



*To Delight  
and Inspire*

**Village School**  
Independent Primary School

# WELCOME to our Prep group 2021

*"Childhood is a journey, not a race"*

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Principal: TANYA HEINE

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and Inspire*

*At Village School, particularly in the early years, we recognise the importance and value of play.*



Working as a team to put our sandpit together.



How many bags do we need to fill up the sandpit? Let's have a guess and then see how many bags it does take.



This is hard work spreading out all this sand but it will be worth it.



At last – time to play! But is it just play?

*'It is paradoxical that many educators and parents still differentiate between a time for learning and a time for play without seeing the vital connection between them.'*

**Leo F. Buscaglia**

*'Not all children are ready to learn the same thing, at the same time, in the same way.'*

**Kathy Walker**

# Welcome to Village School

At Village School we focus on

- **Respect for self**
- **Respect for others**
- **Respect for equipment**
- **Respect for the environment**

We are delighted you have chosen Village as the school for your child. At Village we actively engage children in learning, to create unique life-long learners – it's not what we say, it's what we do! We look forward to sharing many happy times with you as we work together to provide the best possible learning opportunities for your child. When working in partnership we can be more effective in reinforcing the values and attitudes required to prepare our children for the future.

At Village School we believe learning does not stop at the end of the school day. We expect parent support for ongoing academic learning. When you support our philosophy, your child will reflect this socially, emotionally and intellectually.

## **STARTING SCHOOL**

**Experience indicates that children starting school should be able to:**

### **Social**

- play cooperatively with other children
- show a developing concept of sharing and turn taking
- co-operate with adults other than family
- initiate conversations with others in a positive manner
- adapt to changing demands due to spontaneity of learning opportunities

### **Emotional**

- separate easily from parents
- express own needs verbally
- pay attention in a group situation
- concentrate on a task for at least 7 minutes
- persevere with a task that they find difficult
- have confidence in their own ability
- display appropriate behaviours
- accept rules

### **Physical**

- go without sleep during the school day
- be toilet trained
- wash and dry own hands
- use a tissue/handkerchief
- be able to dress him/herself - take own clothing on and off
- manage own lunch box and drink
- look after his/her own possessions
- use cutlery



Help your child write his/her name. Start with a capital letter followed by lower case letters.

## SCHOOL TERMS

Term 1 01/02/2021 to 31/03/2021  
Term 2 20/04/2021 to 24/06/2021  
Term 3 12/07/2021 to 16/09/2021  
Term 4 12/10/2021 to 10/12/2021

## SCHOOL TIMES

THE SCHOOL DAY BEGINS AT 9.00AM AND FINISHES AT 3.30PM.

To help your children cope with the change to 'formal' school hours and to ensure that their introduction to school is positive and enjoyable, **school hours are reduced for the first four weeks.** School starts at 9.00am and for the first two weeks children will finish at 12.30pm. For the following two weeks after that children will finish at 1.30pm.

i.e. Thursday 01/02/2021 to Friday 12/02/2020 pick up time is 12.30pm  
Monday 15/02/2021 to Friday 26/02/2020 pick up time is 1:30pm

## PART TIME PREPS

Part time Prep children attend all day Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday – 9:00am to 3:30pm from 02/03/2019.

## SAYING GOODBYE



On the first day of school please allow time for a photograph to be taken of you and your child to commemorate their very special first day of school.

Give your child a warm goodbye, which includes encouragement to enjoy their day. Even though you may feel very emotional, try to hold back those tears at least until you get to the car! Let them know you will be back during lunch play to collect them. Children notice when their special person is not there to pick them up, please try to be on time. If you are delayed please let the office know so that we can re-assure your child that you will be coming soon.

At Village School we expect to build on the skills children have already attained at Kindergarten. We foster independence which promotes self-confidence, therefore we expect all children to **walk** (not to be carried) and to **carry their own bags** to their classroom. We encourage each child to grow in responsibility and to learn from mistakes.

## **COMMUNICATION, HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **Communication**

- The school newsletter is produced every week on a Monday and is emailed to you, it contains vital information about the week ahead and upcoming events. Additional information will also be sent via email and Schoolstream. A Home Group Meeting will be held in the first two weeks of the year. Please make every effort to attend this meeting as this is a time to ask questions, to share planning and for you, as parents, to get to know one another. We look forward to catching up with you!
- Parent-Teacher discussions take place in Term 1 and Term 3 to assess each child's progress and to plan goals together for the following term. Written reports are given out in Term 2 and Term 4.
- Please note that the focus for teachers of a morning is to set up the room and welcome the children. This sets a positive tone for the day. Please make a time to discuss any issues/concerns for after school. It is also important that parents have social conversations outside the classroom so that the children can settle into their school day.

### **Health**

- All medications should be clearly labelled with the child's name and dosage instructions and handed in at the office to be kept in the first aid room. An allergy plan needs to be supplied with all allergy medication. If your child requires short term medication (such as antibiotics) throughout the day, written directions are required with your signature as consent.
- If your child suffers from asthma or epilepsy however slightly or rarely, a medical plan must be completed and returned as soon as possible. It should be updated whenever requirements change and at least once a year. If your child is asthmatic please ensure that your child has a current supply of Ventolin and a spacer. *These are essential requirements of the school.*

### **Safety**

- Village School is a child safe environment and we refer you to our Child Safe Policy.
- Our school policy requires that the parent/guardian of a child makes contact via phone or email to the office each time their child is to go home with any other person.
- Reduced school boundaries apply in Terms 1 and 4.
- For the safety of all in our school please adhere to the 5km speed limit. All cars must be reversed into parking.
- The children are restricted after school to the gazebo and grassed area in clear sight of the duty teacher.

- Children in the Early Years groups are not to go near the horses without teacher supervision.

## **CLOTHING**

- **Practical clothing is important** - long skirts can be dangerous when children are climbing. Remember, daily activities include PMP, sport, painting, water play and running around- we'd like your child to have fun safely. Please do not send your child in their best clothes, we will do our best to protect clothing during activities, but we don't want the children to stress about not getting paint, dirt, etc. on clothing.
- **Naming** your child's clothing will help lost items to be returned to them. At Village, children are responsible for their own clothing.
- **Sun safe:** If children do not have a hat they will not be permitted to play outside, during terms 1 and 4. Please apply sunscreen to your child before school every day in terms 1 & 4. Sunscreen is available in all classrooms but please supply your own if your child has sensitive skin. We strongly recommend that your child does not wear clothing that exposes shoulders, chest or back.
- **Self-help shoes please**, children take them off frequently during the day and we always remove them to come into the classroom.
- **Shoes must be worn at all times outside.** Sandals with back straps are great in hot weather, but for safety - **no thongs please.**
- **Gumboots and slippers** are essential during Winter. Gumboots are also required for horse riding.
- **A full set of named spare clothes** needs to be kept in your child's locker. These clothes should go home at the end of each term and a weather appropriate set provided for the next term.

## **FOOD**

### **Morning Tea and Lunch Time**

The children have a supervised time to eat, this is generally 15 minutes before they go out to play. We will always encourage (but we will not force) the children to eat.

Healthy, appealing and nutritious food snacks are encouraged. A **named water bottle** is essential. Please limit the amount of disposable plastic packaging used.

Currently we are unable to offer to refrigerate food for every child; many lunchboxes have 'cooler' compartments that will help to keep food fresh. A **named lunch box** with a hinged lid is best, lids are seldom replaced properly resulting in messy school bags and lids getting lost.

***In keeping with our focus on sustainability please avoid plastic bags or plastic wrapping in lunchboxes.***

### **Special Lunches**

We have some very kind parents/grandparents who come to school once a week to provide special lunches for the children. The menu and all other details are in the weekly newsletter.

## **SPECIALIST AND SPORT ACTIVITIES**

All Prep and part time Prep students will participate in Wednesday sport including pony riding and gymnastics at Glitz Gymnasium. They will also participate in Thursday rotations which will include Performing Arts, 5R's and Science.

## **PERFORMANCE**

Term 3 is our Performance term and every child is encouraged to take part. The part time Preps are only required to attend one night out of the three performance nights, but if they would like to participate all three nights they will be most welcome.

## **OFF SITE ACTIVITIES**

### **Excursions**

We hope to include our entire group on outings, however there may be age restrictions required by the organisations we visit which could preclude part time Prep children. The outing (if possible) would then take place on a day they do not attend. Car seats will need to be provided for excursions. Current regulations pertaining to primary school children are:

- Children older than 4 years and under 7 years must be in a forward facing restraint or a booster
- If all seats, other than the front seats, are being used by children under 7 years, children aged between 4 and 6 years (inclusive) may travel in the front seat, provided they use an approved restraint or booster that is properly fitted.
- Cars must be road worthy and registered and drivers fully licensed

### **Camp**

As part of our social development curriculum, we value camps as a means of allowing students to experience social interaction and independence.

We offer sleepover and camps for our **full time prep students** provided the teachers feel the child shows readiness.

The program is as follows:

End of Term 2 – 1 night sleepover at school (part time prep children can stay until after dinner).  
Early Term 4 – 2 night camp – destination to be advised. (Part time prep children will attend their regular days at Village but a day trip to the camp may be organised).

## **GENERAL**

### **Big Friend Little Friend**

Big Friend Little Friend is Village Schools buddy program in which the Big and Little are paired up and regular opportunities throughout the year are provided for the children to develop this special friendship. They play games together, read books together, participate in STEAM activities and eat lunch together. Regardless of the activity, the benefit is in the friendship that develops between the little friend and their big friend and assists with a smooth transition into Village School.

### **Birthdays**

Please hand out invitations discreetly - feelings are easily hurt (email is a better option).

If you would like your child to celebrate their birthday at school with a treat to share – cupcakes or a slice works well. Please check with the classroom teacher regarding children with allergies.

### **Help**

There are many opportunities to help and become involved with your child's education at Village School. They include:

- PMP (Perceptual Motor Program)
- Sharing books
- Driving and assisting on excursions
- Assisting with horse riding
- Travelling in the bus to gymnastics
- Working Bees / gardening / help with the farm

We look forward to getting to know you, your child and your family during the year.

**Please note: to be able to assist in classrooms and excursions, you require a Working with Children Check.** These checks can be applied for online at:

[www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au)

/O:prep interviews and orientation>prep