RIVER GUM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Foundation Handbook

9799 1216

Fordholm Rd, Hampton Park
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Dear Families,

The time has arrived for your child to attend their first year of school. This is a very exciting and important time. This often creates change and challenges for your child and your family. You will no doubt have many questions and we aim to give you the information you will need through this handbook, our school website and most importantly through your communication with our friendly staff.

At River Gum Primary School we believe that all children can learn and follow the motto ‘Together We Can’.

A sincere welcome is extended to you and we trust that your child’s learning experience at River Gum Primary School will be an exciting and positive one supported by all members of our school community. We look forward to sharing in your child’s learning journey and celebrating their successes together.

If at any stage you require more information or have questions please call 9799 1216.

Sincerely,

The Foundation Team
At River Gum Primary School students own their own learning and our teachers use their pedagogical knowledge to personalise learning. We value community, relationships and reflection.

As a school our classrooms are engaging, exciting supportive environments where we value:

- Diversity
- Respect
- Passion
- Enthusiasm
- Resilience

As a school community we recognise the strengths of our students, teachers and families. We aim to:

- Build positive partnerships with parents and community, creating an environment of success and an easy transition to school.
- Provide a cutting edge education that brings learning to the 21st century, is challenging, engaging and personalised to the needs of our students.

The Foundation year of school is vital and provides the base for your child’s success at school by developing:

- A positive approach to learning
- Independence and confidence
- Thinking and problem solving skills
- Oral language and social development skills
- Literacy and numeracy foundations skills
- Physical gross and fine motor skills
What we learn in Foundation

Our Foundation classes follow the AusVELS Curriculum. These curriculum documents provide us with knowledge and guidance to develop the best possible path of learning for your child. This framework allows us to differentiate and personalise each child’s learning and supports each child in reaching their full potential.

Our classes are hands on and engaging, and develop the foundations for future schooling success. We provide a variety of learning experiences where students work independently, in small groups or with the whole class.

At River Gum Primary School students participate in an approach to English called the ‘Daily 5 & CAFÉ’ model. This framework involves students working on the following areas:

- Read to Self
- Read to Someone
- Listen to Reading
- Work on Writing
- Word Work

This model encourages students to work independently and develop their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. The teacher is able to work individually and with small groups of students to develop student strengths and areas of focus.

In Maths students focus on ‘The Big Ideas In Number’. This approach is based on the research of Professor Dianne Siemon. The Big Ideas are essential to all future learning and success in Mathematics. These big ideas are:

- Trusting the Count
- Place Value
- Multiplicative Thinking
- Partitioning

Students work on individual goals and are engaged in rich meaningful tasks that relate to every-day life experiences.

Teachers are available throughout the year to discuss your child’s learning progress. If you wish to speak to your child’s teacher make an appointment to see them at a time that is convenient to you both.
Specialist Program

Foundation students will attend specialist sessions weekly and can include:

- Physical Education
- Performing Arts
- Engage with Asia
- Music
- Kitchen Garden

Specialist sessions provide students with rich experiences in other aspects of the curriculum.

As well as learning foundation skills in English and Mathematics and attending Specialist sessions we also encourage our Foundation students to:

- Participate meaningfully in their learning
- Have a sense of humour
- Increase their vocabulary
- Use language to communicate
- Develop self confidence
- Develop physical skills
- Negotiate and problem solve
- Develop a positive attitude to learning
- Use a variety of technology
- Make friends
Arrival

- The classroom will be open from 8:35 (A bell is rung). If you arrive before classrooms are open you are required to wait in the undercover spaces outside the building.
- At 8:35 children come inside to unpack their bags and change their readers. They are then allowed to remain inside, or go outside to play until the next bell rings at 8:45. This is a good time to hand notices, or money to your teacher or to let them know any important information for the day.

Departure

- Children will be dismissed from their classroom at 3:15pm.
- They will be brought outside for dismissal and stay with the teacher until you arrive.
- Teachers are on duty until 3:30, after this time students are taken to the front office, where they wait to be collected.
- Please advise us if your child will be picked up by someone else.

Absence

- School attendance is important to the development of your child’s learning.
- Extended family holidays can have an impact on your child’s progress in their Foundation year of school.
- If your child is absent you are required to provide a written note the day that they return to school.

Late arrivals/ Early Departures

- If arriving late to school or leaving early, you are required to provide a note and sign your child in or out at the office.
- The beginning of the day is often dedicated to Literacy, so late arrival at school can impact on this important learning time.
# Bell Times/ Daily Routine

This is a general overview of what the day may look like in Foundation and the bell times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:35</td>
<td>Bag Bell: Students come in and unpack bags, get ready for the day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45</td>
<td>School starts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Literacy Block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fruit snack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:25</td>
<td>Recess Eating time inside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:35</td>
<td>Recess outside play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:05</td>
<td>Maths Block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45</td>
<td>Lunch Eating time inside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:55</td>
<td>Lunch Outside play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:35</td>
<td>Afternoon sessions could include an investigation, social skills focus,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>art, health, science etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15</td>
<td>Students dismissed</td>
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</tbody>
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Parent & Guardian Responsibilities

Parents, guardians and relatives play a vital and valued role in the education of each child. We encourage your involvement.

You can assist by:

- Visiting the classroom and joining in with our experiences
- Reading the newsletters and notice boards
- Supporting excursions and special events
- Supporting us by talking to your child about their day
- Supporting our rules and consequences
- Informing us of any concerns, ideas or suggestions that you have
- Following the school policies and parent code of conduct
- Read all the information in order to familiarise yourself with our policies, routines and practices
- Confidentiality within the classroom is vital, it is not appropriate to discuss happenings within the classroom with any person
- Clearly label ALL your child’s belongings
- Read with your child EVERY night, they should read with you for 15 mins each night
- Discuss any questions or concerns with your teacher
- Notify your classroom teacher and office staff of any changes related to address, phone numbers, emergency contact phone numbers and student absences

We welcome Parent Helpers at River Gum Primary School. You require a Working With Children Check (which can be obtained for free) If you are interested in assisting in your child’s classroom see your teacher.
Expectations of starting Foundation...

Before the 1st Day make sure your child:

- Is well rested & well prepared.
- Has a routine established, and has practised getting ready for school
- Is encouraged to be independent, by packing their school bag and putting away their things.
- Can go to the toilet by themselves.
- Has a school bag that will fit their hat, lunch box, drink bottle, take home book folder & a spare change of clothes that can be used in case of an accident.
- Has a school uniform which is available from PSW (Primary School Wear)Details are in your enrolment folders, or see the school office for details.
- A school hat: Hats are compulsory in Term 1 & Term 4 in line with our Sun Smart Policy.
- Has an art smock, old tshirt or shirt that can be worn when doing ‘messy’ things in the classroom.
- Has a book bag that can be used to borrow books from the Reading Pods.

The 1st Day

We aim to make the first day a happy one for your child. We have lots of smiles, fun and laughter. We will establish a simple routine in the first few weeks to help your child feel confident and comfortable in their new classroom.

To make the first day go smoothly here are a few tips:

- Arrive on time at 8:35 for the bag bell.
- Be positive, happy and organised for the first day.
- Once you have said good bye, please leave as quickly as possible.
Fruit & Water

- Students are given a fruit snack each morning. Please pack a piece of fruit in your child’s lunch box each day. Fruit is often cheaper and more nutritional than a bag of chips, or other junk foods.
- Students are allowed to have a water bottle during class each day.

Lunch Suggestions

Packing lunch each day can be difficult. Your child needs enough food and nutrition to keep them engaged and energised for their day of learning. Please find below some suggestions and ideas about things you might include in your child’s lunchbox.

Please Note: We are unable to heat food up for your child.

- Include fresh fruit and vegetables. Vary the selection to keep it interesting.
- Offer a variety of whole grain breads, rolls, pita bread and flat breads.
- Use avocado as a spread instead of butter or margarine.
- Use reduced fat dairy foods. Cheese and yoghurt are ideal.
- Kids need a serve of protein at lunchtime. Ensure you include lean meat, egg, peanut butter, chickpeas or tuna.
- Add a chilled bottle of water and limit juice.

These websites have some great ideas for healthy snacks and lunches:

Toys

To avoid disappointment please do not allow your child to bring their toys to school. They can get lost or broken which can be upsetting for your child.

Term Dates 2016

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Thursday 28th January to Thursday 24th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Monday 11th April to Friday 24th June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Monday 11th July to Friday 16th September</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Monday 3rd October to Friday 20th December</td>
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Ideas for the holidays

The following section provides you with activities, ideas, and tips for the holidays.

1. Introduce the name of each letter in your child’s first name.

2. Model writing your child’s name and practice with them.

3. When they show interest in reading take the time to explore books and a love of reading.

4. Show them that you read and write too for lots of different reasons.

5. Buy a small exercise book that they can use as a journal to practice writing and drawing in.
More to do...

Easy to do!

- Have your children write your shopping lists.
- Trace a letter on your child's back and have them guess and write the letter on a piece of paper. Take turns and have them trace a letter on your back.
- Finger paint letters.
- Write letters on the sidewalk with chalk.
- Trace letters in the snow or sand.
- Use a flashlight and make letters on the wall. You or your child has to guess the letter that was made. You can also cut out letter templates to place in front of the flashlight.
- Form letters out of play dough or clay.
- Make cookie letters. Have your child form the letters by rolling the dough and putting the pieces together.
- Form letters out of French Fries.
- Draw letters with your finger on the carpet.
- Use different types of pencils for writing practice (gel pens, colored pencils, scented markers, crayons, etc.)
- While your child is in the bathtub have them draw letters on the wall of the tub in shaving cream or soap paint.
- Put letters of your child's name on a die and have your child roll the dice and they have to write or find a match.
Kids in the Kitchen

Children love to get involved in the kitchen. This play dough recipe is easy to make and requires no cooking. When the play dough is made, you can get your child to use it to make their name, letters they know or some simple words.

You will need:

- 2 cups of plain flour
- 1 cup of salt
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1/2- 1 cup boiling water
- 2-5 drops food colouring

Method:

1. Combine plain flour and salt
2. Add food colouring, water and oil. Mix until combined.
3. Knead well
4. If consistency is too wet, add a little more plain flour.

Websites

These websites have some good educational games, videos, tips and ideas

http://www.starfall.com
This website is a great introduction to the letters of the alphabet.

http://www.education.vic.gov.au
The department of education website is useful when looking for school term dates and general information about things like healthy lunches. There are also links to support services.

http://www.abc.net.au/abcforkids/
ABC for kids has games and activities related to popular TV shows from the ABC network.

http://www.sesamestreet.org/
Many videos related to various topics about literacy and numeracy.
Contact Us

River Gum Primary School
Fordholm Rd
Hampton Park, Victoria, 3976

Phone: 9799 1216
Fax: 9799 3389

Email: river.gum.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Website: www.rivergumps.vic.edu.au