

St Dominic's College

Welkom



Pre-Primary School Information Guide 2022

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONTACT DETAILS

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RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

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EXECUTIVE HEAD:

Mr Deena Naidoo

HEAD OF PRE- PRIMARY SCHOOL:

Mrs Corlia Smit

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ADMISSIONS:

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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 on 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 seven 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: Due to Covid-19, 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 7th of each month, beginning FEBRUARY.

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:

Under normal circumstances, Get-togethers are held termly (3 terms). Parents are encouraged to use these opportunities to meet the staff and discuss their child's progress, and to get to know the other parents. We hope to resume parent evenings in the near future, once Covid is under control.

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 the weekly newsletter, via an email link which is forwarded to the entire school and can also be accessed from our website: 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/cooldrink for your child daily.

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. A spare set of clothing **MUST** be sent in the suitcase each day for the Grade RRR and RR classes — accidents do happen! **ALL** clothes, shoes, hats, lunch boxes, etc. **MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED.**

BIRTHDAYS:

We celebrate each child's birthday with a Song and Rhyme ring at school. You will receive a note from the class teacher with the date of the child's birthday and suggestions of what you are allowed to send to class for the party. **NO TOYS OR BALLOONS ARE ALLOWED IN THE PARTY PACKS.** The ring begins at 10:00 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
- Excursions (limited)
- Religious Education
- Large grounds for free movement, age appropriate divisions
- Aftercare facilities at additional cost
- Extra-murals for the Grade R learners (tennis, cricket, chess, mini-hockey, soccer)

We have the use of the Primary School's pool during the summer months, so please ensure that your child has a swimming costume and towel, **BOTH CLEARLY MARKED WITH HIS/HER NAME**. You will be informed at a later date of our swimming day.

PLAYBALL, BEAUXART, MONKEYNASTIX, TURNING POINTE DANCE and swimming are offered during school hours. These activities are optional and come at an additional cost.

GUIDELINE DAILY PROGRAMME

(Elephant Class Daily Programme as per Covid Regulations)

07:25 – 08:15	Arrival, inside Freeplay at the tables and Health check
08:15 – 08:30	Toilet routine and hand washing
08:30 – 08:40	Outside play
08:40 – 09:00	Group time: Register, birthdays, news, weather chart, prayers
09:00 – 09:15	Group discussion: Theme discussion
09:15 – 09:25	Hand washing at the basin
09:25 – 10:15	Creative activities / Tidy up
10:15 – 10:50	Toilet routine / Wash hands / Snack time
10:50 – 11:10	Outside play time / Wash hands
11:10 – 11:40	Fine motor / Sensory activities
11:40 – 11:50	Tidy up, toilet routine, wash hands and pack bags
11:50 – 12:15	Story Time / Rhymes
12:15 – 13:30	Sleep routine (Home Time / Aftercare children) (Aftercare children go to Mrs Isabel Oberholzer)

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

SCHOOL MATERIALS:

If you have contacts for equipment (e.g. paper, glue, paints, etc.), please let us know. We ask you to bring any anti-waste items that we might need at school. The attached list will give you an idea of what we are looking for. It will assist us greatly if you could save these items and bring them to school on **MONDAYS**.

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 unfortunately excludes holidays. Please see our School Fee Structure form for prices. 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. 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.

FIRST DAY:

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

Term planner for 2022 (for pupils) is as follows :
(Subject to change due to Covid-19)

Term 1: 12 January 2022 to 13 April 2022
(Midterm Break: Close 24 Feb; Return 1 March)

Term 2: 4 May 2022 to 12 August 2022
(Midterm Break: Close 24 June; Return 11 July)

Term 3: 6 September 2022 to 9 December 2022
(Midterm Break: Close 20 Oct; Return 25 Oct)