

# 2020 Prep Parent Information Session

October, 2019

# Getting to know you

Today after the session, you will receive an email with a link to provide us information about:

- Your child and your family
- Any concerns about your child's development
- Your child's interests and favourite things
- Friend requests
- Buddy requests (male or female)
- Preferred start date (Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> or Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January)
- Any other information

## Starting Dates

- The students commence school on either the 30<sup>th</sup> of January or the 31<sup>st</sup> January.
- There will be staggered start times – 9.00, 9.15, 9.30 to allow you to drop your child off, make sure they're settled and then leave.
- You will be able to request your child's start date on a Google Form that will be sent to you by the end of the day.
- All Prep students will be at school on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of February.

# Wednesday Testing

- Prep children do not attend school on Wednesdays for the first 4 weeks of Term 1. The Prep teachers undertake testing on these days, as required by the Department of Education.
- Each child will be allocated an hour for testing.
- Parents are not required to stay during the test.
- They will be tested on their knowledge of books, sounds, reading, writing, mathematics and auditory processing, which determines their ability to listen to and retain information.
- These tests give us an understanding of what the children currently know. We do not have any expectations of your child. The testing simply gives us information about your child's current understanding and where to go to next.
- By the end of this year you will be sent an email from your child's teacher notifying you of the day your child will be tested. If you cannot make this allocated time please let your child's teacher know ASAP so we can organise another time.
- The assessment will go for 50 minutes with the teacher and your child. There will be approximately 10 minutes at the end of the hour where you can come in and talk to your child's teacher. Please take this opportunity to discuss anything important that your child's teacher needs to know to better understand your child.

# Half Days

- From Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> of February to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February, the children will attend school between 9am and 1.30pm. Except for Wednesdays as these are testing days.
- From Monday 10<sup>th</sup> of February, the children will attend school from 9am until 3.30pm, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, with Wednesdays still being testing days.
- From Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> of March, the children will attend school full time from 9am - 3.30pm.
- Please refer to the note that was sent to you at the beginning of October that sets out these important dates and times in a table.

# First Day

- The children will be **allocated a time to arrive**. Please adhere to the allocated starting time for your child.
- On the first day, the children need to bring the following:
  - A drink bottle filled with water only.
  - Fruit snack – 2 fresh pieces of fruit. We eat fruit snack at approximately 10am and 1.00pm (brain breaks)
  - Snack to eat at play time.
  - Lunch (optional for the first two weeks as we finish at 1.30pm). Lunch is normally eaten at 11.30am, however, for the Preps for the first two weeks, we will eat earlier.
  - School hat (labelled).
  - Art smock (labelled).
  - Library bag (labelled).
  - Lunch Box (labelled).
  - School Bag big enough to carry all these things.
  - Family photo (please bring a family photo on the first day to help transition your child to school).

It is very important to label all of your child's belongings, particularly, uniform.

# When you arrive

- Find your child's locker – it will have their name on it.
- Find your child's table, which will also be labelled. You will find a name tag. Please attach this to your child's top each morning. They will wear these for the first few weeks. This also helps other staff members learn their names and recognise our new Prep students.
- Put their satchel and hat in their chair bag.
- Give the art smock and library bag to the teacher in the classroom.
- Settle your child into an activity: there will be many activities similar to transition so the students feel a sense of familiarity to help them feel more comfortable.
- Feel free to stay for ten minutes, **take photos of your own child** (due to privacy restrictions), enjoy this exciting moment with your child.
- Finally, but most importantly say goodbye to your child, give them a big hug and a kiss and go. I know this will be hard but it is important not to linger for too long and also leave in a positive way. We don't want children stressed or anxious for their first day of school.
- Once all the parents have left we will have some fun learning and getting to know our classmates. We will go for a tour of the school and have the opportunity to say 'hi' to the rest of the school. This will help them know where to go to play, toilets and where things are.
- The students will meet their buddy on their first day and they will come and eat with them and then take them out to play.
- At 1:30pm you can collect your child from the area outside the office/toilet block. Please wait outside of the corridor to allow us to walk each grade out safely. Children will be instructed to tell their teacher when they see their person. Please let us know if someone else is picking up your child as we are very conscious of children getting home safely.

# First Week

- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, all Preps start together
- At 8:55am the music will start. Please come into the corridor once you hear the music and start getting ready for the day.  
**Remember to take your child to the toilet before school begins.**
- Help them unpack – water bottle and fruit snack on table, swap reader, satchel in chair bag, bag in locker. It will take time for them to get used to this morning routine. *(Please note: Throughout the year, we will ask you to assist us in building your child's independence by encouraging them to walk into the corridor by themselves to unpack their bags.)*
- They will know how to swap their reader by then. Please remind your child to swap their reader. Book boxes will be in the classroom.
- Settle them into an activity.

# Full Days

- Children will be dismissed at 3:30pm from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February.
- Please do not wait in the corridor. Each Prep grade will be walked out by their teacher and will be asked to let their teacher know when they see their person.
- You may like to wait outside the office and toilet block, at the eating tree or near the Prep playground. It's a good idea to give your child a heads up about where you will be so that they don't worry when they see so many people.
- They will be very tired over the first few weeks of school, mentally and physically. This is a very busy and exciting time for your children.
- Don't forget to set a bed time routine to help children cope with the school day.
- Don't be surprised if they come home very tired from school.
- Today you will receive a sample timetable outlining a typical week in Prep. The structure of our day will be slightly different to this year. You will notice fruit breaks, recess and lunch times as well as how each area of the curriculum is covered over the week. At the beginning of next year you will get information about when your child has specialist classes so that your child comes prepared, e.g. runners on a PE day.



## Teaching and Learning in Prep

Our teaching in Prep is individualised. We teach children based on their current ability.

Our expectations are set based on the child's current ability. Our main goal for all teaching and learning is for every child to make progress. This progress will be different for every child to make growth.

We use the CAFE Reading Program to teach reading across the school. There will be opportunities to be trained in our CAFÉ Reading program as a Parent Reading Advocate if you have a Current WWCC.

### HOMEWORK:

Satchel (labelled). Your child will receive a yellow reading diary and a reader during the first week of school. Please ensure you set aside a time before or after school to read the reader with your child and fill in the diary. Diaries are checked regularly by teachers to ensure children are reading at home each day.

**Take home books:** it is important for your child to read his/her take home book every day to develop good reading strategies.

*Resources:* Daily take home book, reading diary and Communication Book.

**Magic Words:** these assists your child to automatically recognise common words in books and to write common words in their writing pieces. Your child should practise these at least every second day.

*Resources:* Magic Word Cards and Communication Book.

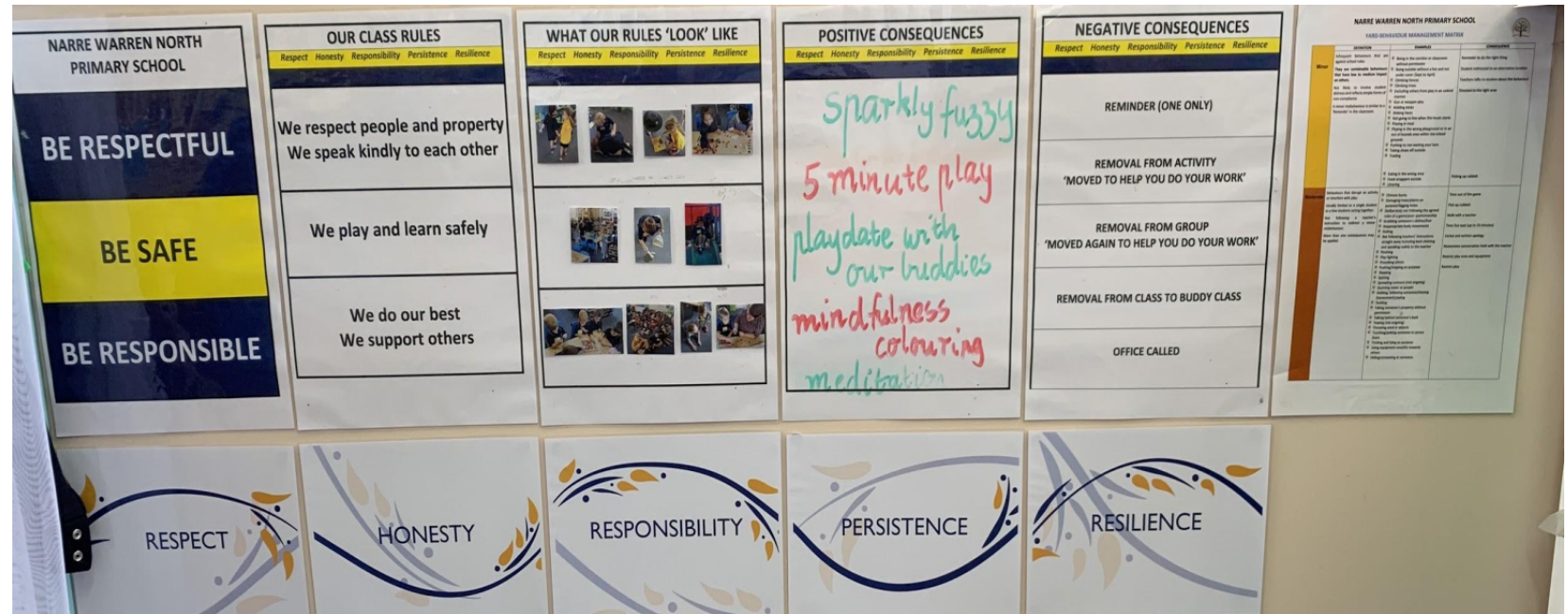
**Communication Book:** This book is for the teacher to communicate your child's progress on Magic words and other areas of the Curriculum to celebrate your child's progress.

# Behaviour Protocols

At Narre Warren North Primary School, we have implemented whole school behaviour protocols that outline our expectations in every learning space.

What does this mean for your child's behaviour in and outside the classroom? The following are used by teachers and are recognised by our students to ensure all are respected, safe and responsible at our school:

- 5 Golden Rules
- School values
- Behaviour charts
- Behaviour matrix



# Conclusion

- Prep is lots of fun and exciting. It can be quite daunting for your child and they may be experiencing a lot of different emotions. It's a great idea to take the time to speak to your child over the Christmas break about feelings and explain that feeling nervous, excited and so on is normal.
- It can be challenging for children in their first few weeks of school once they realise that they have to stay at school for the full day.
- Be prepared to see your child grow throughout the year – physically, socially and academically.
- There will be opportunities for you to volunteer to help in the classroom at various times throughout the year. We do require that any helpers have a current WWCC (even if you are a teacher) which can be applied for online. It usually takes a couple of weeks to arrive so it might be something you'd like to do over the break if you don't already have one.
- You may find yourself with many questions either now, leading into the beginning of the year or once school has started. We would like to encourage you to voice your questions or concerns with your child's teacher as they arise. We're more than happy to have a chat with you face to face, via email or over the phone.
- Please don't forget the Prep BBQ on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February which is a great chance for not only your children but yourselves to meet new families and build new friendships.
- We are looking forward to a wonderful year with your children. Please ask if you have any questions.
- 3 classes for prep next year of around 20 students per class.