



Arbor Primary School

"Aequitas - Fairness to All"

13 November 2023

Dear Parents

A.G.M. 7 NOVEMBER 2023 AND SCHOOL FEES FOR 2024

The SGB and School Management Team thanks all parents who attended our AGM on Tuesday evening. Once again, we achieved a record quorum with 328 parents at the meeting!!! Well done Arbor Parents for the phenomenal support you are giving to the SGB, SMT, educators, maintenance/administration teams, and most importantly, your children.

In his report, Mr Arentsen, the Principal, concentrated on Arbor's achievements in 2023. Mr Arentsen said that Arbor's 50th Birthday will be remembered as an eventful year. He discussed the learners' achievements on the sport fields and culturally. He said that the School Concert was delightful. Mr Arentsen appealed to parents who may be able to assist the school to secure the park next to Arbor Primary. He was also proud to announce that Arbor will introduce Coding and Robotics in 2024 from Grade R to Grade 7. Resolute Education, Arbor's service provider for Coding and Robotics were present at the AGM showcasing their educational systems.

Mr Mdlalose said that he was honoured to address the parents as the Chairperson of a remarkable institution. He noted that the dedicated educators strive to promote a holistic education that extends beyond the classroom. Also, despite growing challenges, Arbor has shown resilience. In his report he elaborated on several major projects that were completed in 2023:

- Extra carports and paving
- Bathroom upgrades for learners
- Pumped Water Storage system
- Solar Power system
- Staff Room upgrade and construction of additional office block

The Financial Report was delivered by Mr Corrado. He said that the school leadership, educators, administrative staff, SGB members, parent volunteers, school maintenance and cleaning teams all contribute to ensuring that Arbor learners receive the best in education, extra mural activities, mentorship, and facilities. Furthermore, he said that Post-Covid and Macro economic challenges have impacted Arbor's financial resources and the school had to throttle back on certain aspects of the School Development Plan. Unbudgeted costs such as the Solar Power project forced Arbor to dip into financial reserves.

Non-repayment of School Fees is a great concern. Prioritising children's and giving them a sound education should be non-negotiable. Therefore, the SGB had resolved to appoint a third party, Debt Collection Agency to collect outstanding School Fees. The SGB is also exploring improving the school's financial software. Enhanced financial reporting will assist with managing the debt. He concluded by saying that Arbor could compete with the best private schools at a fraction of the cost if all parents did the right thing and paid School Fees.

Ash Street, Northmead Ext. 4, Benoni, 1501

P.O. Box 12117, Benoryn, 1504

☎ 011 849 4227 / 8

✉ info@arbor-primary.co.za 🌐 www.arbor-primary.co.za

Thereafter, Mr Mdlalose presented ten resolutions to the parents, and they were all unanimously approved. Therefore, in terms of the resolutions passed, the school fee structure for 2024 is as follows:

SCHOOL FEES 2024

School fees per learner for 2024 will be R 23,320.00 per annum. This amount is due and payable on 1 January 2024 and may be paid in full by 31 January 2024 or in eleven EQUAL monthly instalments of R 2,120.00 from 1 January 2024 to 1 November 2024.

The following discount options were approved:

- Discount of 10% or R2,332.00 to be granted to parents who pay school fees for 2024 in full settlement by 31 January 2024. The discounted amount to be paid is R20,988.00. However, parents paying by Debit/Credit Card will receive 7,5% discount due to bank charges incurred by the school on these transactions. **Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT's) are the preferred method of payment.**
- Parents who wish to pay school fees in full settlement by 31 March 2024 and receive 10% discount, must make a written request to the school by 31 January 2024. Furthermore, parents must pay school fees for January and February 2024 and pay the total discounted amount of R20,988 by 31 March 2024. If no written pledge is received and no payments are received in January and February 2024, parents will receive Letters of Demand after 7 February 2024. Parents paying by Debit/or Credit Card will receive 7,5% discount.
- Discount of 5% to be granted to parents who want to pay School fees in January 2024 for half the year from January to June 2024. A further 5% discount will be granted to parents who pay school fees in July 2024 for the remainder of the year i.e., July to November 2024. The discount value to be granted is R1,166.00 (R 583.00 x 2), and the school fees to be paid after discount is R22,154.00. Parents paying by Debit/Credit Card will receive 2,5% discount.
- Furthermore, parents paying school fees by Debit order are entitled to a discount of R10.00 per month, per learner debit order. The total discount for debit orders is R110.00 per annum. **Debit orders are also a preferred method of payment.**

OTHER SCHOOL INCOME AND LEARNER REQUIREMENTS:

Stationery 2024: The school will provide essential stationery from the LTSM budget granted by the Gauteng Department of Education. Additional Stationery must be purchased by parents from Waltons Stationers or other suppliers. Letters have been sent to parents regarding stationery requirements.

End of Term events are also included in the school fee structure: These events include Water Sports and Soap Box Derby.

Fundraising: The school will notify parents in advance, regarding fundraising events for 2024.

Therefore, we advise that School Fees may be paid as follows:

Debit Order:

This is a preferred method of payment whereby the school initiates the payment from your bank account upon completion of a Debit Order Authorisation (obtained from the office). Debit orders run from February to December due to administration considerations. Parents are given a monthly rebate of R 10.00 if they pay by debit order. Therefore, school fees will be R 2,110.00 per month for parents on Debit Order.

PLEASE NOTE THAT DEBIT ORDERS ARE AUTOMATICALLY ADJUSTED EACH YEAR AND CONTINUE FROM YEAR TO YEAR. PLEASE ADVISE THE OFFICE IF YOU DECIDE TO PAY YOUR SCHOOL FEES IN FULL SO THAT WE DO NOT DEDUCT THE DEBIT ORDER FROM YOUR ACCOUNT.

Internet Payments & Cash Payments into the School's Bank Account:

Payments may be made into the Arbor Primary School bank account. The bank details are:

ABSA BRANCH: Lakeside Mall

ACCOUNT NO:4051210458

BRANCH CODE: 632005

All payments must have your account number (as it appears on your School Fees Statement) or your child's name and surname as a reference.

CASH PAYMENTS:

The school does not accept cash payments for the following reasons:

- *Criminal safety risk to learners and staff if the school is robbed.*
- *High insurance and bank charges associated with depositing cash.*

Credit Card Payments

The school has credit card facilities in the school office. Parents are requested to make an appointment with Mrs Lourens if they wish to pay by credit card.

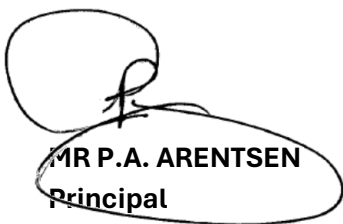
We would like to remind parents of the following:

Arbor Primary is a Section 21, fee paying school in terms of the South African School's Act. **Therefore, school fees are compulsory and are regarded as a statutory payment.** The Act stipulates that, biological parents, or legal guardians, regardless of their marital status, are liable for school fees. Parents who can't afford school fees may apply in writing for an exemption from payment of school fees. The exemption is based on affordability and is calculated using the formula determined by the Department of Education.

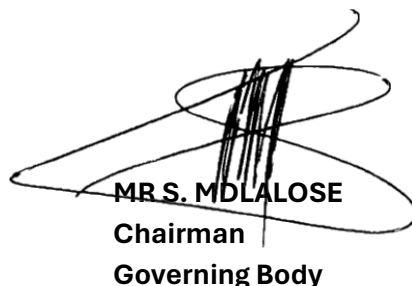
Parents who wish to apply for Exemption from School Fees for 2024 can contact the School Office in January 2024. Parents **may not collect** application forms from the school office **without an appointment**. All applications for Exemptions must be submitted to the school before 31 March 2024. Applications for Exemption from School Fees for 2023 are closed.

The Governing Body and Executive of Arbor Primary School would once again like to thank all our parents who do support the school and prioritise education.

Thanking you,



MR P.A. ARENTSEN
Principal



MRS. MDLALOSE
Chairman
Governing Body



MRS. CORRADO
Finance Chairman
Governing Body