Welcome to Heathcote Primary School

Prep Information Book

Here is some general information which we hope will assist you in your preparations for the coming school year.

TERM DATES FOR 2014

Term 1: 29 January to 4 April
Term 2: 22 April to 27 June
Term 3: 14 July to 19 September
Term 4: 6 October to 19 December

Please note that Prep children do not attend school on a Wednesday during the month of February

THE FIRST DAY

1. At 8:50 a.m. children can come inside to place their bags. We ask you to always wait for this bell before entering the building. This practice is continued throughout the year as teachers have preparation time and meetings to attend.

2. After some recorded music, the bell sounds at 9:00 a.m. which signifies the start of work in each class. We require children to be punctual.

Children must not be inside without teacher supervision.

Please take your child directly to their learning area on the first day. School bags go into the bag boxes. It’s a good idea to have your child familiar with their labels on bags and the compulsory hats so they can help identify their own belongings.

To best assist your child, a quick and friendly departure is recommended. We do understand that this can be an emotional day for families, but rest assured that most children settle into their new situation with ease, especially when their parents are showing confidence in them. Please help your child feel calm and secure, reminding them that they’ll be met at the classroom after school.
SOME HINTS FOR GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL

- Appreciate that your child will probably feel quite tired for the first few weeks so early nights are in order.
- Help your child to write his/her name.
- Discuss some preferred foods with your child. Practice using a lunch box and un-wrapping sandwiches, peeling bananas etc. You will need to supply your child with two HEALTHY meals each day - one to be eaten at recess, and one to be eaten at lunch. Consider carefully the food that you pack – often the popular packaged items have absolutely no nutritional value and are too difficult for children to open by themselves. A healthy sandwich and a piece of fruit or vegetable along with a drink of water or fruit drink should satisfy at each meal break. Life-long eating habits are established at this age so we urge you to make wise choices for your child. We ask that children drink water only while they are at school.
- Talk to your child about starting school and focus on the things he/she knows, e.g. the teacher’s name, friends from Kinder, games and activities.
- Develop good listening skills. Careful listening can be assisted if you always try to give clear directions and resist repeating them.
- Encourage your child to speak in full sentences, and to give others a turn to talk.
- Give your child some household tasks to complete independently, e.g. setting the table, putting things away, helping with shopping. This experience will help prepare children for responsibility in the classroom.
- Talk with your child about colours, letters and numbers in everyday situations.
- Ensure that all belongings are clearly marked.
- Encourage your child to carry his/her own bag to class (check that the straps are a comfortable fit) and be responsible for belongings. We recommend Heathcote Primary School bags as they seem to hold everything.
- Teach your child to put on and remove such clothing items as socks, shoes, windcheater, and you may find him/her ready to learn tying laces.
- Always try to make time to admire the work your child brings home, giving it a “place of honour” for a few days.
- Even though you’re probably feeling keen to discuss the details of your child’s day, accept that sometimes it can be just too much for them to recall.
- Change of underwear / trackies / socks is useful to have on hand for the occasional mishaps.
ANSWERS TO SOME COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What if we need to speak to our child’s teacher?
We are always interested but please arrange a time for a private chat – just before and after bells is not appropriate.

What do we do with money and notices that need to be sent to the school?
All money and notices should be put in a school envelope and given to class teacher.

What do we do with the “Take Home Book” covers?
When these are sent home, they can be covered and decorated to make them personalized. It helps the children to easily recognize and take pride in their own cover when it has a distinctive look.

When do children bring home their Take Home Book?
The children will start taking home books from the first day. The covers will contain some guidelines, and a page for recording the titles read at home.

Do the classrooms need odds and ends from home?
We’re always grateful for contributions, and things that come in handy are:-

- Ice Cream Containers
- Toy Cars
- Glass baby food containers
- Re-cycled cards
- Large plastic honey pots
- Jigsaws
- ‘Family’ magazines

SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

School Dental Service
The School Dental Service offers dental care to all children attending primary school and aims to prevent tooth decay and gum disease. The School Dental Service offers preventative, restorative and emergency care. Emergency care is FREE for all children. Routine dental care is free to holders of a valid Centrelink Healthcare Card. Non– card holders pay a nominal fee with a maximum per family for a course of care which includes a dental check up and all ensuing general dental treatment. This covers the child for two years.

In a dental emergency or for further information please phone the School Dental Service Toll Free Number 1300 360 054

Speech Pathology
Children are able to access Speech Pathology through the school. This will be available if your child has accessed Speech Pathology in the past or he or she has difficulty in any of the following areas:

- Speech (articulation)
- Expressive language (sentence construction)
- Understanding of language
- Sound awareness
- Voice
- Fluency (stuttering)
- Hearing general learning

Please discuss this with the classroom teacher and your child may be referred to the Regional Office for follow up with the DEECD speech pathologists.
Camps

Children at Heathcote Primary School have the unique opportunity to attend a sleepover in their first year at school. This is usually held in Term 4.

Swimming

Each February we conduct a two week ‘Learn to Swim and Water Safety Program’ at the Heathcote Pool. Children attend the pool on a daily basis to receive instruction from trained teachers and volunteers. Our Swimming Program is a very important part of our Physical Education Program.

Enrolment Form

The Enrolment Form must be completed (with attached copy of Birth Certificate and Immunisation Certificate) and returned to the office as soon as possible. You will be notified of your child’s class teacher before the end of the year.

School Uniform Order

Uniforms can be purchased at Fashion On High, 149 High St, Heathcote. Phone 54332866
The purchase of broad brimmed hats and beanies can be made at the school.

*If there are any further questions that you’d like answered, please don’t hesitate to speak with your child’s teacher. They will be able to help, or direct you to someone who can.*

**Looking forward to working together in 2014!**