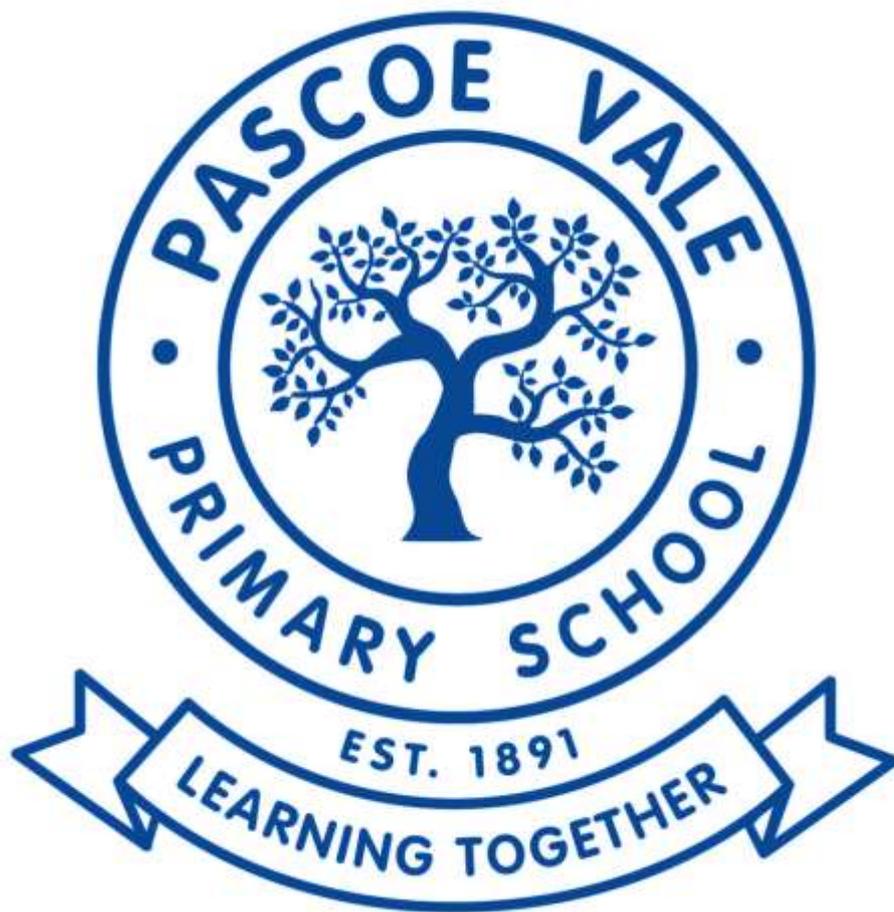


# **PARENT INFORMATION BOOKLET 2020**



**PRINCIPAL: Anne Naughton**

**Pascoe Vale Primary School  
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Dear Parents,

**Welcome to Pascoe Vale Primary School.**

At Pascoe Vale Primary School, we realise that starting school is an important event in the lives of children and their families. It is the first step in many years of schooling for your child. So, it is vital we do all we can to create a smooth and positive transition.

We have high expectations for your child's education. We share these expectations with you and other family members.

Your child's potential will be best achieved when home and school work together. The development of this home/school partnership is important for children to learn and to be successful at school and in life.

This booklet is written to provide information about our school and its practices for new families.

We will be pleased to answer any of your questions or provide assistance if required.

The booklet also contains information about how parents might best prepare their child for beginning school and the experiences they are likely to encounter.

We hope all children and their families have a very positive and rewarding association with Pascoe Vale Primary School.

Yours sincerely,

***Anne Naughton***  
***Principal***



## SCHOOL PROFILE

At Pascoe Vale Primary School, our vision is to provide quality, stimulating programs in a safe, collaborative and supportive environment. Students are encouraged to become 21<sup>st</sup> century thinkers, problem solvers and reflective learners who are flexible in their approach to education. Our programs aim to develop behaviours that encourage a healthy, balanced lifestyle, lifelong learning and responsible citizenship in a multi-cultural society.

**Our school values are: Responsibility, Respect, Resilience, and Inclusion.**



Pascoe Vale Primary School, established in 1891, has a proud tradition of education in the city of Moreland and has a strong community spirit.

The school student population has experienced significant growth over the last 4 years, with 2019 enrolments at 573 students. There is an indication of continued growth in the coming years. To manage the size of the school, in 2019 student enrolments are only being accepted from families for which Pascoe Vale Primary is their closest school. We have a vibrant and diverse community, with 39 languages spoken at the school. The age and experience profile of staff reflects the employment of a number of graduate staff in recent years, to compliment and be mentored by more experienced staff.

The school comprises of four permanent buildings, as well as five relocatable buildings (ten classrooms). We have specialist areas for Visual/Performing Arts, Italian (Language other than English LOTE), Library and Physical Education (PE). In 2018 a new building, The Pascoe Vale Community Hub, was constructed for PE and Performing Arts, as well as housing our Outside of School Hours Care Program (OSHC) and other community events. The school provides a mix of traditional and flexible learning spaces. A new building project is commencing in October 2019 which includes a new administration block and modernisation of the heritage building.

All classrooms in the school are air conditioned and heated. The outdoor area has a well balanced blend of active and passive recreational areas, enhanced by shaded zones and landscaping. An artificial turf playing area and vegetable gardens offer the students alternative places to play. The Children's Friendship Garden includes a bike/scooter shed, outdoor classrooms, vegetable gardens, lizard lounge, outdoor chess and a giant snake. We have a new multi-age play ground and a number of pieces of equipment around the playground, such as a blackboard, talking tubes and newly built cubby house. We are currently undertaking a redevelopment of the oval, ensuring the best possible provision for the learning and play opportunities for the students.

The school is proud of the welcoming and supportive relationship between teachers, parents and children. Staff are dedicated to the school and the children. Parents are encouraged to participate fully in their child's education. We build the students' pride in their school and a genuine respect for their teachers, parents and each other.

The school implements the curriculum using a range of teaching and learning strategies, which cater for the specific needs of every child, at each stage of their schooling.

Teachers plan in area teams having a joint responsibility for the learning of all students in the area. Teachers are very focussed on evidence and data when constructing learning intentions and activities for groups of students. The staff is actively involved in developing comprehensive pedagogical practices in the application of the continuum of learning based on the Victorian Curriculum both as a group and individually in a broad range of areas, with a continued emphasis on Literacy, Numeracy, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and maths).

At Pascoe Vale Primary School, we believe in all children reaching their full potential. Learning is differentiated within classes to allow all children to work at achieving their full potential. We communicate with parents and guardians about the classroom events and student learning via Class Dojo and student progress in Learning Tasks are reported regularly via the school Compass online portal. Students all receive a mid and end of year report. Student Led Conferences Years 1-6 in June allow students and parents to share their learning and future goals. Foundation students have a parent teacher meeting at the same time.

Pascoe Vale Primary School has implemented a Student Engagement & Wellbeing Program for all students called the SEEL Program – Social, Emotional and Educational Learning, as well as intervention programs. We have a focus on student social and emotional wellbeing through our (SEEL) program including CASEA, (Early intervention for students experiencing mental health difficulties) respectful relationships and a range of programs across Foundation to grade 6.

Additional programs to complement learning include: Visual & Performing Arts, Swimming, Excursions, Camps (grades 3-6), Inter-School Sport, Grade 3-6 Leadership Program, Special Activity Days, Creative Music Program, Sustainability Learning and Peer Support. Computers, Surface Pros, iPads, and screens are used in the classrooms to enhance teaching and learning.

Students from Grade 3 – 6 have participated in the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) program. In this area, there are also banks of lap tops and tablet devices. Foundation to Grade 2 students have the use of iPads and surface go's The focus for 2020 will be to continue embedding a quality eLearning Program from Foundation to 6, across all areas of the curriculum.

The school offers Outside School Hours Care (OSHC), operating mornings between 7am to 8.45am and afternoons 3.30pm to 6.00pm.

We value parent and family input into the school. Parents are involved in many ways such as classroom help in literacy or numeracy, sport, school banking, buildings and grounds, playgroup, Parents and Friends Association and on sub committees such as finance, welfare and wellbeing, curriculum and building and grounds.

The provision of quality education for students is our major focus. We are committed to the preservation of the traditions and culture of the school, combined with innovative teaching and learning strategies, complemented by excellent resources and facilities.



## **Child Safety Commitment Pascoe Vale Primary School**

Pascoe Vale Primary School:

- Has zero tolerance for child abuse
- Actively works to listen to and empower children
- Has systems to protect children from abuse, and will take all allegations and concerns very seriously and responds to them consistently in line with the organisation's policies and procedures
- Is committed to promoting physical, emotional and cultural safety for all children
- Is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment that is accepting of all identities

### **Child Safe Officer - Lisa Audino**

The following policies are on the school website at [www.pvps.vic.edu.au/index.php/policies/school](http://www.pvps.vic.edu.au/index.php/policies/school)

- Child Safe Policy (Child Safe Standard 2)
- Code of Conduct (Child Safe Standard 3)
- Child Safety Responding and Reporting Policy and Procedures (Child Safe Standard 5)

## *Pascoe Vale Primary School -127 Years of Excellence*



### **TERM DATES FOR 2020**

- Term One:** Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020: Teachers return for Curriculum Day-no students attend school  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020: Curriculum Day-no students attend school  
**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020:** Grades 1 to 6 commence  
**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020:** Foundation students commence school and finish at 12.30pm. Foundation students will not attend school on Wednesdays until the week commencing 9/3/2020. These Wednesdays will be used for Foundation Testing with individual student appointments. Times will be allocated to parents.  
Last Day of Term 1 is Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020
- Term Two:** Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- Term Three:** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020
- Term Four:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### **CURRICULUM DAYS**

In 2020, all teachers in government schools will begin school on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January. This day is a curriculum day – **a student free day**. Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January will also be a curriculum day- **a student free day**. All children will start as per term dates above. Schools will then have the choice as to when to use the other two curriculum days (student free days).

#### **HOURS OF SCHOOL**

<b>Gates open- No supervision</b>	<b>8:30am</b>
<b>Playground supervision</b>	<b>8:45am - 9:00am</b>
<b>Session 1:</b>	<b>9:00am - 10:00am</b>
<b>Session 2:</b>	<b>10:00am - 11:00am</b>
<b>Morning Recess</b>	<b>11:00am - 11:20am</b>
<b>Session 3:</b>	<b>11:20am - 12:20pm</b>
<b>Eating Lunch</b>	<b>12.20pm - 12.30pm</b>
<b>Lunch Recess</b>	<b>12.30pm - 1.00pm</b>
<b>Session 4:</b>	<b>1.00pm – 2.00pm</b>
<b>Afternoon Recess</b>	<b>2.00pm – 2.30pm</b>
<b>Session 5:</b>	<b>2:30pm - 3:30pm</b>
<b>Dismissal:</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>
<b>Playground supervision</b>	<b>3:30pm - 3:45pm</b>
<b>School gates locked</b>	<b>3:45pm</b>

Gates are opened at 8.30am. However, teachers will **not** be on duty until 8:45am to 9.00am. Children should not be brought to school prior to 8:45am and left unsupervised. School gates will be locked at 9.10am and all entries and exits need to be through the school reception area.

Gates are unlocked at 3.15pm and teachers will be on duty from 3.30pm to 3.45pm, when gates are locked. Children not picked up by 3.45pm will need to go to Outside School Hours Care (OSHC). It is important to enrol online for the OSHC program in case of emergencies. Your child cannot attend OSHC if they have not been enrolled.

Children are supervised in the playground by teachers during all recesses and lunch times.

To ensure the security and safety of the children the following procedures need to be taken: -  
Parents must report to the School Office if they wish to collect children early or if they wish to see their child during school hours.

**“EARLY RELEASE”** must be completed by parents/guardians at reception and your child will be called to the office if you need to pick up your child early from school. No child is allowed to leave the school grounds unless accompanied by a parent.

**“LATE ARRIVAL”** must be signed in at reception by parents/guardians if your child is late to school. Parents of students who arrive to school late more than three times during a week will be notified.

Arriving late affects your child’s learning and disrupts other students in the class. Please try and keep appointments to outside school hours where possible.

Visitors, tradespersons and volunteers to the school will need to sign in through the office and be issued with a **“VISITORS PASS”**.

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

The school uniform at Pascoe Vale Primary School is compulsory.  
All items of clothing must be clearly marked with the child’s name.

### **SCHOOL COLOURS: ROYAL BLUE, NAVY BLUE & GOLD**

#### **SUMMER**

Navy Rugby or Gaberdine Shorts

Royal Blue short sleeve Polo Shirt

Blue/White/Gold Checked Dress

Navy Skorts

Broad Rimmed & Bucket Hat – Royal Blue

Royal Blue School Bag

#### **WINTER**

Navy Tracksuit Pants

Navy Fly Front Trousers

Royal Blue Polar Fleece Vest

Royal Blue Bomber Jacket

Winter Checked Skirt / Tunic

Royal Blue long sleeve polo

*Uniforms are available from the Uniform Shop located at PSW Uniform Shop  
2/283 Rex Road, Campbellfield. Ph: 9303 7845*

*Shop Hours – Vary from term to term. Please see website for opening hours.*

*[www.psw.com.au](http://www.psw.com.au)*

- **Shoes:** Only sport runners and black school shoes (lace up or Velcro) are to be worn. No other footwear including sandals or open toe shoes are allowed.
- **Jewellery:** Jewellery is **NOT** to be worn, with the exception of ear studs (one pair only).
- **Hair:** Shoulder length hair will need to be tied back
- **No leggings or netball skirts. If your child needs to wear tights for religious reasons, then these must be navy blue.**
- **No DENIM is to be worn.**
- **We are a sunsmart school therefore students are required to wear hats from the start of the school year until 30<sup>th</sup> April and from mid August to the end of the school year.**

## SUNSMART GUIDELINES

Pascoe Vale Primary School has adopted the Sunsmart Policy.

It is compulsory for all children to wear Royal Blue broad brimmed hats or bucket hats from mid August to the 30<sup>th</sup> April each year. Parents are encouraged to apply sunscreen at home and to supply sunscreen for your child at school.

All classrooms have a container of sunscreen, which can be applied by the student before morning recess and lunch.

## ATTENDANCE AND SICKNESS

It is an expectation that your child attend school each day. Some absences are impossible to avoid. Genuine illness, bereavement etc, are examples of acceptable reasons for a student being absent. However, every time a child is late for school or absent from school, the **student's learning progress is disrupted**. Most teaching is sequential – what is taught and learned today is a foundation which helps students to understand and master what is taught tomorrow. It is usually harder to catch up on work missed, than to complete it when it is being taught in class.

To avoid disadvantaging the student, parents should minimise absences by:

- Arranging doctor and dentist's appointments out of school hours.
- Develop in your child the habit of being on time to school each day by making sure they get there on time – no excuses!!!
- Ensuring that personal shopping trips for your child occurs out of school hours.
- Not allowing your child to remain at home for minor / frivolous reasons.
- Arrange for birthday celebrations etc. to occur out of school hours.



Children are to be excluded from school if they have any of the following illnesses:

- Measles
- School Sores
- Chicken Pox
- Mumps
- German Measles
- Hepatitis
- Whooping Cough
- Head Lice (until treated)



### **MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

If your child suffers from a **medical condition** such as asthma, anaphylaxis, diabetes or other, you will need to have your doctor complete a **Medical Care/Action Plan** for the school. All children with asthma must supply the school with an **Asthma Action plan** completed by your doctor and ensure appropriate medication is available at school. A register of children with asthma and their treatment is kept at the school, along with any medication. If medication for other medical conditions is required to be administered at school, parents must complete a Medication Authority Form and provide this together with the medication to the school office. Please contact the school office if you require further information.

### **WRITTEN NOTIFICATION**

If your child is absent from school, we require a written explanation for the absence. This can be given to the class teacher or preferably entered into our communication portal, Compass. Notification from parents/guardians is required for the following:

- If a child is absent
- If a child is required to leave school early
- If a child requires medication
- If a child is unable to participate in all school activities
- If there is a change in home address, telephone number or emergency contact numbers
- When another adult other than the parent/guardian is collecting the child during school hours

### **PARENTS NOTIFIED**

Parents will be notified in the case of:

- Injury or illness at school
- Regular lateness/absence of students
- Serious misbehavior
- Excursion information
- Sports arrangements
- Loss or damage to books or equipment
- Concerns regarding learning/progress

## **COMPASS COMMUNICATION PORTAL**

PVPS uses Compass for all parent communications. Parents receive log in details for the portal to enable access to their child's information including events, attendance, learning tasks, reports and more. All events need to be consented and paid for via the Compass portal. All attendance notes and approvals also need to be entered/updated on Compass.

### **CLASS DOJO**

PVPS also uses Class Dojo for communication and updates/reminders for families about learning activities and experiences, special event days and generally what's happening at school. Only PVPS parents/carers are connected to this application and it is a great place to view pictures of your students and class/school activities as well as stay up to date with what's going on. Please ask your child's teacher if you need any assistance with Dojo.



### **CURRICULUM**

We offer a comprehensive range of educational programs based on the Victorian Curriculum, catering to the needs of all students. Our policies and programs cater for all primary year levels. An emphasis is placed on developing literacy, numeracy and 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning with a digital and STEM focus. We aim to develop the whole child and are committed to the Social, Emotional and Educational Learning (SEEL) of our students.

### **VICTORIAN CURRICULUM F-10**

#### The Arts

- Dance
- Drama
- Media Arts
- Music
- Visual Arts
- Visual Communication Design

#### English

#### Health and Physical Education

#### The Humanities

- Civics and Citizenship
- Economics and Business
- Geography
- History

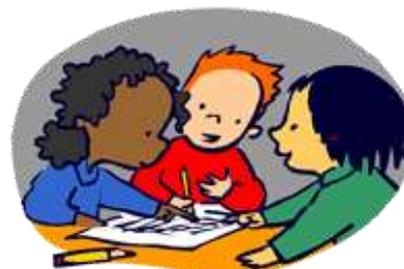
#### Languages

#### Mathematics

#### Science

#### Technologies

- Design and Technologies
- Digital Technologies



### **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

- Perceptual Motor Program (PMP) (Foundation)
- Literacy Intervention
- Numeracy Intervention

- Enrichment Program
- English as an Additional Language (EAL) provision in the classroom
- Peer Support Program (Year 3 & Year 5)
- Swimming (designated grade levels)
- School Camps (Years 3 to 6)
- Night at school (Year 2)
- Transition Programs (Foundation to 6)
- Inter School Sports (Year 5 & Year 6)
- Creative Music and Band (Extra curricular)
- Outside School Hours Care Program (OSHC)
- Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD)
- Excursions and Whole School Activity Days
- Leadership Program (Year 5 & Year 6)
- Better Buddy Program (Foundation & Year 5/6)
- Extra Curricula programs at lunchtime
- Sustainability
- Personalised Learning Program
- Confident Kids Program

### **EXCURSIONS**

We strongly encourage children to participate in all excursions and activities. Throughout the year the children will have excursions which are a vital part of the curriculum and form part of the learning development by broadening the children's experiences. *No child leaves the school without parental permission.* Every effort is taken to ensure the safety of children so they enjoy and participate fully in the event.

Any time children go on an excursion, parents must complete permission forms via Compass. Most monies payable to the school are collected via the Compass payment facility.

### **CAMPS SPORTS & EXCURSION FUND (CSEF)**

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school excursions, camps and sporting activities. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. In 2020 the CSEF amount for primary school students is \$125 per child. Parents will be able to apply for CSEF in Term 1.

### **PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS & STUDENT LED CONFERENCES**

In February, you will be given an opportunity to meet your child's teacher. Meet the Teacher interviews are conducted for Foundation at the assessment appointment. Parent/Teacher interviews are held mid year regarding your child's progress. Meet and Greet and Student Led Conferences are for students in years 1 to 6. You will be able to arrange these conferences through our communication portal Compass.

Parents are welcome to arrange to meet with teachers to discuss any matters of concern throughout the year. (These will be held at a suitable time for both teachers and parents) Student progress (learning tasks) are communicated to parents/guardians several times a term via our communication portal

Compass. Reporting against the Victorian Curriculum standards is issued mid year and at the end of the year and is also available through Compass.

## **OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL HOURS PROGRAM**

*Operated by Pascoe Vale Primary School*

**Hours of Operation:** *Monday to Friday 7.00 am to 8.45 am and 3:30pm to 6:00pm*

Pascoe Vale Primary School offers an Outside of School Hours Program. We have National Childcare Accreditation and Quality Assurance. Fees are reasonable and many families are eligible for fee assistance through Centrelink.

Please feel free to speak to the After School Care Director on 0407 805 250, who would be more than happy to discuss fees and the program with you. Information regarding the program and how to register is available online through the schools website [www.pvps.edu.au](http://www.pvps.edu.au) under the OSHC tab.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Emergency Forms**

It is essential that the information on these forms is accurate, as they are needed when a child is ill. To update information a new form is issued each year. Please fill in the form and return it promptly to the school. If there is a change of address, telephone number or emergency contacts during the year, please advise the school immediately.

### **Lost Property**

Label all clothes, together with things like lunch boxes and school bags.

Lost property is located in the Sick Bay area in the double brick building. If belongings are lost at school, please check your child's classroom the following day and the lost property box.

### **Lunches**

All students eat lunch at 12.20pm in the classroom. Please ensure that names are on the lunch box, pack play lunch and lunch separately. As part of our sustainability program, we encourage NUDE FOOD- lunches and snacks in containers rather than wrappers. In 2020 we have had awards for grades with the least waste.

Remember ***NO GLASS BOTTLES, LOLLIPOPS OR SOFT DRINKS ALLOWED.*** NO food is allowed in the playground and there is NO sharing of food due to food allergies. We encourage healthy eating and children have access to water at all times. If children bring a lolly bag to have for birthdays etc, we will ask that the children take and eat these lollies at home.

**Lunch Order Day** is Wednesday; however this will need to be pre-ordered on a Tuesday, by placing a lunch order in a paper bag in the container in the classroom. A price list is available from the school's website. The shop will deliver lunches to the school on Wednesday. All lunch orders must come to school on the Tuesday morning. **It is not permitted for parents to order directly from the shop.**

\*\*Foundation students will not be able to access this until they commence going to school on Wednesdays.



## **SAFETY**

Does your child know his/her own name, address and possibly their telephone number well enough to repeat it when necessary?

Train you child in good traffic habits. Show him/her the safest way to school and how to use the various crossings correctly. Your own example in using the traffic lights outside the school is most important to your child.

Warn your child not to leave the school grounds during the day and not to accept lifts in cars from strangers.

Take care that your child does not bring articles to school which may cause accidents, e.g. Glass containers, toy or articles with jagged edges or sharp points, pocket knives, fireworks, toy guns, bows and arrows etc.

**\*\*PARENTS MUST NOT PARK IN THE STAFF CAR PARK IN CUMBERLAND ROAD FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL CHILDREN\*\*.**

*Please obey the parking restrictions around the school and be courteous to our neighbours*

## **PARENTS & FRIENDS OF PVPS**

There is a high level of parental involvement throughout the school. All parents are most welcome to participate in the effective running of our school.

The **Parents and Friends Association (PFA)** meets regularly with a view to fund raising and social events and providing activities for the children to enjoy. We have class representatives and they form the core of the association. In 2018, the events that have been organized were Mother's and Father's Day stalls, bake stalls, Trivia night, Bunnings BBQ and special Lunch Days. Being part of the P.F.A is a great way to meet other parents from the school.

Everyone is welcome to contribute to School Council, P.F.A, excursions, classroom programs, literacy support and on special event days.

**School Council**, which is made up of both teachers and parents of the school, meets monthly. We also have 5 sub committees including:

- *Social, Emotional, Educational Learning (SEEL) Committee*
- *Finance Committee*
- *Facilities and Planning Committee*
- *Curriculum Committee*
- *Outside of School Hours Care (OSHC) Committee*



**HOW CAN YOU HELP AT SCHOOL?**

### **Gardening, Maintenance**

See Doug Skate.

Are you able to help with gardening and maintenance chores around the school?

We welcome any assistance in helping to maintain our grounds.

If you are able to help, there are some tasks that always need addressing. Volunteers to assist in general weeding, leaf collection, sweeping of pathways and watering are always welcome.

### **Library & Resources Assistance**

(approx 1 hour per month) – see Kerri Cicolani (Library Technician – Mondays & Tuesdays)

Perhaps you may be able to help with laminating resources or covering our library

### **Classroom Reading**

(approx 1 to 1.5 hours per week) – see your child's teacher.

Parents who are able to participate in our morning reading programs are most welcome. This time can be used to help teachers change children's reading books, and/or spend some time listening to children read.

If you are able to offer time and skills, perhaps you can ask your child's teacher if they require any additional assistance with school activities. Costumes, class activities and sports days are just some examples.

*Thank you to all those parents and friends who assist our Primary School. We are very proud of our Primary School. Volunteer work such as those mentioned, fosters a wonderful sense of community spirit, which our children benefit from in so many ways.*

**A Working With Children Check is required if you are helping out at the school. You will also be asked to read, acknowledge and sign our volunteer guidelines. To apply for a Working with Children Check please visit the website [www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au)**

*Further details are available from Sharon or Claire in the school office.*

## **PREPARATION FOR SCHOOL**

**At school, children will have to cope with their feelings in a variety of situations, for example, when their parents leave them, when they are not getting attention, or when they find tasks difficult.**

When your child is ready to start school, there are many things you can do to help him/her settle in happily. Here are some ideas:

- It helps if the child is able to separate easily from the parents. When parents tell a child that they are going to leave but will be back, and then keep their promise, the child learns to accept separation.
- Talk about school and the routine.
- It will help if you prepare your child as well as you can, and show that you believe he/she will manage the new challenges.
- Allow your child to take part in any transition to school activities organised by your kindergarten, child care centre and the school. The school transition will allow your child to see the school play grounds, classrooms and get a sense of the environment in action. Kindergarten and child care centre staff are also a good place to start if you have any questions about your child starting school.
- Show your child where the school is in relation to home. Walk there a few times if possible, even if you intend to drive to school.
- Show your child where you will pick him/her up at the end of the day.

- Make sure he/she has clothes and shoes they can manage; that they can unwrap their lunch and that they knows how to ask to go to the toilet.
- Read a story about a child starting school, or talk about when you started school (as long as it's a happy story).
- Teach you child about good manners, eg saying 'please' and 'thank you'.
- Plan to take your child to school on the first day.
- If your child is worried about starting school, ask them what would help, e.g. who should take them to school, where he/she wants to say goodbye, what he/she wants to do after school. Having some control over what happens, helps with fears. You might tell them what you will be doing while they are at school.

### **IT IS HELPFUL IF YOUR CHILD**

- recognises his/her written name in English
- can sit and listen to a story
- listens to the teacher and follows instructions
- joins into activities and games
- can dress himself/herself- for visiting the toilet, putting clothing on and off as the temperature changes.
- take some responsibility for his/her belongings
- attend to his/her own toilet needs, including washing hands after using the toilet
- put things away after using them
- easily unpack a lunch box and eat foods in the correct order
- use a handkerchief or tissue correctly
- Make sure your child develops good bedtime routines.

### **WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL NEED**

- A school bag of suitable size (is available from the school Uniform Shop).
- A plastic lunch box, with lunch and smaller snacks packed separately (try to keep the packaged food to a minimum. We encourage 'nude food')
- A drink bottle filled with water. Cordial and sugary drinks are not recommended as they can negatively affect your child's concentration and ability to learn.
- A healthy fruit/vegetable snack for 10 o'clock 'Refuel Time'
- **A change of clothing in case of accidents (falling in the mud, or a toilet accident) socks, underwear, etc**
- A school hat from mid August to 30<sup>th</sup> April each year.
- Art smock



## **HELPING WITH LITERACY DEVELOPMENT**

Show an interest in reading. Let your child see you reading.

- Read signs, recipes, junk mail, packets, boxes and other household items with your child.
- Ask the child to retell the story instead of reading it all the way through. Perhaps the child could make up a new ending for the book.
- Simply share in your child's love of a favorite book by listening to him/her re-read something they really enjoy.
- Join the local library. Regularly borrow books about interests and hobbies or things seen on television.
- Give books or children's magazines for gifts or treats.
- Choose books with rhyme, rhythm, repetition and predictable ideas.
- Encourage care of books. Establish a space for books to be kept when not in use.
- Tell stories. They may be traditional tales, memories from your childhood, stories in verse, funny anecdotes and so on.
- If you are able to, read and tell stories in other languages.
- Provide pencils and paper for children to create their own books or for drawing and writing about their favorite books.
- Let your child see you writing.
- Get them to help you write letters, greeting cards, postcards and shopping lists.
- Help them to recognize their name and write it.

Talk to your child; talk about what you're doing and places you've visited. Giving the children the names of places and explaining events is continually expanding their vocabulary and understanding.

## **HELPING WITH NUMERACY DEVELOPMENT**

Early preparation for mathematics occurs with parents and families.

Help children count a few objects such as a number of plates to be put on a table, or the number of buttons on a cardigan.

Talk to children about time, for example "How many sleeps until your next birthday?" "Daddy will be home in half an hour". "When that TV program is finished,...".

Let the child find out what they can buy with a few coins.

Talk to children as they are building with blocks, for example "Can you make it bigger?" "Find some more blue blocks", and "Is that as tall as the first one you made?". Let children play with water, sand, dough, etc so they can learn how much will fit into different sized containers.

Please go to the Department of Education Victoria for tips for starting school:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/going-to-school/Pages/tips-starting-school.aspx>