

# Strathmore

PRIMARY SCHOOL No.4612

**Foundation  
Orientation Booklet  
(Revised Edition)**

**2021**

# Strathmore

PRIMARY SCHOOL No.4612

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Strathmore Primary School and thank you for enrolling your child at our school.

Starting school is a major life transition for both children and their families. You have already been preparing your child for school, as families are the primary influence on children's learning and development. Your child has developed a range of skills and abilities that form the basis of further learning, and our school is ready to welcome and support children at different stages in their learning growth.

We value a positive and collaborative relationship with families to support your child's learning. To prepare yourself and your child for the start of school, we encourage families to watch our [Foundation information video](#) and [virtual tour](#) by following these links. These videos are also available on our school website <https://strathmoreps.vic.edu.au/>. [Tips for starting school](#) are also available on the Department of Education website.

Strathmore Primary School has planned a thorough transition program for pre-school students and their parents to develop your awareness and familiarity with the school. Your child will be expected to attend **two** transition one-hour sessions where they will visit the school to become familiar with their classroom and teachers. Families have been emailed details of their child's allocated transition group, but please contact the school if you have not received this information

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to make a positive start to school. If you have any questions regarding the transition program or the start to school, please contact Jenny Strouzas, our Foundation Transition Co-Ordinator, via Compass email or the school office.

Regards,

Peter Olm  
Principal

Wayne McKenzie  
Assistant Principal

Jenny Strouzas  
Learning Growth Co-Ordinator  
Foundation Transition Co-Ordinator

Poppi Vounoridis and Stephanie Thompson  
2021 Foundation Teachers

## STRATHMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR 2021 (REVISED)

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### TERM 1, 2021

Wednesday	27 <sup>th</sup> January	Staff Curriculum Day (Student Free Day)	
Thursday	28 <sup>th</sup> January	Staff Curriculum Day (Student Free Day)	
Friday	29 <sup>th</sup> January	Foundation First Day of School 9.30am to 2.45pm (early dismissal)	
Monday	1 <sup>st</sup> February	Foundation students 9am to 2.45pm (early dismissal)	
Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Foundation students 9am to 2.45pm (early dismissal)	
Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Foundation students 9am to 2.45pm (early dismissal)	
Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup> February	Foundation students 9am to 2.45pm (early dismissal)	
Friday	5 <sup>th</sup> February	Foundation students 9am to 3.30pm (regular school hours)	
Monday	8 <sup>th</sup> February	Foundation students 9am to 2.45pm (early dismissal)	
Tuesday	9 <sup>th</sup> February	Foundation students 9am to 2.45pm (early dismissal)	
Wednesday	10 <sup>th</sup> February	Foundation students 9am to 2.45pm (early dismissal)	
Thursday	11 <sup>th</sup> February	Foundation students 9am to 2.45pm (early dismissal)	
Friday	12 <sup>th</sup> February	Foundation students 9am to 3.30pm (regular school hours)	
Monday	15 <sup>th</sup> February	Foundation students commence regular hours (9am to 3.30pm)	
Thursday	1 <sup>st</sup> April	Last day of Term 1	<b><i>Students finish at 2:30pm</i></b>

### TERM 2, 2021

Monday	19 <sup>th</sup> April	Staff Curriculum Day (Student Free Day)	
Tuesday	20 <sup>th</sup> April	Students resume	
Friday	25 <sup>th</sup> June	Last day of Term 2	<b><i>Students finish at 2:30pm</i></b>

### TERM 3, 2021

Monday	12 <sup>th</sup> July	Staff Curriculum Day (Student Free Day)	
Tuesday	13 <sup>th</sup> July	Students resume	
Friday	17 <sup>th</sup> September	Last day of Term 3	<b><i>Students finish at 2:30pm</i></b>

### TERM 4, 2021

Monday	4 <sup>th</sup> October	Students resume	
Friday	17 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of Term 4	<b><i>Students finish at 1:30pm</i></b>

## Hours of Attendance (Revised)

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Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 will be the first day of school attendance for all students. Foundation students will attend from **9:30am to 2:45pm** on this first day.

During Term 1, many primary schools implement reduced hours of attendance for Foundation students. Sometimes, this will involve one day of non-attendance each week for a period of time, to enable essential one-to-one literacy and numeracy assessments to occur on these days. In some cases, schools implement shortened hours of attendance on certain days of the week and this can assist with the transition in the early stages of a student's entry to primary school.

In 2021, Strathmore Primary School will implement a model whereby there will be four days with shortened hours of attendance in the second and third weeks of term (from Monday to Thursday), followed by a full day on the Friday, with Foundation students attending Assembly on Friday afternoons. One-to-one literacy and numeracy assessments will be conducted throughout the week with Foundation teachers being released by teachers in support roles. From Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February in Week 4 and onwards, Foundation students will attend full time each day of the week.

### Week 1

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 9:30am to 2:45pm

### Week 3

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 9:00am to 2:45pm  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 9:00am to 3:30pm

### Week 2

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> to Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 9:00am to 2:45pm  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 9:00am to 3:30pm

### Week 4

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February onwards 9:00am to 3:30pm

Please also refer to the 2021 term dates summary on the previous page.

## First Day of School (Revised – January 2021)

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Parents/guardians are able to wait outside the Foundation building on the Lloyd Street side of the school from 9.15am on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Our Foundation teachers will meet the students at 9.30am and will take the students inside to the classrooms.

In order to ensure appropriate social distancing and in line with revised COVID-Safe guidelines, families are unable to enter the school building and must leave the school grounds promptly after arrival. The attached Orientation booklet has been amended to reflect this change. Please be assured that our Foundation teachers and other staff will assist students to enter the classroom, and a prompt goodbye will support and encourage our Foundation students to settle more quickly, confidently and independently into the new classroom routine.

At 2.45pm on the first day, please wait outside the Foundation building on the Lloyd Street side of the school, where our teachers will wait with your child until your arrival.

## Drop Off and Pick Up Arrangements (Revised)

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The following arrangements will be in place for ***Morning Drop-Off:***

- School gates open at 8:45am and student drop-off can occur from this time
- Students are not to be at school (or on the grounds) prior to this time and it is requested that students also do not arrive earlier than 8:45am to wait outside the gates (which will be opened at 8:45am) – the out-of-school-hours care program provided by TheirCare is available prior to 8:45am if required
- Students will proceed directly to their classroom, where they will organise their belongings, connect with their friends and peers, follow hand cleaning and sanitising routines and then do a quiet activity to settle themselves ready for the beginning of learning

In the early stages of the year, there may be some students who have anxieties about start of the day routines. If this happens to be the case, we encourage families to contact their child's classroom teacher and school leadership, including Learning Growth Co-Ordinators, through Compass, so support can be provided with your child's entry into school and beginning to the day.

The following arrangements will be in place for ***Afternoon Pick-Up:***

- All students will be dismissed at 3:30pm with parents being able to enter the grounds from 3:15pm to pick their children up from inside the school yard after the bell – students may exit from any gate

Please ensure you arrive on time to pick up your child, and contact the school office should you be delayed. Students who have not been picked up by 3:45pm will be supervised in the administration area.

**In the event of advice from DET or the Victorian Government about reimplementing a staggered approach to drop-off and pick up due to a change in COVID19 restrictions, the school will communicate this as soon as possible.**

## Foundation Assessments - Revised

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In the early weeks of Term 1, one-to-one Early Years literacy and numeracy assessments will be conducted with Foundation teachers being released by teachers in support roles.

These early assessments will assist teachers to gather information about the level of literacy and numeracy understanding students have at the start of the Foundation year and will help teachers plan and implement a differentiated learning program to cater for the needs of all students.

**Individual appointment times and bookings are no longer required.**

## School Uniform

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The school has a policy on School Uniform, making it compulsory for all children to wear our school uniform to school. Our uniform is attractive and easy to wear and care for; it helps encourage a school spirit, negates peer group pressure and gives the children a sense of belonging to our school. The uniform also provides a measure of security when students are on excursions. All children must wear a school hat in Term 1 (until the end of April) and Term 4 (from the start of September), as part of the school's SUNSMART policy. Uniform items are available through our uniform supplier Noone at 543 Keilor Road, Niddrie, 9379 5037. Further details about items, pricing and booking a fitting appointment with Noone will be provided on Compass.

## Items Required for the First Day of School

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Your child should arrive at school on the first day wearing the correct school uniform. They will need to bring the following items to school on the first day. **Please ensure ALL items are clearly named with your child's full name.**

- A broad-brimmed school hat which must be worn outside during Terms 1 and 4.
- A school bag that is large enough to hold the reading satchel (provided through the Essential Learning Items payment), a jumper, a change of underwear, a lunch box and a reusable plastic drink bottle.
- Play lunch and lunch to be packed in re-usable containers. In keeping with the school's efforts to be environmentally aware, it would be preferable if no plastic wrap or foil is used for wrapping. A drink of water should be in a re-usable bottle. **Please ensure these are all clearly named.**
- A re-useable bag to carry a library book.
- An art smock with long sleeves (an old shirt with elasticised sleeves is ideal).
- **A labelled change of underwear and socks.**

The school cannot be held responsible for private property that students bring to school, therefore it is not advisable for students to bring valuable items to school.

## Preparing Your Child for School

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Starting school is a big step in a child's life and an important milestone for families. Here are some tips on how you can help your child have a positive start to school.

### Dressing for school

- Encourage your child to dress himself/herself so he/she can manage things like taking jumpers on and off at school.
- Teach your child how to use buttons, zips and tie their own shoelaces.
- Reinforce the need to care for his/her own clothing and other possessions.
- Check the weather forecast and be prepared for unexpected changes. Pack a spare jumper in the school bag.

### Food for energy

Strathmore Primary School encourages all students to pack a rubbish-free snack, lunch and a reusable drink bottle with water. We encourage all food to be placed in reusable plastic containers, but please ensure you clearly label the containers with your child's name. Some food ideas may include:

- **Play Lunch** - piece of fruit, muesli bar or cheese and crackers.
- **Lunch** - one sandwich/wrap, one piece of fruit and/or vegetables (keeping in mind that young children do not generally need large lunches).
- Purchase a "child friendly" lunch box and ensure that they can open and shut it independently.

### Getting ready

- Have some 'practice-runs' to get ready for school before school starts.
- Label all school items (uniform, hat, lunchbox, containers, drink bottle and bag)
- Talk about school in a positive way, get your child excited and talk about any worries they might have.
- Have a special lunch day at home or a picnic lunch at the park using a plastic lunchbox and drink container.
- Arrange play times with other families whose children will be going to our school.
- Visit your local library and read books with your child about starting school.
- Confirm your before and after school care arrangements. Our Outside School Hours Care provider, Their Care, can be contacted at <https://theircare.com.au/> and 1300 072 410.

### Journey to and from school

- Practise walking to school along the safest route, obeying road rules and discussing potential dangers.
- Drive past the school and discuss the safest way to get into and out of a car if you are driving your child to school.

### Looking after belongings

- Label all your child's belongings clearly (uniform, hat, lunchbox, containers, school bag, library bag, art smock) with their full name.
- Show your child where these labels have been placed.
- Teach your child how to identify his/her name and personal belongings.
- Encourage your child to organise their uniform and prepare their bag.

### Communication between home and school

- News and important messages will be communicated electronically through the school communication app, Compass.

- Check your child's reading satchel each night for any additional notes or learning materials from your child's teacher.

### **Lunch Orders**

- Lunch orders from our local café supplier Revitalise in Napier Street can be ordered via the Qkr app (pronounced Quicker). Details are available on our school website and Compass>Community>School Documentation.
- Lunch orders must be ordered via the app before the 9am cut off time on the day of the lunch.

## **Punctuality and Attendance**

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Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Regular daily attendance helps your child develop important skills, knowledge and values to further their learning and participation in the community. Attending school every day also helps your child develop crucial social and emotional skills such as good communication, resilience and the ability to work in teams. We also strongly encourage our students to get to school on time, as it supports your child to settle quickly into the school routine and valuable learning happens right from 9am. We encourage families to arrive at school from 8.45am to allow time to say goodbye and for your child to join their peers prior to the 9am start.

### **Saying goodbye**

Saying goodbye to your child can be difficult for parents. Here are some ideas that may assist you:

- Say a quick, upbeat good-bye and reassure your child that they will have a good day. Be careful not to prolong the farewell.
- Tell your child that you are leaving, give your child a kiss and a hug and then leave them promptly. Reassure your child that you will be back at the end of the day to collect them.
- It is not unusual for some children to be upset when parents first leave. Generally, students settle within a minute or two, and our teachers will provide extra support at this time if required. If your child is unusually distressed, the teacher will discuss further strategies which could be used to help your child adjust to school.

### **Picking up your child after school**

Please remember to be on time to collect your child; a few minutes can be a long time for a child who is waiting for you.

- Discuss who is likely to pick up your child if circumstances change and where to meet after school.
- Greet your child warmly and show appreciation for anything they might be telling or showing you.
- Try to talk about what exciting things your child has done during the day but don't ask too many questions. Try asking open ended questions that require more than a "yes" or "no" answer. Some may include;
  - “That looks interesting. What can you tell me about that?”
  - “What was your favourite activity today?”
  - “Tell me about what you did during lunchtime.”
  - “Tell me about the best part of your day.”
- Your child may come home exhausted because they are participating in many activities during the day, so build in some quiet time after school and enjoy a snack together.
- Students who are not picked up by 3.45pm will be supervised in the office area. **Please contact the school office if you are running late for the end of day collection.**

### **Toilet routine**

- Ensure that your child knows how to go to the toilet and wash his/her hands independently. Practise at home and in public toilets.
- **A labelled change of clothing in a plastic bag in your child's school bag is strongly recommended.** Let your child know these clothes are in their bag in case of any accidents at school.

## **Avoiding Possible Anxieties About School**

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Please remember that the positive partnership established between school and home is crucial to your child's overall wellbeing. It may be helpful to identify some aspects of your child's new routine which may cause anxieties and discuss them with your child and teacher if necessary. Although students may exhibit some anxieties, experience has shown that they don't remain for long and children quickly settle into a happy school life. Possible anxieties may include:

- the long day and the separation from parents and/or siblings
- responding to the school bell and the loud noise in the playground
- large numbers of students in the playground
- restrictions on own choice of activities
- unfamiliar toilet routines
- making new friends
- the large size of the school environment.

Teachers are aware that these problems may occur and plan a transition program to overcome them. The transition program includes:

- incorporating familiar play-based activities into the learning program
- delivering a balanced program that combines active tasks and relaxation
- ensuring a variety of tasks that can be performed independently, in pairs, in small groups or as a whole class to develop cooperation and friendships
- providing extra supervision in the playground during playtime and lunchtime
- ensuring regular toilet breaks.

### **Separation/independence**

- Plan for your child to have time away with relatives or friends to introduce separation. Perhaps build up to the length of a school day before starting school.

### **Sleep routine**

When your child sleeps well, your child will be more settled, happy and ready for school the next day. Good quality sleep helps your child concentrate, remember things, regulate emotions and behave well.

- Establish a bedtime routine to help your child wind down from the day.
- Keep activities quiet in the time before bed, for example read a story together.
- Keep regular sleep and wake times.