

# Willow Grove Primary School



## Parent Information Book



**Year 2018**

**Principal:** Brendan Dawson

**Phone:** 5635 2271

**E-mail:** [willow.grove.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:willow.grove.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au)

**Website:** [www.willowgroveps.vic.edu.au](http://www.willowgroveps.vic.edu.au)

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Welcome to Willow Grove Primary School. We look forward to a long and positive association with you and your child/children.

We have a school that our parents, staff, children and the community are justifiably proud of.

As a collaborative Professional Learning Community, our vision is widely shared and describes what we hope our school will become in the future. It provides the direction for the way we work.

*At Willow Grove Primary School, we are a community of happy, healthy and resilient learners. We embrace challenges in all that we do and have high expectations of ourselves and others.*

Our values emphasise the character of our school and the expectations we have of all members of the school community. We value:

- *Respect*
- *Resilience*
- *Teamwork*
- *Community*

The purpose of this booklet is to inform families of the functions and expectations that apply at our school. It will inform you of such things as school uniform, excursions, camps and all other policies and procedures we have in place to ensure Willow Grove PS is a safe and supportive environment for your child's education. Of course, we understand that you may have many more questions and wonderings that may not be answered, so please feel free to contact us at any time.

We look forward to your participation in our school community - no matter how big or small.

Once again, on behalf of the Willow Grove School Community, WELCOME!

**Regards,**

**Brendan Dawson**  
**Principal**

**Mark Wilms**  
**School Council President**

# Table of Contents

**Section 1 - Willow Grove Primary School - 2017 Profile.....4**

**Section 2 - A – Z Resource of Important Information.....5**

**Section 3 – Behaviour Management – SWPBS.....12**

**Section 4 – Prep Transition Program and Information.....17**



Pictured above are our Student Leaders with Simon Duck (Willow Grove Duck Inn). Our leaders were thanking Simon for his donation to our school and welcoming him to the community. Our students are involved in a range of community events and programs and have various opportunities to demonstrate and enhance their leadership skills.

## Section 1

# Willow Grove Primary School 2017 Profile

### STAFF

Principal	Brendan Dawson
Business Manager	Cindy Walker (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday)
Classroom Teachers	Sharon McCartney, Helen Trickett, Justin Woodroffe, Jack Blythman
Specialist Teachers	Alison Abbott– Visual Arts/Physical Education/Japanese
Primary Maths and Science Specialist	– Simone Gray (Monday, Wednesday Afternoon, Thursday)
MARC Van	Helen Collins (Wednesday fortnight)
MiniLit	Michelle Byrne
Integration Aide	Joan Brown
Chaplain	Debra Darbyshire (Monday, Thursday)
After School Care	Gabby Eaton

### CURRICULUM

Willow Grove Primary School offers a comprehensive curriculum, with a strong focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths through our Integrated / Inquiry units.

#### **Grades Prep – 2**

- Literacy – 10 hours
- Numeracy 6 hours, including 1 hour dedicated to the 'Big Ideas in Number' (at least 1 hour of Numeracy per day)
- Integrated / Inquiry Unit – 5 hours
- Specialist Areas: Health and Physical Education, Japanese, Visual Arts – 1 hour each
- MARC Van – 1 hour per fortnight
- School Values (and Values Based Capabilities) – 1 hour per fortnight

#### **Grades 3-6**

- Literacy – 10 hours
- Numeracy 6 hours, including 1 hour dedicated to the 'Big Ideas in Number' (at least 1 hour of Numeracy per day)
- Integrated / Inquiry Unit – 5 hours
- Specialist Areas: Health and Physical Education, Japanese, Visual Arts – 1 hour each
- MARC Van – 1 hour per fortnight
- School Values (and Values Based Capabilities) – 1 hour per fortnight

### BELL TIMES

Hours of supervision: 8.45am – 3.30pm

Start: 9.00am

Recess: 11.00am – 11.30pm. Students to eat recess outside starting at 11.00am.

Lunch 1.30-1.40pm - Eating in rooms

1.40pm – 2.15pm - Lunch Play

3.15pm – Dismissal

## Section 2

### A – Z Resource of Important Information

We hope that the following section provides some useful, easy to understand information on some of our unique and broader programs and events that occur at Willow Grove Primary School.

As always, if you require more information, need to ask a question or something isn't listed that you would like to know, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are approachable and here to help!

#### **AFTER SCHOOL CARE**

The School will offer an After School Care Program in 2018. The After School Care program is fully accredited and licensed. The program offers 13 childcare places to school families. It operates out of the library in the Latrobe Building, from 3.15 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

The program is staffed by an accredited childcare worker. Parents who wish to use this service either on a permanent or casual basis need to contact the school. Every family wishing to use the program will require a childcare benefit number which can be obtained from Centrelink. The cost of the program is \$12.00 per session. Please see the Principal or Business Manager if you wish to use the service. A policy and handbook for operating the childcare program will be provided to all interested parents.

#### **ANAPHYLAXIS**

Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. The most common allergens in school aged children are peanuts, eggs, tree nuts (e.g. cashews), cow's milk, fish and shellfish, wheat, soy, sesame, latex, certain insect stings and medications.

#### **COMMUNITY MESSAGE:**

Parents are free to pack the foods of their choice for their children to eat at school, however I ask that you are mindful that at this school we have students who are anaphylactic, a condition that can cause death.

Staff at Willow Grove PS will reinforce that we don't share food and that we should wash our hands after eating. Where it is known that students have brought allergen products to school and there is an anaphylactic student in the classroom, the teacher will take all realistic precautions to minimise risk. Parents can help us maintain a safe environment by ensuring products containing allergens are placed in a labelled, sealed container or plastic bag.

Please be aware that in classrooms we do not use food as treats or rewards. Food such as cakes or other foods may be sent to school to celebrate birthdays however a full list of ingredients needs to be provided. On special occasions when food is freely available, teachers will ensure that a safe environment is maintained for all students. Prior to commencing units of work that involve cooking, teachers will discuss the individual needs of students at risk with parents / carers.

## **ATTENDANCES AND ABSENCES**

Please encourage punctual attendance. Your child should be at school between 8.45 and 9.00am. If your child is unable to come to school, then we require a written note explaining the reason for the absence on the day they return. Students should only be absent from school if it is absolutely necessary. We encourage students to be resilient and turn up to school even if they have a sore throat or cough.

Students that arrive late or need to leave early, need to be signed in or out at the office.

## **BREAKFAST CLUB**

The school operates Breakfast Club for three days per week. The purpose of the club is to educate children about healthy eating and the importance of having a good healthy start to the day. The breakfast is free of charge. The Club is open between 8.30 and 9.00 am. The program is advertised in the newsletter during Term 1, keep your eye out for our newsletter for more information.

## **BUS TRAVEL**

A bus route is established to pick up students from Fumina, Hill End, River Connection Road and Old Sale Road. You must live 4.8 k.m or more away from the school to qualify for free travel. Please see the Principal if you have a query concerning bus travel. Applications for bus travel are available from the office. Timetables and travel details will be distributed to families who utilise the bus service.

## **COMMUNICATION**

At Willow Grove Primary School, we communicate with our families in a variety of different ways.

First and foremost, we pride ourselves on being courteous and approachable to all members of the community. Our school environment fosters the development of purposeful relationships with our families, allowing us to work together to achieve the best social, behavioural and academic outcomes for your child.

A weekly newsletter is sent out electronically each Wednesday. Paper copies are also available at the Willow Grove General Store or from the office. Many notices, news items and a calendar of events are included in this. Please look for it each week to be fully aware of what is about to come up.

Another form of communication that is also popular, is our school's official Facebook page. Please search for Willow Grove Primary School and hit 'like.' We also use a SMS messaging service to communicate reminders and events to our families.

## **EXCURSIONS**

These are planned during the year to give the children experiences that they may not normally have had or to enhance a unit of study. These may be cultural, social or activity based and may involve travel to outside venues or be held at the school.

Permission notes and parent information will be sent home for parents to read and sign. All excursions are approved by School Council except those covered by the local excursion notice which parents sign as part of the enrolment process. Local excursion notices mean that children can walk down to the local community hall, go to the recreation ground, do a neighbourhood walk or walk to the Blue Rock Dam with their teacher and classmates.

## **MEDICAL / ILLNESS / FIRST AID**

If your child has a medical condition or illness, please fill out the details on the enrolment form. If your child has Asthma, a current Asthma management plan needs to be completed and signed by a medical professional and returned to school with the enrolment form.

If your child has attended the Sick Bay and has been given any first aid treatment, a card will go home with them that afternoon just to make you aware of what has happened during the day. Parents will always be contacted by phone when serious first aid treatment has been administered to your child.

At times, students do become sick at school. We prefer to ask parents to pick up sick children from the school so that they may be given the full attention they require (and desire). An emergency phone list is kept in the office for quick notification. Please make sure that updated contact information is given to the school as necessary.

## **SCHOOL LUNCHES – NUDE FOODS**

We are a Nude Food School. These means we encourage and promote the use of food items that don't contain wrappers or packaging.

Experience has shown that the most nourishing lunch is the one provided from home which takes into account the child's appetite and likes and dislikes. It is suggested that all lunches brought from home should have a name on the container and lid, whether it be a plastic box (recommended) or a paper bag. Only plastic bottles with tight fitting lids should be provided for drinks; make sure your child can undo the lid and do it up correctly again. From a health perspective, the school recommends water as the preferred drink for students at all times.

At recess, children eat their food outside. At lunchtime, 10 minutes is allocated for students to eat their food in their classroom, from 1.30pm to 1.40pm.

Lunch orders are provided by the Parents Association each Wednesday. Orders are to be written on a bag, with the necessary money inside an envelope, and placed in the "Lunch Order" container in the children's own classroom. Parent Association will distribute an updated 2018 Food Price List at the start of the term.

On the first Friday of each month, our Parent Association also provides 'Friday Lunchies.' Order forms and information regarding each 'Friday Lunchies' will be sent home in the newsletter.

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

School Uniform is compulsory at Willow Grove Primary School. All new students coming into the school will be required to wear school uniform. We are committed to the wearing of school uniform by all of our students. We believe a uniform encourages students to take pride in their appearance, instils a recognition of themselves as a vital part of the school community and assists in developing pride in representing Willow Grove Primary School.

## Understanding of what constitutes our school uniform

A full list of our Willow Grove Primary School Uniform has also been attached for your reference.

Item	Acceptable	'Out of Uniform'
Shirt	Bottle green polo shirt (short / long sleeved) with gold trim and school logo	Green polo shirt without logo and gold trim. Any other long sleeve top worn underneath a short sleeved shirt. Gold short sleeve or long sleeve shirt not worn with winter dress
Jumper	Bottle green hoodie windcheater with gold trim and school logo	Any other jumper, including jumpers from Hill End Junior Football Club. Nicknames and Names printed on the front of the jumper
Pants / Shorts	Black pants or shorts	Any other coloured pants or shorts. Leggings and tights do not replace pants. No logos.
Dress	Green, white and gold summer check dress. Winter bottle green tunic to be worn with long sleeved gold polo top and black tights.	Long sleeve gold polo shirt to be worn with winter dress only. Not to be worn with pants or shorts.
Shoes	Black – this includes black laces and trims. Any coloured runners are permitted on days when your child participates in Physical Education (Wednesday in 2017)	Any shoes that are not entirely black in colour
Socks	White or black	Any other coloured socks
Hat	School approved wide brimmed hat with logo	Any other hat

Our staff closely monitor students in and out of uniform. If your child is 'out of uniform,' an out of uniform notice will be sent home. The intention of this note is to inform families of what is acceptable and what is considered 'out of uniform.'

If there is a reason that prevents your child from wearing the correct uniform for a particular day, such as the washing was wet, they have out-grown their shoes etc we would appreciate a written note informing us of the explanation.

If your child is consistently out of uniform, a 2<sup>nd</sup> notice will be sent home requiring you to provide a written explanation as to why your child is out of uniform.

**Our uniform supplier is Beleza School Uniforms.** They are located at 26B George St Moe. Their opening hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am – 5pm. Beleza is the only store that you will be able to purchase our shirts, jumpers and dresses. Please note that black shorts and pants can be purchased from other stores, such as K-Mart or Target. School hats can be purchased at school for \$10.

### Financial Assistance

We appreciate that some families may experience difficulties in purchasing uniform items. If this is the case, please approach the school so that we can provide assistance. You can approach any member of staff or Chaplain Deb (Deb works Monday and Thursdays).



## **PARENT PAYMENT POLICY**

Willow Grove Primary School makes every effort to keep the cost and number of items that need to be purchased to a minimum. We also try to ensure that the costs are affordable for all parents.

School councils are responsible for developing and approving a school-level policy which covers essential education items, optional extras and voluntary financial contributions. This policy must meet the community's expectations and is provided to all parents and guardians.

Payments will be kept to a minimum and will not exceed the cost of the relevant materials or services to the student. Each year, school council approves the parent payment policy for the upcoming school year. Charges come under the following three categories:

### **Essential Education Items**

These are items which parents/guardians pay the school to provide or may provide themselves, if appropriate. These items are essential to support instruction in the standard curriculum program. The school buys these items in bulk so they can be provided to parents at a significant discount.

In 2017, the Essential Items contribution was \$180.00.

### **Optional Extras**

These are items provided in addition to the standard curriculum program, and are offered to all students. They are provided on a user-pays basis and if parents/guardians choose to access them for students, they will be required to pay for them. (e.g. excursions, sports days, swimming, camps, musical performances etc)

### **Voluntary Financial Contributions**

Parents/guardians, or anyone else, can be invited to make a donation to the school for the following purposes: contributions to a building trust fund or contributions to a library trust fund (these trust funds are approved by the Australian Taxation Office and are tax deductible), contributions for a specific purpose identified by the school (e.g. equipment, materials or services) in addition to those funded through the SRP. This may include additional computers or student-related services and general voluntary financial contributions or donations to the school.

We request that you pay your essential item contribution of \$180 in full or the first instalment by the due date. Information on Parent Payment Charges are distributed at the start of the school year.

## **VOLUNTEERS, VISITORS & WORKING WITH CHILDREN**

We greatly appreciate the tremendous assistance given by parents. It has become an integral part of our school and something of which we are very proud. Mums and Dads and other special people have been involved in listening to reading, helping with creative writing, clubs, swimming, sports coaching, as well as, contributing to School Council committees, clubs, school lunches and working bees.

You will find that it gives your child a tremendous 'kick' to have their parent in their classroom, and you will get just as much satisfaction in return. Of course we are aware that some parents work and cannot assist or are limited in the amount of assistance that they may give. We appreciate whatever is possible. No effort is too small.

Having said that, Child Safety is of utmost importance to us. It is a requirement of law that all parent volunteers have a **Working with Children Check** if they are directly involved in supervising children in school-based activities. We all want to ensure your child is safe at all times. Please refer to the Working with Children Check procedures and policies located on our website. You can apply for a Working with Children card by visiting the following website: <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/>

Other related policies which are included on our website for your reference include:

- Child Safe Policy
- Volunteers and Privacy in the School Community Policy
- Visitors Policy

## Section 3

# Behaviour Management - SWPBS

Our school is a School-Wide Positive Behaviour School (SWPBS). We explicitly teach, practice and acknowledge our four values of Respect, Resilience, Teamwork and Community.

These four values guide the expectations we have of all students. They were developed in consultation with our school community and reflect the skills and attributes our school community wish to instill in our students by the time they leave Willow Grove Primary.

Being part of the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support program is an enormous asset to our school. It guides our Behaviour Management Program and our Positive Reward System. These have been clearly defined in the posters on the following pages.

You will also find below the expectations of student behavior that we have in various settings across the school in the form of a matrix. These were defined in consultation with our students at the start of 2017 and will be refined each year to ensure that they are current. This ensures that all members of the school community are clear on the level of behavior we expect from our students.



## **WILLOW GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT POLICY**

### **Rationale**

At school everyone should be treated respectfully, every person needs to feel safe and secure and students need an environment that supports their learning, personal growth and positive self-esteem.

### **Purpose**

To establish what is expected with regards to student behaviour and to state how the school will respond to student misbehaviour.

To ensure that our school is a place where:

- Everyone feels safe, positive and cared for.
- Positive relationships between teachers, students and parents/caregivers are fostered.
- Rights and responsibilities are known, respected and protected.
- Self-discipline and a capacity to accept responsibility for one's own actions is nurtured.
- There are always clear expectations for student behaviour and how the school responds to student misbehaviour.

### **Implementation**

#### **School Values**

All teachers, students, parents/caregivers and visitors should embrace the following school values:

- Respect
- Resilience
- Teamwork
- Community

#### **Expectations**

The school also sets the following expectations that underpin student behaviour in the classroom, playground, incursion/excursion/camps and all school activities. These expectations will be aligned to our school values.

#### **Expectations of students**

- Be friendly and polite, and protect the safety and well-being of self and others.
- Learn and allow others to learn.
- Look after one's own belongings, other's belongings and school resources.
- Follow the directions of staff at all times.
- Play safely.
- Wear the school uniform with pride
- Care for and respect the school environment.

- Keep your hands and feet to yourself.

## **Classroom Expectations**

Each teacher is to:

- Establish with his or her class, age-appropriate understandings and expectations of the learning environment that is to be established and maintained. The 'School Values' and the 'Expectations of students' stated above are to be used as a guide to the scope of the understandings and expectations.
- Ensure that there is an emphasis on positive behaviours and quality learning time, but acknowledge that from time to time there will be a need to clearly articulate what constitutes inappropriate behaviour.
- Teach and explain the Whole School Behaviour Management Program and develop a classroom reward system (see attached).

These discussions need to include:

The school values and expectations.

Clearly define acceptable behaviour.

Rewards for appropriate behaviour.

Consequences for unacceptable behaviour.

- Ensure that the Whole School Behaviour Management Program is sent home to parents/caregivers in the first term, so that the child and family can become familiar with classroom behaviour codes and expectations.
- In Term 1, support the leadership team in the review of the Whole School Behaviour Management Program, which includes the Playground and Classroom Management Plans.

## **Principal/Leadership Team Expectations**

School leaders have a particular responsibility to offer all staff (including casual relief teachers) broad and deep support in acting on the policy. Essential elements of this support structure are:

- Principal will have entry interview with all new students and families to explain Behaviour Management Policy and Whole School Behaviour Management Program.
- Foster a team approach to student well-being, which includes regular communication with all staff about current issues, student welfare and behaviour management program effectiveness.
- An approach to working with staff that assists and supports each staff member to establish and maintain a classroom behaviour model that reflects the school values and the student expectations listed in this policy.
- At the commencement of each year and on other occasions when necessary, review with all staff the School Behaviour Management Program.
- Assist staff to develop, implement and monitor behaviour plans for students who are unable to consistently exhibit the behaviours exemplified through the values and expectations.
- Provide support to teachers to ensure that inappropriate student behaviour does not interfere with the learning of other students.
- Actively support a partnership between parents/caregivers, students and teachers.
- Ensure that the Behaviour Management in the Playground Plan is sent to all families in the first term.

- Inform all new members of the school community of the content and implementation of the Behaviour Management Policy and the Whole School Behaviour Management Plan.

## **Responding to Student Misbehaviour**

The school's emphasis is on responding to student behaviour in positive and encouraging ways. On those occasions when students make poor choices with their behaviour, staff will assist them to learn from the incident, so that similar mistakes might not be repeated. At all times the dignity of the student involved will be maintained. In conjunction with consequences, the emphasis is to be on repairing relationships and moving forward in a positive way.

Where students need greater support, staff are to work in partnership with the parents/caregivers and are to put into place appropriate student specific strategies to assist the student in his or her attempts to improve the behaviour. The leadership team is an essential resource for teachers and should assist and provide support on these occasions.

Serious misbehaviours must be reported to the Principal.

Behaviours that constitute serious misbehaviour include, but are not limited to the following:

- Direct verbal or physical abuse.
- Bullying.
- Deliberate physical damage to property.
- Non-compliance or refusal to follow a direct instruction from a staff member.
- Repeated disruption to student learning.

## **Actions**

- The incident is reported to parent/caregivers in person, by phone or by letter.
- When deemed necessary a conference involving the student, parents/caregiver and relevant staff will take place. The aim of the conference will be to repair relationships and to determine the best method of assisting the student to adhere to our Behaviour Management Policy.
- The child will be offered appropriate support as needed.
- Time out of the classroom and or playground will be implemented. (As detailed in the Whole School Behaviour Management Program).
- Further serious misbehaviour will require a further conference with parents. Followed by one or more of the following:
  - Contractual arrangements. This is an agreement reached between the school, the student and the parents/caregivers stating the conditions under which the student's attendance in the school will continue.
  - Exclusion from special school activities such as: sports days, camps, incursions and excursions.
  - In school suspension.
  - Out of school suspension.
  - Expulsion.

## **Restraint of Students**

With regard to the restraint of students, the school will comply with Regulation 15 of the Education and Training Reform Regulations 2007 which states: "A member of the staff of a government school may take any reasonable action that is immediately required to restrain a student of the school from acts or behaviour dangerous to the member of staff, the student or any other person."

The object of the restraint is to avert the danger to some person. It should therefore be measured (i.e: reasonable in the circumstances) and removed once the danger has passed.

**Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed in 2019

**Ratification**

This policy was ratified by the School Council on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

## Section 4

# Prep Transition Program & Information

The Prep transition program consists of a number of elements to make the change from pre-school to school an easy one. These are:

### PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1.15 pm – 1.45 pm – Parent Information Session at the Pre-School.**

**You may wish to contact the school to make an appointment to discuss your child's needs at any time. Please contact the Principal, if you wish to be shown around the school or wish to discuss the special concerns and issues relating to your child.**

### PRE-SCHOOL EXCURSION

The Willow Grove and District Kindergarten visit the school on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October for a tour, activity, snack and play.

### TRANSITION SESSIONS

Transition Days in 2017 for students starting Prep in 2018

<b>DATE</b>	<b>STUDENT TRANSITION SESSION</b>	<b>PARENT INFO SESSION – 9.30-10.15am @ Willow Grove Primary School</b> These parent sessions run on the same dates as the Prep 2018 transition sessions and will provide families with more in-depth information and some practical advice that will help you and your child settle into our school community.
<b>Fri 27<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>9.30-12.00pm</b>	<b>Oral Language – Teagan Dwyer, Speech Pathologist, Latrobe Valley Student Support Services Team</b>
<b>Fri 10<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>9.30-12.00pm</b>	<b>Mathematics &amp; STEM - Simone Gray, Primary Maths and Science Specialist, Willow Grove Primary School</b>
<b>Fri 24<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>9.30-12.00pm</b>	<b>Reading &amp; Spelling – Sharon McCartney, PLC Instructional Leader, Willow Grove Primary School</b>
<b>Fri 8<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>9.30-1.30pm</b>	
<b>Tues 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>9.30-2.15pm</b>	

### ENROLMENT FORMS

Enrolment forms are due to the primary school by Thursday the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2017. This allows the school to plan for the following year and ensures that your child's transition is smooth.

Our enrolment packs contain all of the information you will need to enroll your child at primary school. Please use the checklist to ensure that we have all of the required information.

## **2018 TERM DATES**

The 2018 Term dates are as follows:

TERM 1	<b>Teachers Resume</b> Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January – students do not attend on this day.*  <b>Students Resume</b> Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> February  Tuesday the 30 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday the 31 <sup>st</sup> of January have been allocated as Student Assessment days. Your child’s teacher will contact you to arrange an interview to conduct literacy and numeracy screening. These assessments are part of our yearly schedule and are used by teachers to plan their teaching and track student growth.  Term 1 finishes on Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March
TERM 2	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> of April – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> of June
TERM 3	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> of July – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> of September
TERM 4	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> of October – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> of December

\*The first day of Term 1 is a student-free day in all government schools to allow for appropriate planning to take place for the arrival of students. Each year government schools are provided with four student-free days for professional development, school planning and administration, curriculum development, and student assessment and reporting purposes. The remaining three student-free days are determined by each individual school.

At the time of publishing, Willow grove Primary School has not yet determined the remaining three student-free days for 2018. You will be notified of these school closure days via the newsletter.

## **YOUR CHILD’S FIRST DAY**

On Thursday the 1<sup>st</sup> of February when you arrive at school, take your child to their room, introduce them to their teacher and involve them in an activity. Please leave your child when they are comfortable. It is important for you to have discussed with your child the procedure that will occur. Tell your child that you will be back to pick them up.

If your child is having difficulty separating, the class teacher will assist you. Please follow their advice and suggestions; there is nothing to be gained by remaining in the room. A distressed or over anxious parent will not help a child to settle down happily in their new environment. Please be assured that we will contact you to let you know how your child is settling.

A special welcome morning tea will be provided by the Parent Association to enable parents of new pupils to meet with and chat to other parents and teachers. This will be held on the morning of Thursday February the 1<sup>st</sup>. Please make your way to our staffroom which is located in the Tanjil (old) building.

## **PREP REST DAYS**

Preps will attend school on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in February. Wednesdays during the first month is the designated prep rest day.

These are the Wednesday dates where Preps have a rest day – **February 7<sup>TH</sup>, 14<sup>TH</sup>, 21<sup>ST</sup>, 28<sup>TH</sup>**

Full attendance begins the week starting **MONDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018**.

Once again, you will find reminders of this information in the newsletter and or our Facebook page.

## **TIPS AND TRICKS TO HELP YOUR CHILD IN THE FIRST YEAR**

1. Name everything that your child brings to school – all clothing, lunch boxes, bags, plastic bottles, storybooks, toys, balls, etc. Unless articles are named, it is impossible for teachers to find the correct owners.
2. Above all, don't worry. When children have developed a secure relationship with their teacher and have made friends, minor problems seem to solve themselves.

If a problem persists, don't hesitate to talk to the teacher.

## **GETTING YOUR CHILD READY FOR SCHOOL**

It will be helpful to your child if you can teach them to do these things for themselves before starting school:

- Go to the toilet by themselves.
- Do up own buttons and zips.
- Do up own shoelaces, and if this cannot be managed yet, wear shoes of a type which are easily removed and put on again. Velcro straps are ideal.
- Hang up clothes and bag.
  
- Recognise own name on clothing.
- Eat lunch neatly and in correct sequence.
- Know and be able to say clearly, full name and address.
- Take a message correctly.
- Understand and carry out an instruction.
  
- Sit quietly for a short time.
- Speak quietly indoors.
- Pack away toys after use.
- Wipe up spilled water, paste, etc.
- Attempt to write own name.
- Cut with scissors.

We are very aware that children enter school with many varied skills and abilities. We aim to provide a rich program that will assist and cater for your child's physical, intellectual and social needs. Some children will require a foundation of pre-learning skills which will prepare them for the formal learning situations. Other children will be literate and numerate and will require learning experiences that will further enhance their development. Children develop at different rates – there is no point in comparing your child's school progress with another.

## **OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

- . School bag
- . Spare pair of pants and underwear (sometimes accidents occur).

## **SOME IMPORTANT READINESS AREAS**

1. Your child needs to be able to relate to adults outside the family. They should be able to –
  - Listen to the teacher
  - Do what the teacher asks
  - Make known to the teacher what they need
  - Shift attention appropriately from one task to another
  - Show some control over impulses
2. Your child needs to be able to get on with other children.
3. The child needs to separate easily from parents and guardians.
4. Confidence. The child who sees themselves as generally being successful will be more prepared to try new challenges offered at school. Praise works wonders.
5. Responsibility. The child who learns to take responsibility for their own clothes and belongings will reduce anxiety for themselves, their parents and the teachers.
6. Independence. School provides a whole range of activities for children. Those children who do not need direction in occupying themselves can attempt much more and consequently will learn much more. Allow your child to tackle things on their own. Don't criticise failures. Remember, they are doing their best. **FAIL = First Attempt In Learning**
7. Resilience. Encourage your child to see a task through to completion. This will be a big advantage at school. Sometimes, parents can help get the child over a problem and then allow them to complete the task. This enables the child to see the value of being persistent when faced with setbacks.