



# 2021 Foundation Information

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today for the final Transition session, your child will have brought home a bag full of information and activities to get ready for school. Below is an outline to explain what the bag contains to help you and your child prepare for school life. Please do not hesitate to email or call the school for clarification or to discuss things further. We want to create a partnership, where communication is vital in the best interest for you and your child.

This is going to be the first year of your child's schooling and we feel so honoured to be a part of this. We wish all future Foundation students a happy and successful year in 2021 and we look forward to getting to know your little learners!

Kind Regards,

Louise Tribolet, Zoya Pavloff and Terena Harrison  
(Foundation Teachers)

## Compass Login Details

Compass is our main communication platform at Blackburn Primary School. You will receive personal login details in your child's bag if this is your first child attending BPS.

Compass is used for:

- Receiving information from staff
- Emailing Andrew Cock, Marianne Fusillo, the office staff or teachers
- Making payments
- Giving consent to school programs
- Marking school attendance
- Accessing student reports



# School Website

Our school website contains information about our school, photographs and videos of our facilities and programs and the school newsletter.

You may view the website clicking on this link:

<https://blackburnps.vic.edu.au/>

# Facebook

We do have a public Facebook account for families to see regular uploads of the amazing work from students. Often you will see videos of students confidently presenting interesting and important information that showcases successful work or how our BPS community looks out for one another. Lookout for messages and reminders on Facebook too.

You do not need to have your own Facebook account to view our photos and videos since everything is public. We do also ensure parent permission before any photos or videos of children and their work are uploaded, as we do respect privacy too.

You may view our Facebook account by clicking on this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/BlackburnPrimarySchool/>

# Uniform Information

Purchasing our school uniform is done through Ross Hayward Sports (RHS). You will find the school bags and a range of clothing options that are a part of our uniform, which suits different preferences. Foundation students can also wear their t-shirts we gave them in Transition. All children must wear a hat every day for Term 1 for health and safety purposes. Please see the flyer in the bag regarding our school uniform. We do have second hand uniform options as well, which could be arranged by contacting our office staff. Please ensure all hats and jumpers are clearly named in permanent marker. This helps uniform items get returned to the right person when your little one accidentally leaves their jumper in the yard while being distracted by playing! We want to avoid you having to purchase further uniform pieces of clothing if they have been lost.



## Their Care

We do have a before and after school care service run by Their Care. They also facilitate school holiday programs. If this service is something you require for your child, then please find the flyer in the bag or view our website for booking details and opening and closing hours.



## Nude Food

At Blackburn Primary School, we are always trying to improve sustainability practices and decrease our impact on the earth. To decrease rubbish, we promote 'Nude Food' snacks and lunches, where plastic wrappers are not necessary. This also influences healthier food choices. We encourage reusable lunchboxes and containers that hold cut up fruit and vegetables for example. Also, a sturdy reusable drink bottle is strongly advised for children to drink water throughout the day in their classrooms. Please ensure lunchboxes and drink bottles are named.

An idea of the eating timetable each day involves:

- Fruit Break at approximately 10:00am.
- Snack at Recess between 10:40am to 11:10am
- Supervised lunch at 12:50pm before students play

For Nude Food ideas that suit your child's dietary requirements, we encourage you to search for inspiration on the internet.



## Canteen

A menu for our canteen is available in your child's bag for days where you may choose an alternative to homemade lunches. The canteen food items are outsourced to Miss Peppercorn. More information about the process of ordering a school lunch is on our website.



# Dental Health Promotion

Please find the dental health promotional products and forms to fill out to take advantage of the professional check-ups. The permission forms are due back on the first day of school, Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

## Student Assessment Timetable

A timetable with a one hour assessment session is included in your child's calico bag. This is a great opportunity for Foundation teachers to get to know each student a little better and what skills they already have. Conversations and student results assist us in differentiating planning for the next steps in learning for each child.

Please contact us if your child's assessment date is not suitable for you and we can rebook you in a spare catch up session.

To assess the entire class with one to one session, it requires five days, so whole class teaching will not occur on these days. This routine also has an important bonus of allowing your child to adjust to the intensity of school timetables and build up their stamina. Having a rest day on Wednesdays initially, means students only have two days of school in a row.

The following five Wednesday dates for Foundation students are rest days:

- Wednesday, February 3rd, 2021
- Wednesday, February 10th, 2021
- Wednesday, February 17th, 2021
- Wednesday, February 24th, 2021
- Wednesday, March 3rd, 2021

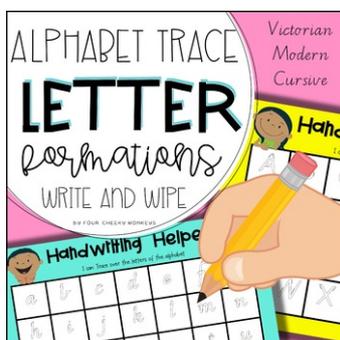
# Uppercase and Lowercase Letters

## Write and Wipe

Many children associate learning to write with school. You will be amazed to see how your child develops in Writing when they are in Foundation. As teachers, we think it is one of the most exciting things to see in young children amongst many forms of learning.

To help students with their letter recognition, fine motor skills and muscle memory, your child is provided with a laminated handwriting activity. This is double sided with uppercase and lowercase letters to practise writing. The font is in Victorian Cursive, which is the style we teach at school. The letters are channelled to encourage writing inside the boundaries, where a dot shows the starting point for the letter formations.

This is a mindful and calm activity for children and we encourage multiple attempts over the holidays when time permits. The laminating allows for repetition, using a whiteboard marker to write and a cloth or a tissue to wipe off ready for the next practice.



## School Count Down Calendar

To build excitement for the first day of school, it is a good idea to use a family calendar to count down the days. Cross out each day as they pass. This activity promotes many Maths skills, such as, counting, days of the week and ordinal numbers for dates. Ask children some prompting questions to use Maths language, for example, if yesterday was Monday, what day is it today?



# Specialist Classes

At the beginning of next year your child will receive a Specialist Class Timetable. We have four weekly specialist classes that include Physical Education (PE), Visual Art, Music and Chinese (LOTE). This timetable will also include the day your child will visit the school library to borrow books to take home.

In order to prepare for these programs, you will need to provide for your child an art-smock, a library bag and running shoes that are appropriate for a range of sports (sneakers).

# Inspiration Bags

Your child will bring home a lot of information inside a calico bag. This bag containing the artwork done by your little one is not just to carry things home in. We would like you to keep this bag safe and help your child fill it with some inspirational items to engage ideas to write about. We call these Inspiration Bags and they are a part of the whole writing process.

Some ideas to include in the Inspiration Bags:

- Photos of experiences, such as, beach days, zoo trips, birthday parties
- Brochures or maps collected from your child's experiences
- Magazine or catalogue cut outs of pictures that interest your child, such as, animals, sport, food, transport, toys and games.

We thank you for your support in helping your child get ready for Writing at school. Please bring the Inspiration Bags to school at the beginning of the year.