

Punchbowl Primary School

2018 Kindergarten Information



**PUNCHBOWL
PRIMARY SCHOOL**
"Dream, Believe, Succeed"



Principal:
Assistant Principal:
AST:
School Business Manager:

Ms Elizabeth O'Donahue
Mrs Abbi Dean
Mrs Madeleine Johnson
Mrs Janelle Shaw



Welcome to Kindergarten

TERM DATES

- Term 1: Wednesday, 7th February to Thursday, 12th April
(Tuesday, 6th February & Friday, 13th April) – Student Free Days
- Easter: Friday, 30th March to Tuesday, 3rd April
- Term 2: Monday, 30th April to Friday, 6th July
- Term 3: Tuesday, 24th July to Friday, 28th September
(Monday, 23rd July - Student Free Day)
- Term 4: Monday, 15th October to Thursday, 20th December
(Friday, 2nd November – Student Free Day)



Please note: Kindergarten children have a staggered start over the first week of school to permit more time to be allocated to individuals during this period, again parents will be notified of their child's start date and time.

MINIMUM ADMISSION AGES

The Department of Education regulations specifically stipulate ages for children entering classes. Children starting Kindergarten should be 4 years of age at 31 December 2017. **It is compulsory for 5 year old children to attend school.**

KINDERGARTEN TIMES



Kinder A	Monday, Tuesday and Thursday	9:00am – 3:00pm
Kinder B	Monday, Tuesday and Friday	9:00am – 3:00pm
Kinder C	Monday, Thursday and Friday	9:00am – 3:00pm
Kinder D	Tuesday, Thursday and Friday	9:00am – 3:00pm

Please do not arrive prior to 8:30am as teachers do not have duty of care until that time.

A NEW EXPERIENCE

Kindergarten is often the first contact children and their families have with the school community. It forms an important link between home and school, where a partnership is established between parent, child and teacher.

For many children Kindergarten will be the first time that they have been left without family members being close by. Even those children who have experienced playgroup or crèche sometimes become 'shy' when they begin school. Therefore when your child begins please be patient and accept that it is a new experience for your child.

All children are different and adapt differently.

TIPS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S ENTRY TO FULL TIME SCHOOL

Before School Starts

- Practise putting on and taking off school clothes, smocks, shoes and socks; opening and closing school bags, library bags, lunch boxes (Glad Wrap, packages), drink bottles
- Practise eating from a lunchbox, including morning tea and lunch (this will help children understand what to eat at specific times).
- Describe and chat about what will happen (basic sequence of the day) in a positive way
- Start going to bed earlier
- Meet other children in the class
- Be informed about drop off/picking up procedures
- Give your child control over what they can control, e.g. offer simple healthy choices about what goes in lunch boxes. We are a Move Well Eat Well school and strongly support healthy food, including a fruit/vegetable break during the day.



The First Days

- Organise clothes, bags, lunches the night before to avoid a rushed morning
- Get up early
- Plan to arrive 15 minutes before the start of the school day
- Avoid talk about how much you will miss your child
- Be aware of your own worries and make a point of chatting with a friend so that your concerns are not transferred to your child
- If your child gets upset:
 - 😊 listen to them, acknowledge/normalise their feelings, e.g. “I bet lots of people are feeling nervous today”;
 - 😊 encourage them to begin unpacking their bag or to go and see the teacher, e.g. “Let’s get your drink out” / “Let’s go and see Mrs X”;
 - 😊 make a swift exit, e.g. “goodbye, have a lovely day and I’ll see you at home time”..



SETTLING IN

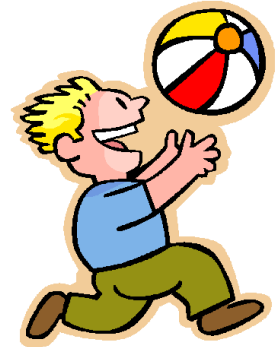
The first weeks of school are a time to help your child adjust to routines, get excited about learning and become more independent from you.

- Get to know the teacher, your positive relationship and trust in the teacher will transfer to your child. The more comfortable your child feels with the environment the more energy they can put into learning.
- When you take your child into the classroom ask them to show you some work, look at displays and books so you can chat about these things later.
- If your child says “I don’t want to go”, listen to their concerns and remind them of the fun activities/making new friends.
- If your child becomes upset when you go to leave, give them a quick hug, say good bye and that you’ll see them again at the end of school and leave them in the teacher’s hands. They tend to settle very quickly once you’re gone. If you’re concerned at all, please feel free to phone during the morning.
- Don’t be surprised if your child is upset or difficult at the end of the day. Children often save up hard feelings for parents because it is safer to let these feelings out at home. These feelings are more likely to present as behaviours. Boys, in particular, can become active and “silly” when tired.
- Provide an opportunity for your child to let off some steam at the end of the day, e.g. visit a playground, play ball, dance, etc.
- Play is also very important for children to work out their feelings and solve problems.
- If your child is very tired and fragile during the first few weeks, it’s fine to keep them home for a day to catch up.
- Provide opportunities for your child to practise new skills, such as scissor cutting, drawing, colouring. If children are confident with these skills they will be more likely to take a risk with their learning.
- Talk about school at home.
- *Avoid asking “How was school today?”* This question is too general, particularly if the child is on overload from a challenging day. Maybe ask, “What was the best thing you did at school today?”



TALKING STRATEGIES

- Greet your child with an enthusiastic “Hello, great to see you” / “It’s really nice to have you home again”.
- Your child may not want to talk about their day until after they’ve had a snack and a break.
- Learn about your child’s life at school so you can ask meaningful questions about their day.
- Make questions specific:
 - 😊 “What did you do that was fun today?”
 - 😊 “Did anything funny happen?”
 - 😊 “Was there anything that you found hard today?”
- Ask about specific people / events.
- Play a game.
- Talk about your own day, e.g. something funny that happened.
- Avoid jumping in to fix problems. Find out what your child would like to do about the problem; share ideas; follow up; talk with the teacher.



Please feel free to discuss your child’s progress with us at any time, remembering that just as each child sits up, walks or talks at a different time, each one will develop individually, and at his/her own pace at school.

DEVELOPING SKILLS

Throughout the year your child will have experiences and opportunities to further develop their skills in the following areas:



Social/Interpersonal

- Responsibility for self and own possessions
- Listening to others
- Taking turns
- Sharing with others
- Cooperating with others
- Participating in group games
- Following directions
- Understanding social rules of the classroom
- Being caring and thoughtful of others
- Being a good winner and loser
- Trying new activities

Health and Well Being

- Activities to develop fine and gross motor skills
- Running, jumping, climbing, rolling, hopping, crawling, balancing, swinging, bouncing
- Hand/eye coordination activities
- Foot/eye coordination activities
- Throwing and catching
- Sand play
- Water play
- Wood work



English - Literacy

- Talking
- Listening
- Hearing stories read and told
- Looking at a range of books
- Retelling stories
- Reading (joining in with shared reading, reading familiar books)
- Experimenting with writing
- Rhyming
- Recognising some letters and sounds
- Viewing

Mathematics - Numeracy

- Patterning
- Sorting
- Measuring
- Counting
- Recognising numerals and shapes



Health and Hygiene

- Eating healthy food and drink - no sweets, water to drink
- Not sharing food
- Washing hands (before eating, after toilet use and after touching animals)
- Flushing toilet (and raising seat for boys)
- Wearing broad brimmed or legionnaire hats outdoors
- Applying sunscreen



ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

When you bring your child to Kindergarten, come inside and say hello, and look at what's happening in your child's room. As mornings are usually a very busy time of the day, if you would like to discuss your child's time at Kindergarten in greater detail please make an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

To enable us to maintain a safe environment for all please do not allow your child to open the childproof gate.

If there is to be a different person from normal collecting your child from Kindergarten, it is vital that you let us know.

HEALTH AND ABSENCE



If your child is sick he/she should stay home until fully recovered. Children cannot enjoy their time at Kindergarten if not 100% well, on medication or unable to go outside to play. If the cause of the sickness is an infectious disease, call and see us at school and we will tell you how long the regulations state your child must be away.

Please tell us if your child will be away for any reason as absences have to be recorded daily.

CLOTHING

We will do our best to protect the children's clothes. When they paint they will wear a smock. Although we do our very best it is not always possible for children to stay clean at all times. School uniforms are available from the school office. Children must wear suitable shoes, not sandals or thongs, and a brimmed hat when they are playing outside.

REQUIREMENTS

Please make sure all of your child's possessions are clearly named. Each child will need:

- a brimmed bucket hat (available from the school office)
- a school bag
- a library bag (school will supply one)
- a change of clothes, to be kept in their school bag if your child tends to have 'accidents'
- a smock



Children are to bring their own drink each day, a small snack for morning tea and lunch in a lunch box. Please encourage your child to bring healthy food to school, e.g. sandwiches, rolls, piece of fruit, carrot sticks, cheese, sultanas, yoghurt. Please just pack what you know they can manage to eat.

LIBRARY

Your child will be encouraged to borrow a book from our Library on a regular basis. We will let you know which day early in Term 1.



Children will need to have a library book bag in order to be able to borrow a book. If a book is lost or damaged an account will be sent to the parents/guardians for the replacement cost of the book.

NEWSLETTER

The school newsletter is called “*Punchlines*” and is distributed electronically fortnightly via the Schoolzine app. “*Punchlines*” includes details of school activities and notices of a general nature. Paper copies are available from the school office on request. Every alternate week “Reminders from Punchbowl” will be sent home with the eldest child in each family. Community groups are encouraged to contribute articles or notices.

SCHOOL BANKING

Commonwealth Student Banking will be available each Tuesday in 2018, commencing Tuesday, 13th February.



NUT AWARENESS



Due to students with highly allergic reactions to nuts, we ask everyone to be vigilant in not bringing any nuts or products with nuts in them to school.

NO SMOKING/NO DOGS



The whole school is a “*Smoke Free Zone*” and a “*No Dog Zone*”, i.e. no smoking or dogs at all within the buildings or grounds. Smoking is also prohibited on the footpath bordering the school.

PARENT HELP

Parents are very welcome into the classroom at any time however it is best to allow your child the opportunity to settle in first. “Working with Children Registration” is required for all parents who wish to be involved in Parent Help. A Roster will be placed on the notice board during Term 1 (about Easter time). The best time for parent help is in the morning between 9:00am and 11:00am.

We look forward to spending a happy year with your child.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Email: punchbowl.primary@education.tas.gov.au

Web: <http://punchbowlps.schoolzineplus.com/>



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