



Yarra Junction Primary School

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PREP HANDBOOK

1. PREP TRANSITION

Prep Transition is designed to support students with their transition into prep. It begins in Term 4 with short sessions to familiarise students with the school, teachers and their peers. Sessions involve different teachers and focus areas, for example, PE, Art, Music and a buddy bears picnic in their last session with their grade six buddy.

Please see the 'Jump into Junction' flyer included in this pack for further information.

2. BUDDY PROGRAM

At Yarra Junction Primary School each year prep students will have a grade 6 student to assist them with their transition into school. This allows students to gain extra support when outside in the yard. Buddy activities are ran throughout the year, where students work with their buddies during literacy, numeracy and creative activities.

3. CLASSROOM REQUISITES

The school operates a bulk purchasing system whereby all books and materials are ordered by the school and distributed directly to the children. Your child will be given all necessary materials to work with when he/she first arrives.

It is helpful for your child if he/she is able:

- To repeat his/her full name;
- To recognise his/her name on belongings;
- To take off, and put on, outer clothing;
- To use a tissue when required; and
- Most importantly, to flush a toilet (or urinal) and, to wash and dry hands after using the toilet.



4. SCHOOL ROUTINES

◆ Lunches

Have several "school lunches" with your child at home. Pack the lunch and play lunch in the school lunch box and put a drink in a drink container. Many children need the practice involved in handling a lunch box and drinking, from a plastic drink container.

Pack only a reasonable amount that your child can eat. We encourage the children to finish their lunches.

◆ Getting to and from school

If the school is within walking distance from your home, follow the route to be taken there and back several times prior to the commencement of the school year. Visit the

school carpark and familiarise your child with the area you will pick/drop them off each day.

◆ Bicycles

The school has a bicycle rack where bikes are stored during the school day. Please teach your child appropriate safe habits and rules regarding bike riding. It would be appropriate for you to ride with your child until you are satisfied with his/her ability. Your child must also wear a bike safety helmet.



◆ Belongings

It is a good idea to encourage children to practise packing/unpacking their school bag and recognising their personal belongings (i.e. their lunchbox and drink bottle).

◆ Safety

1. Acquaint him/her with road safety procedures, including the correct usage of school crossings.
2. Warn him/her not to accept rides from strangers and to go home immediately school is dismissed.



After starting school, openly discuss any fears about school. Be positive and loving. Be reassuring – say that everything will be all right. Do all you can to make your child happy and confident about entering the school world, and talk to the teacher if anything crops up that makes your child reluctant.

5. PERSONAL REQUISITES

Clothing

Starting school may already be overwhelming for some students, it can be busy, messy, scary and of course fun. Therefore it is very important to pack a spare pair of clothes in case of an accident. Please include shorts/pants, underwear, socks, t-shirt and a plastic bag.

An art smock will be provided at school during Art sessions.

Soft, white-soled runners or (non-marking) sneakers are essential for Physical Education.

NOTE: Information on the school uniform is included in the Parent Information booklet.



Labels

We request that all personal requisites and removable clothing are clearly marked with your child's name. If your child has difficulty in recognising his/her name, coloured wool or sewing thread could be used for his/her own personal motif near the name. Please label SCHOOL BAGS INSIDE with his/her name and address. It also assists identification if a plastic tag holder containing your child's name is clipped on the handle ring.

“Treasures”

It is unwise to allow valuable possessions to be brought to school – if a favourite toy is lost or broken, children can become most distressed likewise if “best clothes” get dirty or torn. Electronic toys, expensive models or delicate trinkets are unsuitable.



Please do not allow articles, which could cause harm to the owner or other children to be brought to school. Any type of toy ‘weapon’ is not allowed.

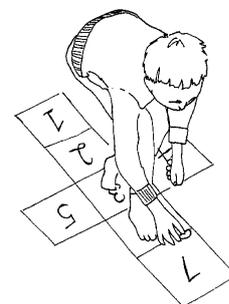
6. FRUIT TIME

Each day at 10am students are given the opportunity to have a piece of fruit during their morning session. Ideally a piece of fruit is more beneficial as they're able to continue their learning.

7. RECESS

Children will need to bring play lunch to school. This needs to be energy sustaining food due to long work periods between snacks. Water should be provided in a drink bottle.

Children are supervised to wash their hands before eating their play lunch each day. Recess is from 10:50am till 11:20am. Children eat only when seated.



8. LUNCH

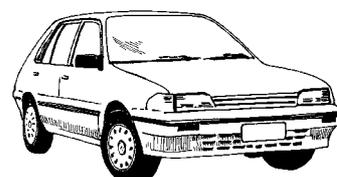
Children eat their lunch under teacher supervision, either at our picnic area or in the classroom. We encourage students to bring ‘Nude Food’ to school to prevent rubbish in our school yard.

NOTE: In the interests of child safety, GLASS containers are not permitted.

Lunch orders are available every Wednesday and Friday. Orders need to be written on a paper bag and put in the lunch order container in each room.

9. DISMISSAL PROCEDURE

We ask that you wait outside the classrooms, or gate, until your child is dismissed. Allow him/her to collect his/her own belongings before joining you. Observance of this request will assist your child in his/her achievement of independence and,



reinforces a feeling of security.

10. COMMUNICATION

Maintaining communication with your child's teacher is vital, particularly during the first year at school. Teachers are available via phone, email or in person. Should you wish to meet with your child's teacher in person, teachers are available from 8:45am until 9am in the morning and from 3:25pm in the afternoon.

Parent Teacher Interviews are held twice per year, once in term 1 and again in term 3. A written report is provided in June and December of each year.



11. PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parent involvement and participation is actively encouraged at Yarra Junction Primary School. Research studies have emphasised the importance of teachers and parents working together as partners in the education of the children. Parent involvement includes all those activities that seek to bring together in some way the separate domains of home and school.

Children's confidence and success in the first years of primary school is significantly dependent on two factors. The first is the background of **rich learning in their pre-school years** and the second is the level of parental interest and participation in the child's life at school.

Activities you may like to participate in include helping at excursions, literacy and numeracy learning groups, reading, general classroom support, working bees or joining the School Council.



12. READING

Reading is extremely important in the early years of school. You may realise that your child is unable to read when they start school, however it is extremely important they're exposed to books each day. This may include, free browsing time, being read to and/or using their imagination to create a story based on the pictures in their book.