



# ARARAT WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

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#4720

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## FOUNDATION STUDENTS - INFORMATION

### HOURS

**COMMENCEMENT DATE – Staff return on Monday January 29 with students commencing on Thursday February 1, 2024**

Tuesday January 30 & Wednesday January 31 will be Student Assessment days. (Further information will be handed out later in the year regarding this). All students will return to school on Thursday February 1. Then for the remainder of February in Term 1, all Foundation students will attend school from 8.50am to 3.20pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. There will be NO school on Wednesdays for all of February. From March onwards, Foundation students will attend every day of the week.

### THE FIRST DAY

Getting off to a good start is a joint effort. It is natural for children to experience some concerns about school as well as excitement! If you have a positive attitude and look forward to the first day in school, your child will do the same.



Discuss any concerns about school with your child before the first day. Be positive. Be reassuring – say that everything will be all right. Do all you can to make your child happy and confident.

Show your support by encouraging your child to openly discuss his or her feelings about school with you and by meeting with the teacher to work out any concerns or discuss any questions you may have.

For the first days of school, please bring your child directly to his/her classroom. Experience has shown that if parents leave promptly after bringing their child to the classroom, the child's adjustment to the new setting is smoother. Your child will let you know when they are ready to come in unaccompanied.



### BUDDY SYSTEM

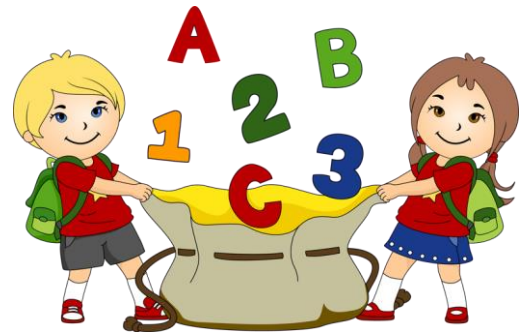
Each Grade 6 child is responsible for a Foundation child, and they offer support to the new Preps in the initial few weeks of school. Throughout the year the buddy system is used on a variety of occasions and the older children also gain from this experience.



## PREPARING FOR SCHOOL

Children beginning school have had varying experiences and are at varying stages of development. As a result, each child will have mastered different skills and have learned different things. However, there are certain basic things that children should know before beginning school:

- Speak clearly and confidently to other children and adults
- Eat lunch independently
- Use the toilet – washing hands afterwards
- Take off and put on jumpers, shoes, etc.
- Use hands confidently to paint, draw, pour water
- Sit quietly and listen to a short story or music
- Get along with other children – taking turns, sharing etc.
- Understand that they must respect things that belong to others – the school, their classmates
- Realise that they will need to share the teacher's attention with other children
- Leave their parents confidently
- Accept that they cannot always get their own way
- Be confident in themselves – talking to others – enjoying new experiences
- Accept responsibility for their own belongings (clearly naming articles assists children to locate their belongings)
- Work and play independently (encourage children to tackle things for themselves)
- Finish tasks, games, etc. – gaining satisfaction from completing them
- Enjoy listening to stories
- Understand a basic mathematical language – big, little, up, down, etc.
- Recognise their name when it is written down
- Enjoy creative experiences – drawing, painting, cutting and pasting
- Enjoy playing outside – running, jumping, hopping, climbing



## PARENTAL ASSISTANCE

We actively support, and encourage any assistance offered throughout the year, including: reading, classroom activities or assisting with curriculum related programs. All parents/caregivers that are interested in volunteering their time at school will need to have a Working with Children's Check (WWCC). WWCC can be acquired online at:- [www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au)



Please ensure that all of your child's belongings are **clearly named**, including jumpers, lunch boxes, drink bottles, art smocks, library bags etc.

**REMEMBER** – *No Hat – No Play*. Ararat West is a SunSmart school and during Term 1 & 4 all children are required to wear a broad brimmed school hat outside, or stay in the covered area. Hats can be purchased from Fosters Mensland in Ararat.



## **REQUIREMENTS**

1. Art smock to protect clothing
2. Book bag for borrowing school library books (drawstring bag, approx. 40cm. x 30cm)
3. A school bag. An 'Ararat West' backpack is recommended

## **BEFORE SCHOOL COMMENCES:**

Commencing school requires a big adjustment for children. The following are some suggestions of ways that you may prepare your child for school:

1. Read stories to your child frequently
2. Take children to the local library and help select books
3. Talk to your children, always offering explanations to their many questions
4. T.V. Have you ever sat and watched a children's program with your child
5. Meal times – a time to sit down as a family away from the TV



## **TRANSITION PROGRAM**

- A transition program has been operating to allow children to become familiar with the school and teachers.
- Several one hour sessions will be held during Term 4, finishing with a morning visit (including lunch) in December.



- If your child is unable to attend any of these sessions, please make a time to bring your child to the school yourself, so that he/she has some idea of their new surroundings prior to the first day.
- Discuss school with your child and answer questions honestly.
- Clearly name clothes, lunch box, drink bottle and school bag. Keeping track of individual items in a classroom is time consuming and not an easy task.

## **LOST PROPERTY**

Lost Property is held adjacent to the school office. At the end of each term there will be an appeal to students and parents to collect items. Students and parents are welcome to check through the items collected at any time. Items not claimed and unnamed will be disposed of appropriately by the school.



Please remember: Name all clothing, lunch boxes, and towels etc. and check to see if names have faded or if your child has mistakenly taken another child's items.



## **ROAD SAFETY**

Our school program will reinforce and help to develop safety habits. It is important, *however*, for their safety that our children are aware of familiar safety rules.

If walking to school choose the safest route. Point out safe places to cross the road. Look both ways for approaching traffic. Walk, don't run.

School crossings: Always use school crossings. Adults can support this action by using the crossings.

Driveways: Watch for cars reversing or turning in. Children are to walk their bike when inside the school grounds.

Footpaths: Emphasised as the safest place to walk.

N.B. - All children, unless supervised, must keep away from the car park. There are a number of entrances /exits to our school so it is important for children to know exactly which one they should use if they *have* to wait for you.

*Children under the age of 10 can ride their bike to school if permitted by their parent/carer. The responsibility for this decision lies directly with the parents/carers.*

Tell your child to go directly to and from school. Don't allow them to stop and play or explore unless they *have* your permission.

Tell your child never to talk to strangers or accept rides.

Our school is part of a very busy road/pick-up zone. Please ensure that you drive carefully when approaching or leaving the school area. If possible, meet your children inside the school grounds and walk together to your car.



## **SCHOOL EXCURSIONS**

Excursions are arranged at reasonable intervals during the year to enable children to have direct experience in a variety of situations. Care is taken to ensure that there are viable educational objectives in the excursion, and that there are introductory and follow-up lessons.

Our policy is that no child should miss out if it can possibly be avoided, so any family having difficulties is invited to discuss the matter with the Principal.

Parents will be notified well in advance of any excursion. It should be noted that no child can be taken on an excursion without written permission, and authority to take emergency action in case of illness or accident is received from that child's parents. A form to cover all excursions within the city boundaries is included with the enrolment form. You will still receive information ensuring you know of the dates and times of these activities.

