher) into Grade 4, but have since decided to appoint Mrs Moodley to take the Grade 4 position until we have further information about Ms de Waal's recovery. Please pray with us for her improved health and for peace in her heart during the recovery period.



Prayerfully and playfully

The Teachers

admin@solidfoundationsprimary.com

011-976-5300

(please use email for communication during load-shedding)

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 2023:

- 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 **cupcakes**. Party packs and fizzy juices are really impractical for us (and when last did you try to cut a round, creamy cake into tiny 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 present too is quite daunting.
- Your child is **NOT** allowed to have medicine in their school bag **EVER**.
- 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 you.
- As of next week our preschool 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.



ENJOY 2023 WITH US!