



# Welcome!

A big welcome to all the new students and to the new families! Starting school is an exciting time and I'm sure many of you will soon be counting down the days.

We hope the following information is useful for new parents, for more details on general school information please refer to the Parent Handbook.



## **School Times**

Once starting school Prep (Foundation) students attend from 9.00am to 3.20pm. The first day of school for all students is **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021**.

Prep (Foundation) students don't attend school on Wednesdays for all of February, allowing them a day to rest. Learning to adjust to school rules and expectations can be very intense for the children, they need time to transition into the full time school routine.

## **Prep/Foundation Interviews**

All Foundation children in Victoria are required to complete the Literacy and Numeracy interviews during February. These interviews collect baseline data to enable us to provide an individual starting point for each child. Interviews are conducted on an individual basis with one child and the teacher and take about one hour. Parents are not required to stay.

Interviews will be conducted on the Wednesdays when there is no school for the Foundation children.

## **School Nurse**

The School Nurse visits early in Term 1 to do hearing and vision screenings on new students. A questionnaire will come home, asking about your concerns and asking for your permission to screen your child.

## **Structure of school day**

9.00-9.15	Each class begins each day with a Yarning Circle
9.15-10.30	Numeracy Block
10.30-10.30	Recess
11.30-1.00	Literacy Block
1.00-1.10	Supervised lunch eating in classrooms
1.10- 2.00	Lunch play
2.00-3.20	Integrated studies

## **Pick ups and drop offs**

School starts at 9.00 am. Staff are supervising the yard from 8.45am. Please observe the 'kiss and drop' and parking signs.

School finishes at 3.20pm. Our school policy states that all parents are required to collect their child from the undercover picnic shelter.

The School Crossing Guard is on duty from 8.15am- 9.15am and from 2.45-3.45pm

## **Victorian School Terms 2021**

Term 1	27 <sup>th</sup> January (Staff resume) -Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April
Term 2	19 <sup>th</sup> April- 25 <sup>th</sup> June
Term 3	12 <sup>th</sup> July - 17 <sup>th</sup> September
Term 4	4 <sup>th</sup> October- 17 <sup>th</sup> December

## What your child needs

The school purchases all books, drawing and writing materials on your behalf, (paid through Family Payments) and supplies first year students with a red reader bag.

But you need to provide:

- A sun smart wide brimmed **school hat** with school logo (Purchased from the school) \$10
- A **school bag**- Large enough to fit their belongings.  
(Nicholson School Bags are available at the school \$40)
- **Drink bottle** (Water only)
- **Lunch box**- 'nude food' (wrapper free) is encouraged. Lunchboxes with separate compartments allow food to stay fresh without the need for plastic wrap. We have a 'bring in-carry out' rubbish policy. Any food wrappers will be sent home with the child.

As per Department guidelines, Nicholson Primary School promotes healthy eating and we encourage students to bring healthy eating options in their lunches and snacks. Chocolates, lollies and other "sometimes foods" are strongly discouraged. Every day all students participate in a fruit break and have the option of eating fresh fruit/vegetables brought from home. This enables them to refuel and engage in their learning. As part of healthy eating we encourage all students to bring a refillable water bottle to school.



## Uniform

Uniforms are obtainable from NICKS Clothing in Bairnsdale. There is also limited pre loved clothing available at school. When purchasing shoes consider your child's ability to manage shoes independently.

- Windcheater-Black jumper/ black windcheater / black sleeveless vest. (Preferably with the school logo on it.)
- Polo Shirt- Red with white school logo. (COMPULSORY.)
- Black pants
- Dress- Red and white school check  
Option: Black skorts. Please note black netball skirts are NOT ALLOWED.
- Shorts- Black
- Shoes- Sturdy, comfortable footwear (No thongs)

***All uniform items should be labelled with the child's name***

## Sun Smart

Nicholson Primary School is a SUNSMART school. Wide brimmed hats are compulsory for all children when outdoors from September to April. Sunscreen is available at school however students are encouraged to bring their own to avoid inadvertently applying it to children with allergies. If casual clothes are worn during the Sun smart period, shoulders must also be covered.

## Home Reading

Children will be bringing Library books home for home 'reading' from the first day of school.

Please share the book with your child. After reading discuss the book with your child and write down their comments in the yellow reading log.

Appropriate 'readers' will be sent home once testing has been completed.

Please note that all students need a reader bag to carry their books to and from school. Reading logs are supplied.

*Home reading is for practice and fun. The books sent home are supposed to be easy!*

## MARC Van

The MARC Van is a Mobile Library that visits fortnightly. Children participate in a lesson and can borrow books. Books can be returned to the school at any time before the next fortnightly visit.

## Communication

Information and reminders are communicated through a variety of formal and informal means including:

- **Skoolbag App** (See office staff for set up details)
- **Newsletter**: posted on the Skoolbag App and on the Website.
- **Mobile Phone**: 0447123744 Messages are sent by SMS.
- **School Landline**: 5156 8220
- **Website** [www.nicholson-ps.vic.edu.au](http://www.nicholson-ps.vic.edu.au)

## Absences

It is important that your child attend school regularly and punctually, however if he or she is sick, home is the best place. DET policy states that, "Children of school age resident in Victoria are required to be in full-time attendance at a Government or Registered Non-Government School." Please remember that ...***"It's Not OK to be Away"***.

Department regulations require that parents notify the school of their child's absence on or before 9.30am on the day, or prior to known absence day. Notification can be via the Skoolbag App, SMS or to the school landline 5156 8220.



## **Late Arrivals/Early Departures**

In the interest of safety we ask that any children arriving late to school should be “signed-in” by the parent upon arrival, and students departing before the end of the school day should also be “signed out” by the parent. The Arrivals/Departure Register is in the office.

## **Bus**

Our current school bus route run begins and ends at Bethross Drive on Stephenson's Road.

## **Conveyancing Allowance**

Families who live more than 4.8 km from their nearest government school are entitled to conveyancing allowance. See Sharon or Sue for more details.

## **Swimming Program**

As part of our PE program the whole school participates in a series of ten sessions of swimming lessons.

## **Special days and activities**

- Cluster Activities: Nicholson participates in sporting activities with other small schools as a cluster.
- Performing Arts Productions- at the BARC
- End of year whole school excursion
- F, 1 & 2 day excursion, tea and movie night (Year 2 sleepover at school)
- End of year Celebration night (BYO Picnic tea, Awards, Santa and a performance by the students. Family and friends welcome)

## **School Leaders**

The Student Leadership Team is comprised of students from years five and six. They organise and conduct our weekly Assemblies (Mondays 9.00am- Parents welcome) and Milo club. Leaders are also responsible for planning and running commemorations and special events during the year including:

- Wheelbarrow Grand Prix
- ANZAC day, Remembrance Day
- Daffodil Day
- NAIDOC & Reconciliation Week
- End of term activities

**Buddy Program:** During transition big buddies help Pre-prep students with their snacks and lunch and play with them during breaks. This routine continues for the first days of school until the Preps have settled in. The buddy program continues to run throughout the year.

## **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club is held in the hall every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 8.30am. All children are welcome to attend. Breakfast is free. Many have a second breakfast and some just enjoy chatting with their friends.

**Milo Club** is held during the winter terms in conjunction with Breakfast Club. Run by the Student Leadership team, milos are sold for 50 cents raising money to the annual Wishing Tree Appeal.

## **Sporting Schools and After School Program**

The After School Care Program runs from 3.20pm until 5.00pm Monday to Thursday. Children are provided with a fruit snack. Cost of the program is \$5.00 per student per session

## **Assembly**

We have a whole school Assembly every Monday morning at 9.00am. Parents are welcome to attend.



## How you can help....

- *Talk about school, share the excitement*
- *Practise having 'snack', 'fruit' and 'lunch'*
- *Have a picnic using the same foods they will have at school and encourage them to manage their own boxes and containers.*
- *Practise trying on their school uniform.*
- *Read to your child daily and talk about what you read.*
- *Clearly label all possessions and clothing with their name.*
- *Do not allow your child to bring expensive toys to school which may become lost or damaged. We cannot accept responsibility for these.*
- *Send your child to school on time each day and every day if possible.*
- *Become involved. Research shows home/school connections directly impact on student outcomes.*

### EVERY DAY COUNTS ...

**A day here or there doesn't seem like much but ...**

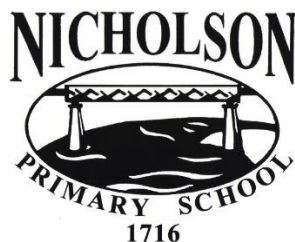
When your child misses just ....	that equals...	which is....	and therefore, from Prep to Year 12, that is ...	This means the best your child can achieve is ...
1 day a fortnight	20 days a year	4 weeks of school	Nearly 1½ years of school	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day a week	40 days a year	8 weeks of school	Over 2½ years of school	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days a week	80 days a year	16 weeks of school	Over 5 years of learning of learning	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days a week	120 days a year	24 weeks of school	Over 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 4

**Give your child every chance to succeed ...**



**Nicholson Primary School follows Department Guidelines regarding Covid-19. Please be aware that information in this booklet may alter due to Covid-19 restrictions.**

*(For example:  
Parents entering school ground for pick up and drop off.)*



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