

VERMONT

PRIMARY

SCHOOL

Learning For Our Future

FOUNDATION 2020

Information Handbook for Foundation Families



Welcome from the Principal

Dear Parents,

May we extend to you and your child a very warm welcome to Vermont Primary School.

The primary years of schooling are of vital importance to the development of children's skills, knowledge, understandings and attitudes to life-long learning.

At Vermont Primary School we aim to enhance the social, emotional, physical and intellectual development of all children. We believe children should be encouraged to develop their independence, self-esteem, co-operative work skills and creativity.

We share with you the excitement and the responsibility of ensuring a happy, secure and successful commencement to formal primary education for your child.

A strong partnership between home and school ensures the provision of quality educational programs for our children.

We ask that you support our Nut Free Policy by ensuring that no foods containing nuts are sent to school, thus keeping a safe environment for students with nut allergies.

Please feel very welcome to join in all aspects of school curriculum in our teaching programs, class activities, Vermont Primary School Community Network and School Council Committees. To be involved with the children's programs, the Government requires all adults to have a Working With Children Card. Application forms are available online at www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/applications/

If at any time you wish to discuss any aspect of our school, or of your child's welfare, please feel free to contact the school, or to arrange an interview time.

Together with the school community, we look forward to participating with you in the many activities we have planned at Vermont Primary School.

We look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

DR. ROBIN STICKLAND
PRINCIPAL

SHARON GOVENLOCK
SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT

WELCOME

Thank you for considering Vermont Primary School. The following includes some information about our school, an outline of our transition program and guidelines for starting school.

PRINCIPAL: Robin Stickland

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS: Joy Cook & Helen Murphy

SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Sharon Govenlock

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT: Kate Bennett, Kerryn Barnard, Amanda Berryman & Karen Mummery

School Times

School Hours- 9:00am-3:30pm

Children must be collected by a parent or nominated adult. Under no circumstances will a Foundation student be permitted to leave the school grounds alone.

If parents are going to be late, please inform the school (Ph. 9874 2511)

TERM DATES 2020

Term 1

Thursday 30th January- Friday 27th March
(Teachers start on Tuesday 28th of January)
Thursday 30th January - Years 1 to 6 start

Friday 31st January

Foundation First Day of School

Term 2

Tuesday 14th April – Friday 26th June

Term 3

Monday 13th July - Friday 18th September

Term 4

Monday 5th October – Friday 18th December

A SNAPSHOT OF THE FIRST WEEK OF FOUNDATION IN 2020

Day 1: Friday 31st January 2020

At Vermont Primary School we have staggered start times. This allows time for each child and their family to meet with the classroom teacher and take photos or videos of their special day. Your start time is included in the information pack handed out on the final transition day in 2019.

On the first day of school, parents bring their child to the stadium where they will locate their name tag. One of our specialist teachers will guide you and your child to their classroom.

You are invited to stay for a short while to observe your child in their new surroundings. There will be a variety of activities in the room to help settle them. All children are required to bring their art smock, library bag, chair bag, box of tissues and hat. They also need to have a snack, lunch and drink bottle.

At 3:30pm, your child's teacher will bring their grade outside to the line up area near the pirate ship. At the end of the day, we make sure that we identify the person picking up each child. **To assist us in this process, please step forward when you see your child's teacher descending the stairs and please step back if you do not see your child's class.** This process does take some time, we appreciate your patience.

Day 2 onwards

All children start at 9:00am and finish at 3:30pm. The first bell will ring at 8.55. Please ensure that your child has had a drink, has gone to the toilet if needed and is already at their line up at this time. We endeavour to have all children inside their classrooms and ready to begin their day by 9.00am.

The children will line up at the line up area near the pirate ship at the coloured cone that corresponds to the coloured dot on their name tag. We ask that all children carry in their own bags from the line up area. As we are encouraging independence, your child will wave goodbye to you as they walk inside and will be hanging up and unpacking their own bags once they are in the corridor.

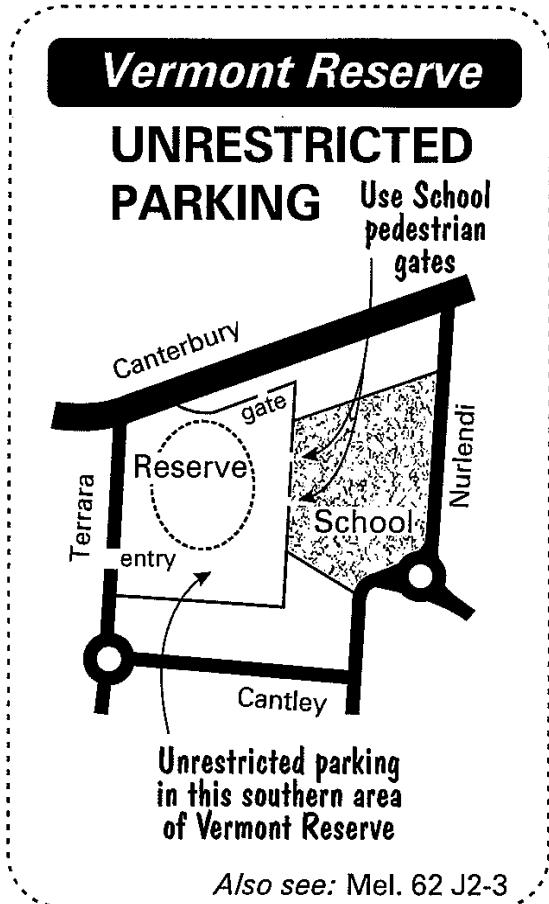
The children will require snack, lunch and a drink bottle.

Assessment Days

Foundation students do not attend school on these days, unless you have an appointment time. Our assessment days allow time for us to prearrange a one on one appointment with your child to assess their current knowledge and plan for their individual learning needs. Unfortunately we are unable to offer Out of School Hours Care on these days. The Assessment Days are on:

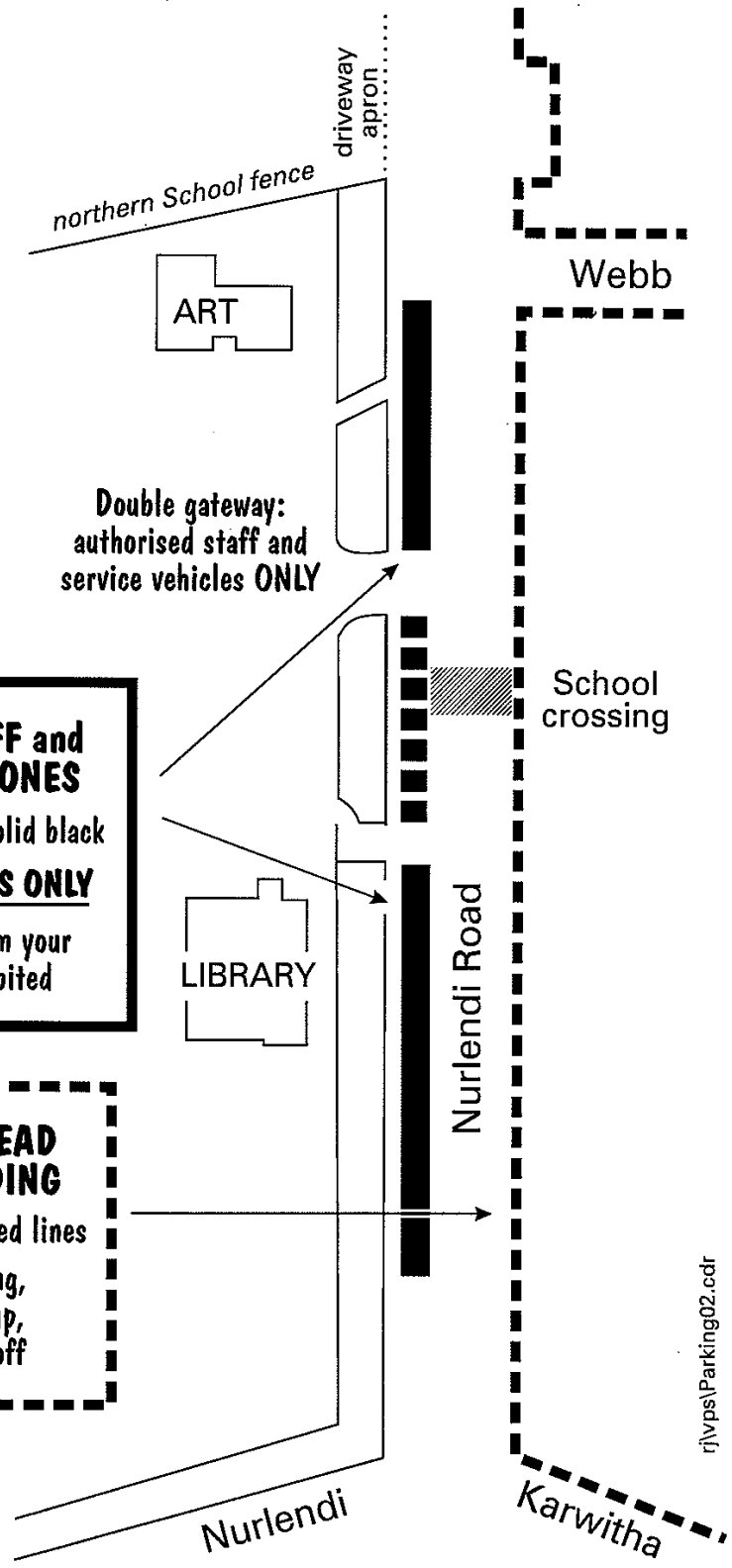
- Thursday 30th January
- Wednesday 5th February
- Wednesday 12th February
- Wednesday 19th February
- Wednesday 26th February.

Vermont Primary School CAR INFORMATION



Nurlendi Road

SEVERE RESTRICTIONS ON STOPPING



2 DROP-OFF and PICK-UP ZONES
shown here in solid black
TWO MINUTES ONLY
Alighting from your car is prohibited

WIDESPREAD NO STANDING
shown as dashed lines
No pausing,
No pick up,
No drop off



Southern driveway: authorised staff and service vehicles ONLY

PREPARING FOR SCHOOL

Starting school is a momentous event in your child's life. It is an exciting time. School usually means some big changes in your child's life – separation from family, new feelings, new friends, independence and new experiences.

It is important to get off to a great start. Getting off to a great start takes a *joint effort between teachers and parents*.

As a parent you have assisted your child to learn many things such as walking and talking. You are your child's *first* teacher. We encourage you to continue your invaluable role in your child's education. Parents can do a great deal to support their child and ease the transition from pre-school to school.

Before School Starts

- Visit the school with your child. Vermont Primary School offers an extensive transition program with many opportunities to visit.
- Let your child practise the things they will need to know to survive socially and personally, such as packing and unpacking lunches, asking for help, getting dressed and undressed, tying shoe laces, keeping to a schedule, getting along with others, waiting for their turn and learning to listen.
- Show your child how to recognise their belongings – by name, colour, etc. A key ring on your child's bag may be helpful. Ensure that **all of your child's belongings are labelled** as it is not unusual for things to get lost. This includes labelling; lunch boxes, drink bottles, hats, uniform, school bag and anything else that you would like returned. We recommend sewing on names or labels or writing with permanent marker as stickers will eventually come off.
- Let your child try on their uniform and show family and friends.
- Teach your child to be safe. Try to make them familiar with their full name, address and phone number. Discuss with them that it is important that they do not talk to strangers and that they stay within the school grounds at all times.
- Give a new lunch box or school bag as a present over the holidays to help make starting school into a positive experience.
- Talk to your child about what to expect at school, so that they understand that they will be safe and well taken care of. You could share your own positive experiences of your time at school.
- Try to establish routines that are the same every day such as getting dressed, eating breakfast and then packing their bags. Routines help children feel secure and reassured as they understand how the day will unfold. This will also assist with their organisation skills and get them into the habit of remembering what to pack for each school day.

- While we do not expect children to be at a certain academic level when they start school, some children might be keen to learn some letters and numbers before they start. If this is the case, some things to focus on include the alphabet, numbers and reading and writing their name.
 - For children who may struggle to remember their alphabet, remembering the names and the sounds of the letters may be too much. In this case, it is better for your child to become familiar with the most common sound each letter makes as this will assist them in their reading. Again if your child finds it hard to learn both upper and lower case letters, we would prefer that they become familiar with the **lower case alphabet** as this is what they will encounter more frequently when reading.
 - Number knowledge includes oral counting as well as recognition of numbers, formation of numbers and the ability to use one-to-one correspondence when counting. This means that the children can count a collection of objects without counting one or more of the objects more than once.
 - If your child likes to write their name, try to encourage them to write with an upper case letter at the start followed by lower case letters.

- Please note that these are only suggestions to guide you if your child exhibits a natural desire to begin exploring letters and numbers. It is important that children are not pushed as it is vital that they see learning as an enjoyable experience and look forward to school without any feelings of inadequacy or tedium. Rest assured that your child's learning needs will be gladly accepted and supported no matter what level they are at.

The First Day

- Try not to overload your child with things to remember as it will add to their anxieties. The teachers at school will remind them so don't worry.
- Go with your child to their classroom and when they are settled, try to leave cheerfully after taking lots of photos.
- If your child is worried about how sad you'll be without them, tell them what you'll be doing, so they know you are okay. For this reason, try to avoid telling them that you will miss them. Encourage your child to look forward to telling you about their day.
- Bring to the classroom - art smock, chair bag, library bag, a large box of tissues, hat, drink bottle, snack and lunch.
- Your child will be given a black reader folder to take home. Please cover this with **patterned adhesive contact and label it**. Adhesive contact can usually be purchased at Aldi, Kmart, Big W and Officeworks. The reader folder needs to be brought to school everyday as your child will be given a new reader book to take home each day. Please set aside 10-15 minutes everyday to get your child to read their reader book to you and practice the letter sounds and words which will also be stuck into their reader folder. As the reader folder will need to last beyond their Foundation year, it is important to cover it with a durable cover to prevent it from breaking and to avoid having to purchase another one. We recommend adhesive contact that has a pattern to assist your child at pack up time to find their folder.

- Your child's reader folder will be packed into their blue satchel. Please ensure that you check the blue satchel everyday as this is where we will put notices that we are not able to email. Getting your child into the habit of packing and unpacking their satchels everyday will assist in ensuring that your forms are returned to us promptly and that your child receives a new reader book and reading assistance from a parent volunteer each day.
- If you are returning a form with money, please ensure that the money is securely enclosed in a labelled envelope or zip lock bag. Forms and money occasionally slip out from the satchels and if they are not labelled it can be difficult to determine who it belongs to.
- It is important that your child wears correct uniform at all times. Please see the school website for uniform guidelines. We also encourage the children to wear sneakers that fit properly as they do a lot of running around and need to be able to walk confidently up and down stairs.

Other Important Reminders

- **Parents and Literacy: Thursday 17th February and Thursday 28th February**
If you would like to volunteer in the mornings with changing books and reading with the children, you will be required to attend both evenings of Parents and Literacy. This helps to ensure that the children are being assisted in their reading in a consistent manner. Even if you are unable to assist in the mornings, we strongly encourage you to attend so that you understand how we teach Literacy at school and so you can help your child with their reading and writing at home.
- Any volunteering at Vermont Primary School (both at school and on excursions) requires that you have a current Working with Children card. You can apply for one at your local post office.