



Newsletter

1 January 2025

Welcome!

2025 is sure to be an incredible year and we're excited to share it with you. To all our new pupils and their parents, welcome to Solid Foundations. To all our families who were with us last year, happy New Year!

Once school starts, 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).

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 emailed newsletter each week. Unless you state otherwise, all the email addresses that you have listed on your personal information form will receive a newsletter, but we can only send a statement to ONE email address.

School Terms for 2025

TERM 1	15 January - 28 March 21 March Human Rights Day
TERM 2	7 April - 26 June 18 April: Good Friday 21 April: Family Day 28 April: Freedom Day 29 April: DBE special school holiday day 30 April: DBE special school holiday day 1 May: Workers Day 2 May: DBE special school holiday day 16 June: Youth Day
TERM 3	21 July- 23 September
TERM 4	13 October - 4 December



Although we generally follow the government's terms, as usual, we deviate slightly in Term 3 and add 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 12th of December 2025. After Care starts this year on Monday the 6th of January. Please use the gate on Korhaan Street for After Care in the holidays.



Let's meet

Parents Meetings...

We will be having our 2025 Parents Meetings on Saturday morning the 18th of January (the first Saturday after school begins).

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

Grade RRR - 4: 8H00

- Preschool will meet outdoors
- Grade 1 in the hall
- Grade 2-4 in homeroom classes

If preschool parents have heard the introductory speech given by Teacher Kathy in previous years (i.e. speech covering reading programme, vocab programme, play-based education, cake sales etc.), you are welcome to skip the talk and only come in at 8H45 for a meet and greet with your child's teacher.

Grade 5-7: 9H00

- 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 for little people, who will have to stay at home for this one unfortunately.

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

Checklist for 2025...

A reminder that Grade RRR through to Grade 4 pupils, get their stationery, textbooks and workbooks given to them at the start of the school year. Parents can purchase satchels or backpacks (Grade RRR-R) and sturdy suitcases (Grade 1 upwards). Please ensure that your child has got their own basic stationery at home too, to do homework, as the school stationery often remains at school when your child goes home in the afternoons.

Grade 1 and 3 pupils, please keep your blue plastic book bag (the one you took home daily) and your chair bags from 2024, as you will re-use them in 2025.

For our Grade 5-7 pupils, we do not supply stationery packs but only workbooks and textbooks. Please make sure your child has got the following basic stationery for 2025:

- pencil bag
- blue pen
- HB pencil
- sharpener
- eraser
- 30cm long ruler



- coloured pencils
- scissors
- Pritt glue
- coloured pens /fine liners (felt tip pens) for studying
- highlighters (used in class too)
- homework diary (any type - but light weight is recommended)
- non-scientific calculator
- Maths set
- (recommended) coloured plastic A4 envelopes/ coloured bookbags to keep different subject books together in your suitcase



Grade 1-7, what suitcase must I buy?...

The answer is always "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...

Solid Foundations strives to offer the cheapest private education at the highest academic standard possible. 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 this address.

Unfortunately, pupils may not begin schooling on the 15th of January if their January accounts are not paid IN FULL. Solid Foundations does not permit the accumulation or carrying-over of any debt.

Always use your child's name and surname as your payment reference and not the statement KDZ number.

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

Please use child's name and surname as a reference.

A reminder that the "Shows, outings and stationery/book fees" reflected on your statement, is due by the 1st week of February 2025.

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. Punctuality is a sign of respect and care. 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 2025**, 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.

Preschool pupils who are remaining in After Care must please bring a sheet and/or blankie to school daily, for afternoon nap time. Label the sheet with your child's name please.



Which school gate to use...

You are welcome to use the gates on Korhaan Street or on Mooirivier Drive for drop off. If you would like to park and walk your child in, please park at the entrance on Mooirivier Drive (the gate by the "Troll Bridge"). You cannot park and leave your vehicle near the Korhaan gate, as this area is 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 the Mooirivier or Korhaan Street gates.

The **ONLY** gate available for collection in the afternoon is the Mooirivier Drive 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 problem 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

OR

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. The 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 the school will line up outside the hall for prayer. Parents are welcome to remain for this short assembly, but are expected to depart thereafter. 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.

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.





Sharing sad news...

We were so looking forward to welcoming our Grade 1 teacher - Mrs Coetzee's - little baby girl into the world this year. Sadly, little Amelia was stillborn on Sunday evening via c-section. We extend our deepest condolences to Mrs Coetzee and her husband, knowing that only God can grant them comfort during this time. Mrs Coetzee has been booked off until March.

Carpe Diem 2025

Years are made of moments
These moments are right here,
Dreams are made of commitments
Not of the someday, but the near.
Love is this hours' small actions
This seconds of what we say
Life...our choice of minutes
Change tomorrow, by changing your today



Please pray for Solid Foundations and our staff in 2025.
All the best for a fantastic year!

admin@solidfoundationsprimary.com

011-976-5300

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email at any time or call the school from the 6th of January onwards. We're really here to help.