

Newsletter



1 January 2024

Welcome!

To all our new pupils and their parents, welcome to Solid Foundations. We are so glad to have you join us, and can't wait to share your journey. To all our families who were with us last year, happy New Year! We trust you had a wonderful Christmas and are ready for a fun 2024.

Once school starts, just a reminder that you will receive a newsletter every Wednesday from us. Please let us know if you change your email address or telephone number at any time during the year. If you are experiencing email trouble and do not regularly receive mail, you can download a newsletter each week from our website at www.solidfoundationsprimary.com or from the D6 App (will be updated once school starts).

Please note that our school emailing system is set up in such a way that each individual child will receive an emailed newsletter. If you have more than one child in our school, you will receive more than one of the same newsletter each week. We will also email newsletters (but not statements) to all the email addresses that you have listed on your personal information form. If you would like to remove an address, simply pop us a request via email.

School Terms for 2024

TERM 1	17 January - 20 March <i>21 March Human Rights Day</i>
TERM 2	3 April - 14 June <i>27 April Freedom Day</i> <i>1 May Workers Day</i>
TERM 3	8 July- 20 September <i>9 August Women's Day</i>
TERM 4	7 October - 5 December



Although we generally follow the government's terms, as usual, we have deviated slightly in Term 3 in 2024, and have added a week to our September holiday (keep this in mind for your out-of-season holiday planning 😊). After Care will remain open during all the school holidays and until the 15th of December 2024. After Care starts this year on Wednesday, the 3rd of January 2024. Please use the gate on Korhaan Street for After Care in the holidays and let Uncle Darrel - our groundsman - know (078-294-5101) if you are planning a drop off earlier than 7h30 in the mornings during holidays.

**“Nice to
meet you.”**

Get more info at our first Parents Meeting...

We have had to move our first 2024 Parents Meeting earlier one week, and will be having our meeting on the 20th of January (the first Saturday after school begins).

Please note the following times and venues for the different grades:

Grade RRR-1: 8H00 (Preschool will meet on the netball court and Grade 1 in the hall)

Grade 2: 9H00 (in the hall)

Grade 3: 8H00 (in class)

Grade 4: 8H00 (in class)

Grade 5-7: 10H00 (Grade 5 please attend, but optional for Grade 6 upwards, in the hall)

Due to space constraints, please could only one parent attend (per class). If you are unable to attend, you are welcome to send another family member or friend to represent you. Please also note that the meeting is for grownups, not our excited new pupils, who will have to stay at home for this one.

Our extra-mural coaches and companies will also be present to give you information and answer any questions you have.

Checklist for 2024...

The 2024 stationery requirements have been covered in your “Shows, books and stationery” budget and are supplied by the school, but please note the following exceptions:

Grade 2 pupils... please bring your washed chair bags from Grade 1. You will need it on your first day of Grade 2.

Grade 2, 3 and 4 pupils... please bring your washed bookbags from last year.

Grade 5-7 pupils... please sort and use your existing stationery. You will not be given new stationery by the school, so check that you have:

- Blue pen
- HB pencil
- Eraser
- Sharpener
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Glue
- Coloured pencils
- A maths set
- A calculator (non-scientific is fine)
- A homework diary (keep it light and thin)



The school stocks basic stationery items and you are welcome to purchase from the office when school opens.

Grade 5-7... life hack... we recommend that you have an assortment of A4 book bags (plastic coloured A4 envelopes work just as well) to keep your books for each subject separated and sorted in your suitcase. This isn't compulsory, but it definitely helps to keep your life more organised as the number of subjects increases, and the time to faff at your suitcase between classes decreases.



Grade 1-7... We often get asked "what suitcase must we buy"? The answer is "a sturdy one". Please look for a bag that is reinforced and that keeps your books protected and stops them from curling. We also recommend that you buy a separate little lunch bag like the one in this picture, and don't pack your lunch in your school bag. It helps to keep your books safe if your lunch is a bit messy.

Balancing the books...

Thank you for your patience and kindness over the December holidays with regards to your account inquiries. Mrs Bradshaw had a bit of a set-back in her cancer-fight, and was unable to assist you as she normally does. We certainly tried our best to fill in the gap!

We welcome Ms Dyomfana (Teacher Tandokazi) to our admin staff as of this month, and are excited to have her joining us in the accounts department going forward. Please remember that you pay school fees AHEAD each month, by the 7th. This means that **school fees for January are due this coming week.**



Thank you to every family who pays promptly!

Please check that you have received a financial statement (stating January's fees) during December. If you did not, contact the school immediately with an email (admin@solidfoundationsprimary.com). For privacy, our school bookkeeping programme only permits statements to be sent to **one** email address. Let us know if you wish to change the address that we have selected.

Unfortunately, if you do not pay within the first week of a month an automatic penalty of R200 is added to your account. **Always use your child's name and surname as your payment reference and NOT THE STATEMENT KDZ NUMBER please!**

You have the option of an eleven-month or a twelve-month payment scheme. You do NOT have to indicate which plan you've selected. POP can be sent to admin@solidfoundationsprimary.com, but this is not a compulsory requirement.

Families who pay for the year in one lump sum up-front do get the "Outings and Shows" fee waived as a discount.

School fees amounts are listed on your statement and on our website

(www.solidfoundationsprimary.com) under the fees tab. Our school banking details are as follows:

SF Primary

Nedbank cheque/current account

Glen Acres Branch (143342)

Account number: 121 063 6557

Use child's name and surname as a reference (Remember, **don't** use the KDZ number).

The Shows, outings and stationery/book fees reflected on your statement, is due by the 1st week of February 2024.

We had a few strange payments made into our account last year. Please let us know if they belong to you...

18/12/2023... ATM cash deposit... no reference

26/10/2023...EFT deposit...used the letters "KDZ" as a reference (without a KDZ number)

30/12/2023...Used "invoice 57745" as a reference (this isn't a KDZ number)

Let us know if these mystery payments are yours please.



School hours...

Please can all our pupils be at school by the latest 7h20 every morning. The bell rings at 7h30 sharp and children hate to be embarrassed and late. Let us make every effort to keep our pupils punctual in 2024. The current exception to this rule is Thursday mornings, as our staff have their weekly staff meeting until 8h00.

Later drop off on Thursdays is not a compulsory requirement, and you are welcome to drop your child off each and every day at 7h20.

Collection times:

Grade RRR & RR	12h45
Grade R- 3	13h00
Grade 4 - 7	13h30 (some classes in senior primary grades end at 14h10. Please see your child's personal time-table which will be given out on the first day of school)

A reminder that pupils should be collected within a $\frac{1}{2}$ hour of their last class of the day. Children collected after 14h30 will automatically be charged After Care fees (except Grade RRR and RR pupils).

Children collected after 14h30 must be SIGNED OUT on a clipboard kept by the After Care staff. In this way, we DO NOT CHARGE YOU if your child remains after hours for an EXTRA-MURAL ACTIVITY. To benefit from this, your child does have to be collected within a half an hour of the extra-mural's conclusion time.



After Care...

We can accommodate any family who wishes to use the After Care facilities on very short notice (e.g. your boss asks you to stay for an unexpected afternoon meeting). Please let the school know before 12h30 via a telephone call or email if this should happen and you require this service. This includes Grade RRR and RR pupils. The cost per afternoon is R100 and full-time is R1000 pm (excluding Grade RRR and RR). If you do not let us know, your child will be kept in a separate

waiting area until 14h30 before joining the After Care programme, which is a long time for a little one to worry and wait.

An After Care newsletter will be sent out as an additional attachment with this newsletter. Please read it carefully if you would like your child to attend After Care this year.

Just a reminder that no full-time After Care resignations will be accepted after the **1st of November 2024**, and **all After Care pupils pay for December** (with a half-price discount for the month), even if they do not use the After Care services in December.

Which school gate to use...

Our school gates are open at the following times:

	Mornings	Afternoons
Moorivier Veld Gate/ Troll Bridge Gate (drop-and-go or park)	6h30 - 7h30	12h45 - 17h30
Maraboe Gate by teacher's parking lot (drop-and-go)	7h00 - 7h30	x
Korhaan Gate by cul-de-sac (drop-and-go)	7h00 - 7h30	x
Korhaan Gate by prefab classes	Only used by After Care during school holidays	

Our school has several entrances, which can make drop-off and collection a bit tricky to grasp for new families. If you would like to park and walk your child in, please park at the entrance on Moorivier Drive and use the gate by the "Troll Bridge". You cannot park and leave your vehicle near the Maraboe or Korhaan gates, as these areas are allocated for free-flowing traffic. You are, however, also welcome to park in a parking bay around the school and walk your child in through any gate.

The **ONLY** gate available for collection in the afternoon is the Moorivier Street gate ("Troll Bridge Gate"). By restricting collections to one gate, one responsible staff member - Teacher Joanne - checks each child as they leave, ensuring the security and safety of our pupils. To keep our pupils safe, please let the office know if someone new or unexpected collects your child from school. Teacher Joanne will flag any "strangers" and we will not allow your child to leave in their company unless you have given your permission. Please be courteous and respectful in obeying our car guards and gate staff. They have your child's safety in mind and are following strict policies regarding the control of traffic and child safety.



School uniforms...

A full break-down of uniform requirements is available on our school website (see "Policies"..."School Uniform Policy" on the website www.solidfoundationsprimary.com). A reminder about certain problems we usually pick up at the start of a year:

1. Please do not buy black rugby shorts! Our black school shorts are LONG KDA basketball length shorts - almost knee length. They are longer than the black shorts you buy at PEP or other commercial clothing stores.
2. Please do not wear white shirts that button up to the chin without wearing a bow-tie, tie or button ribbon. You might want to rather go for open-necked school shirts. This avoids the tie altogether.
3. White summer shirts must have school logos on pockets.
4. Girls wear grey culottes and not grey skirts.
5. Our pre-schoolers may not wear any grey shorts or pants.
6. Bomber jackets are still optional grey or maroon colour.
7. Grade 7s may wear grey school jerseys.

Uniforms are available from:

MS Uniforms

92 Monument Street

011-050-7842

076-711-1443

info@msuniforms.co.za



Boundary Silk Bazaar

Corner Pomona Road & Sarel St

Kempton Park

011-975-2119



First day of school...

For our brand-new families, if you are still unsure of where to go with your little one on the first day of school, please feel free to ask one of our senior pupils (they will be carrying a sign that says "I'm here to help" ☺). If your child needs reassurance, feel free to watch them for a few minutes playing outdoors on the playground (weather permitting). As soon as your child is relaxed, give them a confident hug and kiss and depart. All preschool teachers will be on the playground greeting their children. Mrs Coetzee and Mrs Greyvenstein (Grade 1 teachers) will be near the school gate by the hall. All other teachers will be

in their classrooms. The school bell will ring at 7h30 and all parents must say their "good-byes" by then. Don't worry new parents - we promise lots of care and love to sooth away any little tears. If you are still concerned about your child's separation anxiety, we recommend that you give your child a photo of yourself to keep in their pocket, suitcase or even put up in their class.

Grade RRR, please send a bed sheet to school, in case your little one needs a nap on a school mattress during the day. Label the sheet with your child's name please.

School policies...

Our school policies are working documents and get updated at least once annually to reflect the true operation of the school. If you have not done so already, take the time to view our policies (on the website) to get a more comprehensive understanding of the "ins and outs" of our school. Parental input is considered annually with our parental survey held in July/August each year.



I still have a question...

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email at any time or call the school during the school terms. We're really here to help.



The gift of 2024

Hug your family so much more
Say "I love you" at the door
Touch a shoulder, rub a head
Never let anger share your bed
Compliment more, criticise less
Spend more time, forbid your stress
See a strength, say that you do
Ignore a weakness, you have them too
Live each moment, treasure each day
2025... it's a heartbeat away!

Please pray for Solid Foundations and our staff in 2024.
All the best for a fantastic year!

admin@solidfoundationsprimary.com

011-976-5300

