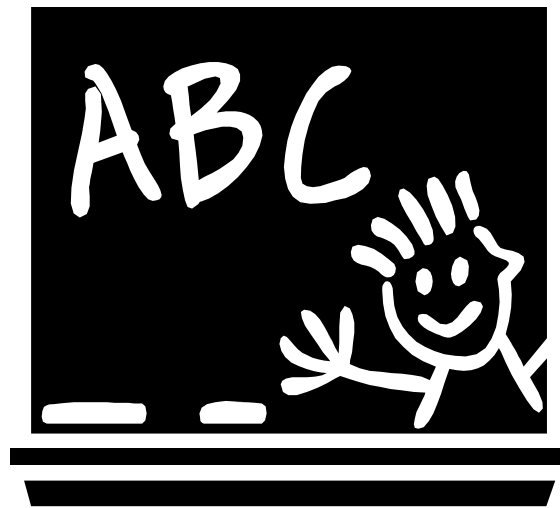


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# **CRAIGIEBURN SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **PREP INFORMATION HANDBOOK**

**2009**



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# A NEW BEGINNING

You as a parent are your child's first and most important teacher. You now have others who will be working hard with you to help your child develop his/her potential.

There will be many new experiences both for learning and discovery - especially learning how to cope as a part of a small society. Your child will be learning in a world of change. Actively participating in all school activities and learning in a stimulating environment that allows for movement, investigation and discussion all enhance your child's ability to learn.

Your attitude to school will influence them, so be as positive as you can, because at this time they need your confidence in them, your enthusiasm and your understanding. You can share in your child's school life through showing interest in their home reading and the work they bring home, helping in the classroom and becoming involved in the various parent groups. Your support as parents is an essential part of a successful school life.

We welcome you and your family to the school and look forward to your support over the coming years.

## PREPARATION FOR SCHOOL

It will help your child to feel more confident if he/she is able to do some things independently so in the weeks before school allow him/her to practise: -

- saying his/her own name and address
- recognising his/her name on belongings
- going to the toilet correctly and adjust clothing
- washing hands after toilet
- managing zips, buttons and laces
- using a tissue or handkerchief
- knowing the importance of covering the mouth when coughing or sneezing
- putting on and remove his/her art smock
- being responsible for looking after his/her own belongings, lunch orders, notices, money etc.

As all children are different, we cannot expect all children to have learnt all these things - let children experience them, but don't pressure them.

## THE TRIP TO SCHOOL

Before your child starts school, take him/her on the route, which will be used to go to and from school and go over the basic safety rules.

- travel directly between home and school
- stop and look both ways before crossing streets
- stay on the footpath
- never run from behind parked cars
- never accept rides from strangers

- do not bring to school items which may cause accidents or are valuable.
- show your child how to use the school crossing correctly
- teach your child always to leave the car on the kerb side
- teach your child to wait for you with his/her teacher

## COLLECTION OF CHILDREN

Please reassure your child that you will pick him/her up on time. It can be very frightening and a young child feels abandoned if you are late. **When picking up your child, please wait under the blue shade area. The teacher will bring her/him to you. Please notify the teacher in advance if someone other than you is to pick up your child.**

## STARTING TIMES - FOR PREPS

<b>Week 1</b>	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	- Parents will be notified of their child's interview time.
<b>Week 2</b>	Monday, 4 <sup>th</sup> February	- 9.00 am till 12.30 pm - Children to eat lunch at school
<b>Week 3</b>	Monday, 11 <sup>th</sup> February	- 9.00 am till 2.00 pm - Children to eat lunch at school
<b>Week 4</b>	Monday, 18 <sup>th</sup> February	- 9.00 am till 2.00 pm - Children to eat lunch at school
<b>Week 5</b>	Monday, 25 <sup>th</sup> February	- 9.00 am till 3.15 pm - Full School Day
	Thursday, 20 <sup>th</sup> March	- End of Term 1

These starting procedures have been developed to help your child cope with:

- Settling in to a new environment
- Getting to know new teachers and new children
- Extending hours from those experienced at kindergarten

## EARLY DISMISSAL

Preps are dismissed early for the first few weeks of school as the weather is quite hot and they tend to tire easily.

If your child is over-tired he/she may be collected early by making suitable arrangements with the teacher, or you may choose to let him/her sleep in.

## THE FIRST DAY

Parents, please help us by following our entrance procedures. On the first day, please bring your child to school at the selected time, introduce him/her to the teacher and then leave him/her in the teacher's charge. In some cases, this is a very difficult step to take and is best done quickly, with a smile, for the sake of your child.

We have found this procedure most effective in ensuring a successful start to your child's school life, as children usually settle within minutes of the parents leaving the room.

If you have concerns about your child settling please discuss them with his/her teacher.

Please send with your child on the first day:

- An art smock (preferably with elastic at neck and with long sleeves)
- A large box of tissues
- School hat

A library bag will be provided by the State Government in Term 1.

Please name all articles.

## **LUNCH TIME**

Play lunch and lunch are eaten inside under the supervision of the teacher.

For the first few weeks it is easier for your child to bring a cut lunch from home rather than having a lunch order as they are still learning their way around the school and the school routine. Wrap the play lunch separately from the lunch so that he/she knows which one is which. Lunch boxes and drink bottles need to be labelled clearly.

Please ensure that your child has enough food but not too much. Children are encouraged to eat ALL their lunch but there may be times when your child brings food home. This may be because :-

- They are too excited to eat.
- They are too tired to eat.
- They had a big play lunch and are not yet hungry.

## **I CAN'T FIND MY JUMPER!**

Every year teachers collect a large quantity of 'that's not mine!', jumpers and other articles. **PLEASE LABEL ALL ARTICLES** your child brings to school as quite often young children do not recognise their own things. The labelling of items makes them easy to return and avoids the upsets that occasionally happen when two children think they own the same item.