STARTING SCHOOL AT ALPHINGTON PRIMARY

INFORMATION FOR FOUNDATION (PREP) PARENTS 2015
WELCOME TO ALPHINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Transition Learning and Development Statement

The Transition Learning and Development Statement contains information about your child’s strengths, identifies their interests and indicates how your child can be supported in their transition to primary school.

The statement is beneficial as it supports your child’s learning continuity and social emotional wellbeing from kindergarten to primary school. We strongly encourage you to complete the form and tick the permission for the kinder to share information with the school. Please return the form to the kindergarten or school before the end of the year to assist teachers become familiar with your child.

Foundation (prep) Transition Program Feedback

Feedback is an important aspect of reviewing our kindergarten to primary school transition program. We invite you to complete the feedback survey enclosed and return it to the school office.

The First Day – Coming to School

Staggered arrival times on the first day of school will allow teachers to greet your children individually. We request Foundation (prep) siblings of children already enrolled at Alphington arrive between 8.50 and 9.15am. New families whose surname begins with A – M are requested to arrive from 9.15am and new families with surnames beginning with N – Z are requested to arrive at 9.30am. This will assist with an orderly start to the day.

It is preferable for parents to bring children to school on the first day. If you are unable to do so, please ensure a familiar adult friend or relative comes with him/her.

Each child will be given a name tag by the class teacher. Parents are invited to stay a short while if you wish, however, after a few minutes the teachers will suggest it is in the children’s best interests for parents to leave. Please say a quick goodbye and let your child know you will be picking him/her up later. The calmer you are about leaving, the happier you both will be and the separation is easier.

Parents are invited to stay for a cup of tea or coffee in the staffroom to meet with other parents and talk about the pleasures of your child’s first day at school.

What to bring on the first day . . .

- School bag
- 10:00am fruit snack, play lunch and lunch
- Legionnaire or broad-brimmed sun hat
  (compulsory for all outside activities in Term 1 and from September 1 to end of Term 4)
- Art smock
- Library bag
- Spare underwear (if you think it might be necessary)
Going Home

Foundation (prep) have a four day week (stay home on Wednesdays) for the first few weeks until the end of February. The four days of attendance are full days at school.

Please wait outside the door of your child’s room for your child to be handed over to you. It is important parents arrive before the 3.30pm bell so that your child feels reassured. If you are going to be late, please phone ahead of time so we can tell your child and avoid unnecessary distress. A few minutes is a long time to a child.

If you are unable to collect your child, please ensure the teacher is contacted and knows who is picking them up and that your child knows who to look for. Teachers will wait with your child until someone known to them collects them.

Children booked into OSHClub will be collected from the classroom by after care staff until your child feels confident to go independently.

Please speak with the teachers about issues/concerns worrying you or your child. The Principal is also available at a mutually agreeable time.

First month of school

Foundation (prep) children do not attend school on the four Wednesdays in February. Individual appointments are scheduled for the children on these days. This is an ideal time for teachers to get to know each child and undertake literacy and numeracy assessments to determine future individual learning needs. Appointment times will be placed outside each classroom for parents to select a convenient time.

Preparing Your Child for School

There are a number of ways parents can assist children with their transition to school:-

- Have faith that your child will be able to manage.
- It helps if the child is able to separate easily from parents.
- Introduce the school by:-
  - Driving by many times;
  - Showing your child over the school so he/she knows where he/she will be going, where the toilets are and where the classroom is;
  - Talking to your child about school; where he/she will meet other children, make friends and take part in fun activities, listen to stories, make things etc.
- Encourage your child to be responsible for his/her belongings – to put things such as toys and books away after use, and to hang up their coats and bags.
- Teach your child to dress and undress by himself or herself, especially coats and jumpers and to tie his/her shoelaces. Clothing that can be easily managed is recommended.
- Ensure your child is able to use the toilet independently, cope with buckles, belts, etc. and can wash his/her hands.
• Show your child where you have written their name on their belongings.
• Help your child to learn his/her name, address and telephone number.
• Children often work in groups at school and this means they need to take turns, share materials and cooperate. Playing games with adults and other children teaches your child how to take turns.
• Talk about the difference between ‘snack’ time and ‘lunch’ time. Show your child the food you have packed each morning and practice opening the lunch box and drink container. Have play picnics at home to practice.
• If your child is experiencing difficulty coming to school please arrange a time to discuss this with your child’s teacher.

Personal Items Required
• Each child requires an art smock. This should have sleeves. An old shirt is good to use. Smocks with elasticised cuffs and neck are ideal for Foundation (prep)s. No buttons if possible – velcro or press-studs are advisable. Art smocks are also supplied in the Foundation starter packs.
• Each child requires a library bag – a material bag approx 45x35cm with drawstring or handles.
• To avoid distress over favorite games and toys being damaged or lost at school, it is requested that parents assist by ensuring:
  − Roller-blades, skateboards and roller skates are left at home;
  − children are discouraged from bringing expensive/precious toys and games such as eye-catching items, expensive sports gear and jewellery.
• Dangerous toys that could be used as weapons – missile launchers, bows & arrows, guns, swords, etc. are also left at home.

Curriculum Overview
The School’s programs are based on the belief that:
• Today’s children require a curriculum designed to equip them for the world of the twenty-first century, ensuring they develop to be active, ethical and contributing citizens.
• Children begin primary schooling with established knowledge and different learning preferences.
• Children’s learning progresses at different rates.
• Literacy and numeracy development are of paramount importance in the early years of primary schooling. Although English, Mathematics skills and concepts are developed across the curriculum, specific content is taught in these areas to provide children with the learning strategies necessary to develop vital skills and knowledge.
• Children develop increasing levels of responsibility for their learning over seven years, in preparation for life-long learning and their future role in the local, national and global community.
Excursions and Special Events

Excursions are paid for in a single payment at the beginning of the year. Your child may be invited to bring money to school as payment for fundraising, etc. A school notice and payment envelope will be sent home for signature and payment. Payment is welcome by cash, cheque or EFTPOS.

Emergency Contact Information

Parents will be contacted if a child is unwell or injured at school. Please make sure the school office always has your current address, home and work phone numbers. If you use a mobile phone, please provide this number as this is often the most effective means of contact.

Communication

In line with our sustainability policy we encourage you to access our electronic communication resources at:

The school email is alphington.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

and our school website is www.alphinps.vic.edu.au

A Change of Clothes

In the event your child requires a change of clothing on a wet day, or through an accident, he/she will be given a change of clothing from the school. We request that these items be laundered and returned to school as soon as possible.

Lost Books

In the event of lost library books and take-home books, parents are requested to contribute to paying for a replacement item.

Parental Involvement

- Parent participation in the school is strongly encouraged. This helps develop a partnership between home and school. There are many ways in which parents are invited to be involved within the school and contribute to the education of your child:

- Teachers often invite parents to assist with literacy tasks, library book processing, cooking, maths activities, etc.

- Sometimes a collection of things might be requested– boxes, magazines, material, bottle tops, etc.

- Become a member of the School Council, or one of its sub-committees.
• Offer to assist on an excursion.
• Become a Class Parent Liaison or join the Parents’ Association.
• Offer to assist with canteen duty.
• Support fundraising efforts. This may be manning stalls, donating goods, purchasing items or sponsoring a walkathon.
• If you are a trades person or professional, your expertise on special projects or working bees would be valuable.
• Attend school functions.
• Provide input to School Council, the Parents’ Association and the Principal for ways to improve the school.

Lunches

• A canteen service is operated by Classroom Cuisine. Lunches are delivered to the school. Volunteer parents sell healthy snack options from a set menu on Fridays.

• When making your child’s lunch, here are a few tips:-
  – Pack a healthy lunch with food your child likes, in a clearly named box that can be easily opened.
  – As a sustainable school we request play lunch and lunch be stored in reusable containers. Children are encouraged to take any wrappings and litter home.
  – Explain an order of eating, starting with sandwiches.
  – Drinks MUST be in unbreakable containers.
  – Children are asked to take home any part of their lunch that is uneaten.

How to Help Your Child

• Encourage your child to talk with you. Be a good listener and encourage conversation within the family. “Tell me something good that happened today . . .”
• Look at the work your child brings home and talk about what your child can do. Place it on the fridge or notice board to show that it is valued.
• Read the newsletters from the school. It is an effective way of finding out what is happening at school and in the community.
• Check your child’s school bag each day for notices and to see how much lunch he/she is eating.
• Model how to be safe when walking to school. Use the school crossings at all times so your child knows how important they are. (Ensure you cross on the patrolled side of the crossing if it is supervised).
• Read and enjoy stories together, particularly at bedtime. This introduces children to the pleasure of reading.

• Ensure your child has a good night’s sleep. A child’s learning is compromised if they are tired.

• We encourage you to monitor the amount and quality of television viewed. Experts recommend children do not watch television in the morning before school.

• Ensure your child eats an adequate healthy breakfast before school each day.

• Children need a healthy lifestyle balance, however they also need to develop the ability to occupy themselves without undue reliance on grown-ups. Please remember the great benefits of a broad range of activities. Valuable activities include:
  – Physical activity, whether individual or as part of a team, eg. kicking, throwing and catching a ball;
  – Socialising with other children;
  – Reading to and with your child;
  – Family time spent doing fun activities together;
  – Artistic, musical and creative activities.

• Encourage your child to help with messages. When doing the weekly shopping, ask your child to select a number of items, check sizes and flavours.

• Encourage your child to help with household chores in the home – setting the table, washing, gardening, making beds, etc.

• Talk to the teacher about your child’s progress and behavior. Try to attend school functions.

• If there are any issues or concerns, please contact the school to discuss the matter.

• We remember . . .
  10% of what is read,
  20% of what is heard,
  30% of what is heard and seen,
  70% of what is said by the learner,
  90% of what is said as it is done.

WE WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A LONG AND REWARDING RELATIONSHIP WITH ALPHINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL