



# ST. DOMINIC'S COLLEGE

WELKOM

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Education with a leading edge

## **Pre-Primary School Information Guide 2024**

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONTACT DETAILS

### POSTAL ADDRESS

P 0 BOX 382

WELKOM

9460

### RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

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WELKOM

9459

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EXECUTIVE HEAD:

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HEAD OF PRE- PRIMARY SCHOOL:

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# WELCOME

Dear Parents/Guardians

St Dominic's College is one of the finest independent schools in the Free State and boasts four schools on our 18 hectare campus. This presents a unique opportunity that allows our children to transition through the school from Little Saints (3 months) to the High School.

St Dominic's College is a traditional church school, established in the proud traditions of the Dominican Sisters and Christian Brothers. Whilst proudly Catholic and firm in promoting strong Christian values, we welcome pupils from all denominations. Teaching tolerance is an important part of ensuring that every child is treated with dignity and respect.

We place great emphasis on encouraging moral and spiritual growth in keeping with Christian principles and to this end, Religious Education forms an integral part of school life and serves to help pupils grow in faith. Our children derive significant benefit from our values based approach to teaching and learning and ultimately all our teachings are based upon the corner stones of respect, compassion, commitment, discipline and integrity.

Few schools provide such an opportunity, an opportunity that potentially sees children starting at 3 months old and then progressing through the Pre-Primary School, the Primary School and finally the High School, preparing the road to their university of choice.

**Little Saints** is an exceptional nursery school, specialising in early childhood development. At 12 months of age your baby will achieve "toddler" status and will join the 1-2 year age group of the Little Saints Nursery School. **Little Saints Infant Care Centre** was launched in 2012 and can accommodate babies from 3 to 12 months old and provides a stimulating learning environment that promotes growth and development across all spheres of early childhood development.

The Nursery School can accommodate forty toddlers. It is during these important developmental years that we expose our children to basic pre-school learning activities that will assist them in developing independence in preparation for graduation to Pre-Primary School at age 3, turning 4, in their respective year.

**The Pre-Primary School** operates on a large, modern premises. Facilities include covered sandpits and verandas with green, shaded playgrounds. Our modern playrooms are well equipped with educational toys and teaching aids. The outdoor area has been designed as an exciting learning environment where each child can safely extend their physical, social and emotional development. Our Pre-Primary School aims to ensure that children achieve independence, and that they learn how to integrate and adopt accepted etiquette in their day to day contact with others.

**Aftercare** is available at the Pre-Primary School daily, from Mondays to Thursdays between 13h30 and 17h00, and on Fridays between 13h30 and 16h30, under the care of a qualified teacher. This facility is not available during school holidays.

The daily programme has been structured along prescribed Pre-Primary School lines to enrich each child's experience and guide him/her towards school readiness. The groups follow a thematic approach with art, stories, music, drama and movement being incorporated into each theme.

Our teachers are all creative, enthusiastic and caring people who have the children's best interests at heart. We also have wonderful assistants to help in the classrooms. The Pre-Primary School falls under the leadership of the Head of Pre-Primary School and should you wish to bring a matter of concern to the attention of the school, the correct channels to follow would be to first discuss the matter with the teacher concerned and then the Head of the Pre-Primary School. Should the matter not be resolved this way, it should be presented in writing to the Headmaster.

We welcome you to our happy family!

Mrs Corlia Smit

HEAD OF PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL

## GENERAL PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL INFORMATION

### PTA

Support for all fund raising ventures is essential in building the school community. As a community orientated school, with an entrenched family spirit, it is expected that each family attend our functions. As a private institution, we rely on fund raising events for certain projects at the school, hence, your loyal support is vital for the future prosperity of St Dominic's College. We would like to encourage you to make yourselves available to serve on the PTA and also support the new fundraising initiatives in the Pre-Primary School.

### SCHOOL HOURS:

The school hours are from 08:00-13:30. PLEASE BE PUNCTUAL! The gates will be unlocked at 07:00. Under NO circumstances may children be left at school without an adult in attendance. **PLEASE TAKE NOTE: Pickup times for the various grades are as follows: Gr RRR: 12:30, Gr RR: 13:00, Gr R: 13:30.** Children left at school after 14:00 will be sent to the Aftercare Centre and parents will be charged accordingly.

### TRANSPORT AND LIFTS:

The school MUST be informed of all your transport arrangements as we have your child's safety at heart. We will only allow them to be collected by a person duly authorised. If, for any reason, transport arrangements are changed, a written note must be sent to school to inform us of the person who will collect your child. The school office MUST be contacted during school hours should prior notification not be possible.

### SCHOOL FEES:

In order to facilitate the payment of school fees, a debit order system is in operation. Details appear on the registration forms. School fees for **all** Pre-Primary School classes are paid in instalments (**PER MONTH** x 11), payable before the 7<sup>th</sup> of each month before interest is charged. (From the end of January until the end of November).

### ILLNESS:

Children with severe coughs, colds or infectious conditions may not attend school. Please note that the teachers will not administer medicines (analgesics or antibiotics, etc.) to your child. If your child contracts an infectious disease, please notify the school as soon as possible. If your child is absent from school for any reason, a letter to explain his/her absence should be sent with the child on his/her return to class, or you may inform the school telephonically.

### PARENT EVENINGS:

Parent evenings are held the second week of every new term. This is the perfect opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with the class teacher, and to come and see the work they do in class.

## **COMMUNICATION:**

**In order to simplify our communication, we provide each child with an A5 plastic envelope. This envelope must be returned to school PROMPTLY.** We ask you to initial all notes sent by the teachers on the form provided. The letters must be signed for, next to the appropriate date. News is distributed via Facebook and the weekly newsletter, called the *St Dominic's Chronicles*, which can be accessed using a link from our Facebook page and Website: [www.stdominicscollege.com](http://www.stdominicscollege.com)

## **SUITCASES AND LUNCH:**

**Please provide a healthy lunch in a sealed container**, as we try to encourage healthy eating habits. Each child should have a small suitcase, with his/her name on the **INSIDE**, in which to carry a spare set of clothes, lunch box, etc. A fruit of choice must be sent to school EVERY day. Please provide water and juice/cool drink for your child daily. An extra lunch must be packed should your child stay for After-Care.

## **CLOTHES:**

Allow your child to wear comfortable clothes that he/she can manage on his/her own. Ensure that all warm clothing is removable and provide **HATS** for the summer – this is optional. A spare set of clothing **MUST** be sent in the suitcase each day for the pupils at Little Saints, Grade RRR and RR classes — accidents do happen! **ALL** clothes, shoes, hats, lunch boxes, etc. **MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED.**

## **BIRTHDAYS:**

When it is your child's birthday, you may send cake or cupcakes, party packs and cold drinks if you want to. **NO TOYS OR BALLOONS ARE ALLOWED IN THE PARTY PACKS.** The ring begins at 11:00 and lasts for approximately twenty minutes. The party eats may be dropped off at school first thing in the morning. The class teacher will provide the parents with photos.

## **ENGLISH:**

For those children who speak only a little English or are unable to speak English on entering the Pre-Primary school, it is **ESSENTIAL** that we have your commitment to actively encourage and help your child by assisting with vocabulary whenever appropriate (at home or out and about).

## **SCHOOL CURRICULUM:**

During the year, our curriculum will cover many themes of interest and we encourage you to become involved in these with your child. Encourage him/her to bring items of interest from home to school (e.g. books, and objects they have found). These items will be returned to you on completion of the theme.

As well as the normal Pre-Primary School Programme, we offer the following:

- Music for little ones and Recorder lessons for the Grade R learners
- Swimming for all grades, by Little Swimmers or Sesa Kids
- Excursions (limited)
- Religious Education
- Large grounds for free movement, age appropriate divisions
- Aftercare facilities at additional cost
- Development Program 2-6 years, with Pretorius Kinderkineticist.
- Extra-murals for the Grade R learners (tennis, cricket, mini-hockey, soccer)

***PLAYBALL, BEAUXART, MONKEYNASTIX, VIBEZ DANCE and swimming are offered during school hours. At little Saints we also offer Kindermusik. These activities are optional and come at an additional cost.***

## **GUIDELINE DAILY PROGRAMME**

### **Grade R Daily Routine**

- 07:00-08:00 Arrival
- 08:00- 08:30 Morning ring, register, calendar + weather, Bible story, prayer, praise & worship, theme board discussion
- 08:30-08:45 Toilet routine – wash hands
- 08:45-09:00 Fruit snack time
- 09:00-09:15 Play outside
- 09:15-09:45 Language activities: Mon-Thurs: 1<sup>st</sup> Language English  
Friday: 2<sup>nd</sup> language/Afrikaans
- 09:45-10:00 Toilet routine – wash hands
- 10:00-10:15 Lunch
- 10:15-10:45 Play outside: Monday – Gross motor skills,  
Tuesday – Sensory play, Thursday – Sensory play,  
Friday – Gross motor skills
- 10:45-11:45 Math activities
- 11:45-12:45 Art Activity, Life Skill Activity, Fine Motor Skill,  
Friday–Bakers Man
- 12:45-13:00 Tidy up outside toys/class, Pack bags
- 13:00-13:30 Singing and poems, Story time
- 13:30 Departure/Aftercare

### ***Extra Mural***

***07:45-08:45***

***Tuesdays – Tennis***

***08:30-09:15***

***Monday – Singing***

***Wednesday – RE with Chapel lady***

***10:00-10:30***

***Monday – VIBES Dance***

***Thursday – Kinderkinetics***

***Thursday – Beaux Art***

***11:15-12:15***

***Tuesday - SESA SWIM***

***Wednesday – MonkeyNastic***

***11:15-12:45***

***Tuesday – Recorders***

***11:30-12:00***

***Thursday – Kinderkinetics***

***Friday – Playball***

***11:45-12:45***

***Monday – Little Swimmers***

***12:00 Prayer***

***12-12:30***

***Thursday – Kinderkinetics***

***12:45-13:30***

***Thursday - Cricket***

**NO TOYS** are to be brought to school since heartache results from **BROKEN OR LOST TOYS**.

*Little Saints daily program is different to the Pre-School program. There is a choice between half day and full day. At Little Saints, meals are provided, but you are responsible for water, juice & snacks. Little Saints Nursery School is open over the holidays, but closed on public holidays/ long weekends.*

**AFTERCARE:**

Aftercare is available at the Pre-Primary school daily, **MONDAY to THURSDAYS**, between 13:30 and 17:00, and **FRIDAYS** between 13:30 and 16h30, under the care of a qualified teacher. This is at an additional cost. Please see our Fees List for prices. This unfortunately excludes holidays. Aftercare forms are available on request.

**GRADE 1:**

We must remind you that the fact that your child is attending St Dominic's Pre-Primary School is no guarantee that he/she will automatically be accepted into a St Dominic's Grade 1 class. The required READINESS test must be passed at the end of the year. This test is done in class by the class teacher in Grade R and is free of charge. All the Grade R pupils write the school readiness test.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**You are required to give a TERM'S written notice should you intend removing your child from St Dominic's College and this serves as an important reminder.**

**Drop off and go:** Our Assistants wait at the Pre-primary school gate inside our school grounds to safely receive the pupils from you at the gate.