Information for parents of Prep Children

Transition
There will be three formal transition sessions for your child to become used to the school setting. These will take place from 2-3pm on Fridays – December 2nd, 9th and 16th 2011. Please feel free to bring your child to school any time during out of school hours, to use play equipment or to find their way around.

School Starting Age
Children who reach 5 years on or before the 30th April can be accepted for enrolment. If you are concerned about whether your child is ready for school, please discuss the matter with your child’s pre-school teacher or the school.

Immunisation
To enrol in any Victorian Government School your child needs an immunisation certificate. More information can be obtained from the school office.

Problems? Concerns?
If you or your child are concerned about something, please see your child’s teacher. Teachers are happy to discuss any problems you may have.

Grade Placements
Your child’s Pre-School teacher will pass on to Winters Flat Primary School staff their recommendations for student placement. Friendships will be looked at with your child’s best interests at heart, but we will also take into consideration an optimal learning environment for all.

Attendance for Preps – Term 1, 2012
In Term 1, 2012, children in Preps will attend school for four days weekly until the end of February, as the children become accustomed to the different environment of a large school. This means that Preps will begin their school year on Thursday, February 2nd and will not attend school on any Wednesday during February. On other days the children will attend school from 8.55am – 3.15pm.

Collection of Children
We ask that Prep children are collected from the classroom by a parent or an older sibling. If someone unknown to the classroom teacher is to collect your child, please notify the school either by phone call or note.

Clothing
Please label all items with your child’s name (including shoes). This assists a prompt return if lost at school. When buying shoes for school, please keep in mind that children will need to remove their shoes at different times, so helping your child to learn to do up shoe laces is helpful, or Velcro and pull-on boots are great! Any shoes with metal on them or heels, cannot be worn during P.E. classes in the gym, so a pair of runners is useful, and also slippers for indoors.

Positive Support
We understand that on the first day of school, parents are anxious about the wellbeing of their child, but we are aiming to build your child’s self-reliance, so please show by your words and actions that you are sure school is a happy place. To allow children to settle and find friends, parents are asked to leave as quickly as possible with a cheerful goodbye. If your child is upset, please speak with the classroom teacher. (There will be a cup of tea in the staffroom for parents.)

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD)
You might find it helpful to visit DEECD’s website at http://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents. There are many links and resources available for parents to utilise. Please always feel free to come and talk to Mary-anne Rooney with any concerns, or clarification of anything to do with our school.
To Help Your Child Learn

- Read your child stories and talk about them – the pictures and the storyline.
- Encourage your child to listen to sounds...try to isolate sounds in words, to make rhyming words and play “Simon says...”
- Give your child large sheets of paper and thick pencils or crayons to write and draw with.
- Encourage your child to recognise signs in the community. “I spy with my little eye something the colour of...” or “Something beginning with...”
- Encourage your child to recognise colours.
- Compare things...bigger/smaller, less than, more than.
- Count things up to ten – make it fun!
- Show an interest in the work they bring home and encourage them to talk about it.
- If there is anything that worries you about school, please ask the teacher before the problem gets out of hand, before you or your child get distressed about it.
- As children learn to read, they will sometimes choose a book which is too difficult for them. This is a good thing. Read it, or part of it, to your child as a change from your child reading it to you. Bringing the same book home more than once is okay. It helps children remember the story and look closely at the words.
- Give you child more than one instruction at a time so that she/he can begin to hold several instructions in his/her head. An example of this might be...“Take the rubbish out, come back and wash your hands and then turn off the television”.
- Use adult words in conversation with your child. Don’t over-simplify your conversation, but be happy to explain “Why?” and “What does that mean?” This shows your child wants to learn.
- Sing or practise the Alphabet.
- Have a calendar up. It helps with numbers. The toilet door is a good spot.
- Involve your child in activities at home – cooking, cleaning, building, gardening.

Useful Skills

To make the Prep year easier for your child, it would be useful for them to know how to do, or be learning how to do the following things –

- put their shoes on the correct feet;
- do up their shoe laces/buckles;
- turn clothes in the right way;
- dress and undress themselves (particularly jumpers);
- recognise their own bag, shoes, lunchboxes etc;
- recognise their own name;
- use scissors safely;
- clean up their things;
- share belongings and toys with others;
- visit the toilet without adult help, making use of toilet paper, flushing the toilet and washing their hands afterwards. Boys should be familiar with urinals found in schools and public toilets.

This list is desirable, but not essential!!!