



welcome

to the So-High family!



We're so happy to welcome you to So-High Methodist Pre-Primary, and can't wait to share our classrooms and playground with your child.

For more than 50 years, our vibrant little school has been offering foundation-phase education to our special community and we're so glad that you've joined us on this journey.

We pride ourselves on the balanced education children receive under our wings, where play and fun are as important as counting and learning letters. We make the transition from home to school easy and enjoyable, as we nurture children for formal education. Children who graduate from So-High are well-prepared for primary school and leave us with confidence in their stride and happiness in their heart.

Our safe, caring, Christian environment allows children's emotional, physical, social and intellectual needs to be met with kindness and compassion. And a whole lot of creativity too! So-High is filled with areas for painting and sensopathic activities, and our educational games, construction toys and outdoor apparatus mean that no two days are ever the same. Our meticulously cared-for playground is where friendships are formed and memories are made.

Our teachers are really looking forward to getting to know you and your child. They are all highly qualified and extremely dedicated to the education of all our children, and regularly attend seminars and workshops so that they have the latest knowledge to drive our school forward in an ever-changing world.



yellow group

with Teacher Shona

The Yellow Group accepts children in the year they turn three. The emphasis here is on play. Children are offered a wide variety of activities and are gently encouraged to explore them. Typical favourite activities of this age group are playing with dough, digging in the sandpit, racing around the cycle track and painting.



blue group

with Teacher Angela

The Blue Group caters for three turning four-year-olds. Here, friendships are being established and children are more actively encouraged to participate in activities. Cutting skills are developing and paintings are beginning to show form. The dolly corner and fantasy area are housed in the Blue Class.



red group

with Teacher Prabashnee

The children turn five in this group. They participate in 'special work' and are divided into groups in order to facilitate a low teacher/learner ratio during this period. Emphasis is placed on fine-motor activities, number development as well as pre-reading and pre-writing skills. Here, they are encouraged to be responsible and independent.



grade R

with Teacher Ruth

This is the official school-readiness year and the CAPS syllabus is followed and carefully planned to enable children to reach their full potential, giving them the necessary skills to enter Grade 1. Added to our School Readiness Programme, children have free time to explore and play on our large adventure centre and garden apparatus, especially designed to develop gross motor skills and strengthen muscles.

the So-High week

Our weekly programme gives children a healthy sense of routine and an understanding of the cycle of days.

MUNCHY MONDAY

Each child will get the opportunity to be the baker for their class. On this day, all other children bring R2 to place in the Munchy Monday jar. At the end of the term, this money is donated to a charitable cause.

TREASURE TUESDAY

Our gardens are filled with all sorts of treasures. Feathers, fallen nests and special stones, to name a few. Children are to bring any natural treasure to share with others. They place it in the sensory trough at the beginning of the day and all classes have the opportunity to explore these treasures. Please don't send anything precious as it may break.

WASTE WEDNESDAY

Empty cartons, tins, toilet rolls, boxes, buttons and lids are just a few of the things used by our aspiring artists to create repurposed masterpieces. Please send rinsed-out items, as well as scrap paper and magazines on this day, and leave them outside the storeroom.

THOUGHTFUL THURSDAY

A healthy start to your child's day helps them feel energised, as well as pay attention in order to learn. With your help, we can that ensure others in our surrounding community start their day off well too. On Thursdays please bring a breakfast porridge to school as per the roster. This will be distributed to needy families in the Umhlali area.

FANTASY FRIDAY






Books take children on all sorts of whimsical journeys. They stretch their imaginations and open up their minds to real, as well as unimaginable notions. On Fridays each child chooses a book from their class library to take home for the week. Please ensure children bring their library bags to school and teach them how to look after the books at home.

your child's day

So-High runs on an Open Plan system which encourages decision making. Our day starts at 7:15am (gates open) and the formal programme commences with a greeting ring at 7:45am for the Grade R class, and at 8:00am for the Red, Blue and Yellow classes.

Different themes are followed and changed fortnightly. Literacy, numeracy and life-skills tables display appropriate objects and posters according to these themes. These provide a springboard for lively discussion that stimulates the children's natural curiosity and broadens their general knowledge.

Each day includes a period of free choice of activities. Under the supervision of a teacher in each area, children are free to pursue a range of exciting activities:

-  Creative activities such as painting, cutting, sticking, art techniques and baking.
-  Fantasy area that includes dressing up and fantasy play.
-  Puzzle-building in the cognitive area, construction toys, educational games and fine motor skill equipment.
-  Our fringe area includes play dough, easel painting and pavement chalk activities as well as water and sensopathic troughs.
-  The garden area has a large adventure centre, jungle gyms, swings, sandpit, Wendy house, tractor, boat, shop and monkey bars – all available for children to develop gross motor skills.

Our structured 'ring time' incorporates different aspects necessary for children's development. These are music and percussion, movement and drama, discussion or object studies and exercises to develop gross motor skills (developmental play).

At snack time, children sit in their class groups. We say grace and enjoy our time together while observing good manners.

The morning ends with a story and quiet time in preparation for going home. The Yellow, Blue and Red Groups finish at 12:00pm. In Grade R an extra period of School Readiness is included in the day, so that the Grade R class finishes at 12:30pm.

special events

Birthday Rings • Fathers' Evening • Mothers' Tea
Grandparents' Day • Shows • Sports Day • Grade R Outing
Easter Bonnet Parade • Christmas Carols and Family Picnic
Heritage Day • Teddy Bears Picnic • Book Character Day



General Information

School Fees

Fees are set at an annual rate and are payable over 11 months from January to November. A discount of 5% is offered if the annual fee is paid by the end of February. Fees are payable as usual during a child's absence due to illness or holidays. One full month's notice of withdrawal of a child is required in writing. If this is not done, a full month's fees are payable.

School terms

The school terms coincide with those of government schools.

School hours

08:00 – 12:00 for Yellow, Blue and Red Groups

07:45 – 12:30 for Grade Rs

There will be a teacher to receive children from 7:15. Parents are requested to hand their children over to the teacher and on no account must they be dropped off in the car park. We insist on punctuality because children arriving late disrupt the class as they take time to settle. Children feel insecure when left at school long after their peers have gone home.

Requisites

Each child must bring the following:

- 1 A hat, plus a spare change of clothing to be kept in the school bag
- 2 A small photograph of your child for the birthday charts
- 3 A lunch box and water bottle that is small enough to easily fit into the school bag. (Please no cooler boxes)
- 4 Wet wipes, tissues & hand wash
- 5 Nappies and extra wet wipes for those still toilet training

Morning snack

A healthy morning snack consisting of a sandwich, water and piece of fruit should be brought along daily. No sweets, biscuits, chips, cake or fizzy drinks will be allowed. All lunch boxes and water bottles must be marked with your child's name.

Clothing

Clothing must be simple and suitable for all-round play activities. Fastenings and buttons should be sensible and easily accessible in order that the child may achieve independence. All shoes and clothing must be clearly marked with your child's name.

Nappies

During the month leading up to your child's 3rd birthday, we encourage you to send them to school without wearing a nappy, as they should be out of nappies by the time they turn three. This may seem daunting, but we do believe that children will be ready for this next step by then.

Illness

In the interest of health, children suffering from coughs, colds or other illnesses must remain at home until they have completely recovered. Please notify the school in the event that your child becomes ill.

Toys

Children are not to bring their own toys to school.

Communication

All newsletters and important matters are communicated to parents via our So-High Notices WhatsApp group. The number is 079 496 6902.

There is also a WhatsApp group for each class which is administered by the class mom.

Aftercare

Aftercare is available daily from 12:00pm until 4:30pm.

Contact Angela Backeberg - 072 561 4821 or angbackeberg@hotmail.com

In School activities

Included as part of our weekly programme:

- Little Quavers Music
- Sugar Dance Movement

Extra-curricular activities

- Playball
- Garvz
- Grow Learning Support - Craft Club
- Ballet



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