

*Strathaird  
Primary School*

*Prep  
Orientation  
Booklet*



*Strathaird Primary School  
Sherwood Rd  
Narre Warren South*

*9705 3800*

**2021**

You are your child's first teacher. You have taught your child to walk, talk, eat and play. Beginning at school does not mean passing on this valuable task to others.

At Strathaird Primary School, we regard Prep as the beginning of a special partnership between parents and teachers, to provide children with an exciting, fulfilling and challenging lifelong love of learning.

This booklet is aimed at providing you with the information you will need to ensure your child's first days at school are positive and enjoyable.

In Term 1, the school will run a session about helping your child to read at home. This will occur around the same time as the take-home reading program commences in the Prep classes.

Should you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

The Prep Team

# Orientation Day -7<sup>th</sup> December 2021

9:15 - 12 noon

We are very pleased to offer this day to provide a smooth school entry for your children. On this day, your child will have the opportunity to meet their teacher for 2022 along with their intended classmates. **Not to be missed!**



## Preparation for school

Your child will now be one of a group of children in a grade. They will be able to adjust better without undue distress if they are able to do all these things UNAIDED:

- Tie own laces or buckle sandals, or wear shoes with Velcro.
- Use a tissue or handkerchief.
- Put away playthings after use.
- Independent use of the toilet including wiping own bottom and remember to flush the toilet. Boys need to be accustomed to using urinals.
- Wash hands and face.
- Make a good attempt at taking off and putting on clothes.
- Never talk to or accept anything from strangers, and to know they must not go with a friend's parent without permission.
- Be aware of the correct way to use the crossing (with an adult).

## Day 1

Getting settled – The first day of school attendance for Prep students in 2022 is Friday Feb 4<sup>th</sup>.

To ensure all children settle quickly, please:

- guide them calmly in to the classroom
- help your child find where their locker is for their school bag (please don't unpack anything at this stage)
- get your child quietly settled onto one of the tasks set up in the room
- give your child a positive, happy farewell (sunglasses recommended for the teary) and leave as soon as possible.

\* If you have any problem with your child separating, wait until you get the teacher's attention. They will be able to support you with the best strategy. Often a quick, firm farewell is the most effective. Children are usually happily playing after a few minutes.

### *Day 2 and beyond.*

A bell will go at 8.50am – please wait until this goes before entering the building. The teacher will open the outside door for entry at this time.

Some children may be reluctant or hesitant – this is not unusual. Maintain your positive attitude, and once again, look for teacher support.

Children are taught the routines of the day such as what to do with their Reader, Communication Book and Lunch Orders.

Please encourage your child to take responsibility for these activities in the morning. It will support their growing sense of independence and increase their confidence.

### Parent Involvement

It will take a few weeks to settle into routines, but as teachers feel children are ready, parents will be invited to support the school as a Community Reading Helper. The Community Reading program relies on parent support and the more parents we have available to help out with this program, the more reading opportunities we will be able to provide for our

Prep students. More details about this program will be provided at the beginning of next year.

To be able to assist with any school activities (in the classroom, incursions and excursions) you will be required to have a 'Working with Children Check'. This is submitted on-line with the receipt taken to the post office for a free photograph to be taken. You may wish to organise it this year to ensure an early start next year.

### **Session Times:**

Children should arrive at school between: 8.45am - 8.55am

Morning session: 9.00am – 11.00am

Midday session: 11.30am – 12.45pm

Afternoon session: 1.30pm – 3.15pm

- Children have a fruit break during the day based on teacher discretion.

Please ensure your child has a small piece of fruit for these times (Please be aware there are no cutting facilities in the classroom so please have fruit already cut up and peeled).

The fruit break assists with maintaining energy and encourages good eating habits.

- Children are encouraged to have a **clear bottle of water** at school.
- Lunch will be eaten, supervised in the classroom, at 12.30pm.

Please be aware that children may not eat all their food, so make sure what you put in their lunch boxes is as nutritious as possible. Sweets, chips and cake should only be used as a treat.



### **TERM DATES 2022:**

**Term 1** 31<sup>st</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> February (S.E.A Testing Dates - no school)

4<sup>th</sup> of February – 8<sup>th</sup> April

**Term 2** 26<sup>th</sup> April to 24<sup>th</sup> June

**Term 3** 11<sup>th</sup> July to 16<sup>th</sup> September

**Term 4** 3<sup>rd</sup> October to 20<sup>th</sup> December

It is expected that children are at school unless they are ill.

Should you be planning holidays for 2022 we have provided you with the school terms so that you are aware of the dates that children are required at school.

### Pick Up

- Please ensure that you are on time to pick up your child.
- Please meet your child outside the classroom (at the outside door) after the teacher has released them. Teachers will not release children until they are collected by a family member.  
***Pick up may be from a designated area in the courtyard between the administration building and Prep rooms dependent on health advice.***

(Please advise the classroom teacher of any other pick-up arrangements you may have. E.g. older sibling picking up, after school care days, child to meet you at the stage, etc.)

NB: If someone other than a parent is collecting your child, please ensure both the class teacher and child knows who it will be.

*(A note is recommended for the class teacher or contact the office.)*

During the day we will:

- help your child unpack their school bags and lunches
- take your child on a tour of the school
- make regular toilet visits until your child gets into routine
- undertake some simple tasks that will help your child see school as a good place to be
- provide extra supervision for all Prep children during recess and lunchtime.

**Helpful hint** – a brightly coloured key ring or ribbon on your child's bag will help them to distinguish it from others.

# School Entry Interview

To assist with developing a program that meets the needs of the students beginning at Strathaird Primary school, we will be conducting an interview and doing some simple assessments of every Prep student.

This will take place during the first 4 days of school. If you attended the Prep Information Night in August, you will have filled in the green slip that asks you to provide your preferred date and time. Alternatively, you may have been given one of these to complete today. If you haven't filled in or returned this form, you can do so today at the end of the session.

On orientation day a pack will be sent home regarding your child's placement for 2022. This pack will contain a confirmation slip regarding your child's date and time. A text reminder will be sent a day or two prior to your appointment.

Children will then work with the class teacher for about 60 minutes undertaking the following assessment:

1. Early Numeracy Interview
2. English On Line
3. Letter Identification Assessment
4. Auditory Processing



After the assessment, the class teacher will briefly explain the take-home reading program with you and any other ways you may work together to support your child.

*NB: These are not tests. It allows us to be better able to cater for your child's needs.*

**Please bring your child's school hat, art smock and library bag when attending the SEA testing interview.**

All stationery supplies will be delivered to the classrooms in 2022. There will be no collection day.

## **Strathaird Primary School Quick Reference Guide**

**Canteen** – Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

(It is recommended children order all items through the QKR app rather than purchase over the counter.)

**Hats** – Navy Blue Wide-Brimmed Hats.

Must be worn until the 30<sup>th</sup> of April & begin wearing again in mid August.

**Assembly** – Is held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday beginning at approx. 2.45pm. It is designed to be a celebration and information session for the whole school community.

**Early pickup** – Children can only be collected early if parents have gone to the office and obtained an early leavers pass to hand to the classroom teacher.

**Medication** – All medication needs to be labelled with child's name and details of dosage. These need to be taken to the office and kept at sick bay for administration.

**Absences** – When a child is absent it is expected they are ill. You can notify this in various ways: Via the Sentral for Parents app, a phone call to the office, or a written note.

NB: All children who arrive late (after 9.00am), must be signed in by a parent at the office.

**School Crossing** – operates approximately between 8.30am and 9.05am and from 3.00pm and 3.35pm.

**Toys and valuables** – the school can take no responsibility for items brought to school. All show and tell items need to be clearly named.

**Lost Property** – named items will be returned to students. All clothing should be clearly labelled.