



Dunoon Public School Kindergarten Information Booklet

From the Principal



It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the students, parents and teachers, to welcome you and your family to Dunoon Public School. This will be an exciting year as your child commences schooling.

The purpose of this booklet is to provide you with essential information that will assist with transitioning your child into primary school.

We strive to work in partnership with parents to provide a quality education to all. We encourage parental involvement in school activities and hope that you will take the opportunity to participate in your child's learning. Our school strives to be a warm and friendly place, embodying our motto 'Friendship and Learning.'

If, after reading this booklet, you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school so that we can assist you.

Again, welcome to Dunoon Public School. We look forward to a long and satisfying association with you.

Amanda van den Berg

R/Principal



Preparation



- Health Check-up: immunisations (if required), speech, hearing and vision tests.
- Consider safety issues for your proposed method of travel to school.
- Promote the fact that learning is fun by sharing activities, such as reading books together, playing games with words, numbers, colours to build language and number skills.
- Help develop fine motor skills and hand/eye co-ordination skills by encouraging the correct grip on pencils, crayons, textas and providing opportunities to colour, draw, write and cut.
- Going to bed early enough to get a good night's sleep can contribute to physical and mental health.
- Think about who the contact will be if your child becomes unwell at school.
- Encourage helpful habits:
 - Putting things away
 - Learning to listen by looking at the speaker
 - Following directions
 - Doing simple chores to teach reliability
 - Dressing self (including shoes)
 - Taking care of own toileting needs

Important information we need from you:

- **Application to Enrol in a NSW Government School**
- **Birth Certificate (and proof of citizenship if born overseas)**
- **Proof of Current Address (e.g. rates notice, utility bill)**
- **Immunisation History Statement (you can request this through Medicare- www.humanservices.gov.au)**
- **Medical Documents (if your child has any medical or health conditions, supporting documents eg Asthma Action plan) are required before your child can start school.**
- **Best Start Appointment Slip (Please see separate page for this)**



Orientation days



Children starting Kindergarten in 2022 are invited to come and meet this year's Kindergarten class and their Year 6 buddies for next year. We hope to have five transition mornings in Term 4. This is dependent on COVID -19 restrictions.

Orientation days:

Term 4 Week 2:

Thursday 14 October 9:30 to 11:30

Term 4 Week 3:

Thursday 21 October 9:30 to 11:30

Term 4 Week 4:

Thursday 28 October 9:30 to 11:30

Term 4 Week 5:

Thursday 4 November 9:30 to 11:30

What to bring:

Children will need to bring their snack attack (a piece of fruit or vegetable), drink bottle and recess. Children are to wear a t-shirt, hat, shorts and covered shoes, please.



Best Start Assessment



Best Start Kindergarten Assessment

The *Best Start Kindergarten Assessment* takes place at the beginning of Term 1. It's designed to identify each child's literacy and numeracy skills at the beginning of Kindergarten.

Children come to school with different levels of literacy and numeracy. Some children are familiar with books, can recognise letters, write their name or count to ten, while others haven't yet learned these skills.

Best Start gives our teachers a common set of high quality assessment tools that build on the strengths of our teachers and give your child an even better start to school.

It's very important to emphasise that the *Best Start Kindergarten Assessment* is not a test. Its purpose is to help the teacher gather information to guide the teaching of your child.

Each child's assessment takes about one hour at a designated time on: Tuesday 2 February, Wednesday 3 February and Thursday 4 February 2022.

The Kindergarten class will not begin as a group until Friday 5 February 2022.

Please indicate your preferences for your child's appointment and return this note to school along

with your other documentation. You will be contacted with confirmed times and will also receive a reminder email or phone call next January.



Important dates for 2022:

Friday 28 January 2022	School Development Day: Staff only	
Monday 31 January 2022	School Development Day: Staff only	
Tuesday 2 February 2022	Kindergarten Best Start Assessments conducted.	No school for Kindergarten students.
Wednesday 3 February 2022	Kindergarten Best Start Assessments conducted.	No school for Kindergarten students.
Thursday 4 February 2022	Kindergarten Best Start Assessments conducted.	No school for Kindergarten students.
Friday 5 February 2022	School commences for Kindergarten students.	

Commencing School



Arrival and departure

School starts at 9:10am and finishes at 3:10pm.

Parents picking up their children are asked to wait for the children to be dismissed from afternoon lines.

What to bring - Drinks: Kinders may bring a water bottle into the classroom and are encouraged to drink water often. The water bottles need to be easily identified.

Recess/Lunch: Children sit to eat their food at the beginning of recess and lunch. Teachers and buddies help the Kinders to know what to eat and when. After eating, the children enjoy some outdoor play. Recess is at 11:10am and lunch is at 1:15pm.

Snack Attack: All students eat a healthy food snack during the morning session. This needs to be fresh fruit or vegetables. It is easier and less messy if the snack is pre-cut.

Clothing: School uniform is expected to be worn. Shirts with the school crest are available at the office for \$25. A spare set of underwear and shorts for accidents is a good idea.

Clothing items can be purchased at places such as Kmart, Big W, Target, etc. There are second hand items available at school for gold coin donations.

School Uniform

Gold/yellow shirt
Bottle Green skirt/shorts
Bottle Green tracksuit pants or black tights
Bottle Green tracksuit pants and jumper



Hat: A green bucket hat or a full brimmed hat is to be worn in the playground. The bucket hat is very popular and quite cheap \$5.00 or a hemp wide full brimmed hat \$20.00 each.

Please clearly label all belongings. It really helps us when items, such as hats and jumpers, are clearly labelled.

Lost Property: Please check your child's classroom first. There is a 'Lost Property' Tub located on the Canteen veranda.

Commencing School



Volunteers are very appreciated at school. Teachers will ask for help throughout the year.

Toilets: If kindergarten children need to go to the toilet during class time, for the first few weeks, another child goes with them. Students are encouraged to use the toilet at playtime.

Year 6 Buddy Program: Year 6 students really enjoy assisting their younger buddies to become comfortable in the school environment.

Behaviour/Discipline: Our school uses a strengths-based approach to student wellbeing. We take a positive reinforcement approach to behavioural issues. That is, students are given lots of positive incentive to act in accordance with school expectations. The class teacher is firstly responsible for encouraging positive behaviour and addressing negative behaviour. Each teacher adopts their own strategies and you should contact them if you have any concerns.

Excursions: During the year we endeavour to provide a range of stimulating experiences for the children, and this may occasionally mean that we plan to take the children out of the school on an excursion. You will be notified with further details when this is likely to occur.

Illness: You will need to provide the school with contact details should your child become sick whilst at school.



Absenteeism: In the event of absence due to illness, please notify the Administration Office as soon as possible. A note must also be provided to your child's teacher detailing the nature of the absence e.g. illness. In order to encourage good habits of attendance and to support the continuity of the curriculum, we prefer that planned absences such as holidays are kept to a minimum during term time.

A note of absence must be given to your child's teacher upon his/her return.

Late arrival/early departures slips are required, please see our friendly office staff upon arrival or departure to provide explanation.

Dunoon Out of School Care Service There is before and after school care available at Dunoon School. This service is provided by trained staff through Northern Rivers Children's Services, Lismore. The service is available from 3:00pm-6:00pm Monday to Friday.

Child care subsidy is available. Information is available:

Website: www.nracs.org.au

Email : dunoonoshc@nracs.org.au

Contact Louise on 0407 332 348 or Katrina on 6626 9025 at N.R.C.S.

The first few weeks



School will mean some big changes in your child's life.

For example,

- First steps to independence.
- Coping in a playground with many other students, (most of whom are bigger!)
- Learning routines.
- Getting to know other teachers and students.
- Establishing friendships.

Also, they will be very tired! Plenty of sleep and a balanced diet are vital.



The Kindergarten Program



Kindergarten students spend a significant amount of their time developing fundamental literacy and numeracy skills. These skills are learned and strengthened through a combination of tactile, written, oral and visual activities.

Literacy

- letter identification
- phonics awareness
- sight words
- handwriting
- sentence building
- independent, group and shared reading

Numeracy

- number identification
- counting forwards and backwards to 30
- single digit addition and subtraction
- analog and digital times on the hour
- coins and notes
- 2D shapes
- measuring

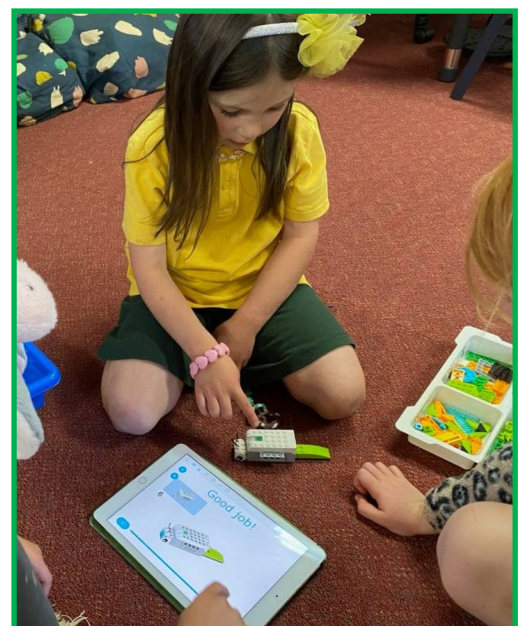
Curriculum

HSIE, Science and Technology, PDHPE, Creative Arts

Specialist Lessons and other activities

Library: Kindergarten students go to the school library once each week for book borrowing and reading skills.

ICT: Technology plays a significant part in the Kindergarten classroom. PC and tablet use become more regular throughout the year. Interactive whiteboards are also used as a teaching tool.



Book Bus: The Regional Library visits every second Tuesday. Children will receive a library membership form in the Kindergarten pack to be filled in at the beginning of the year. This gives children access to a borrowing card from the bus.

Home Learning: Kindergarten students will receive a Reading Folder to encourage reading at home. *This promotes independence and organisation outside of school and it provides an opportunity to consolidate aspects of the child's learning.* It also teaches your child that learning happens at any time or place.

Kitchen Garden: Dunoon Public School has adopted the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program. Kindergarten students regularly spend time in the school gardens planting, harvesting or weeding. They also learn about concepts such as composting and pest control. At times, Kindergarten students will also participate in cooking activities.

Sport: Students participate in sport sessions with their class teacher and external providers throughout the year. They will also attend athletics, cross country and team sport carnivals.

Buddies: Year 6 students will be assisting their younger buddies to become comfortable in the school setting.



Communication



The class teacher should be the first point of contact when discussing your child's schooling. Parents are always welcome to come and chat both informally and formally at appropriate times. You can also email your child's teacher or call the school office.

Interviews: Parent/Teacher Interviews are offered throughout the year, as needed. Interviews are also held at the end of Term 2, Covid permitting.

Reporting: There are two formal reports for the year, at the end of Term 2 and 4. Kindergarten students are given comments only for the Key Learning Areas and feedback on behaviour and attitude.

Newsletter: Weekly newsletters are sent home via email to keep you up to date with what is happening at the school. These are also available on the school website and Dojo.

Bus Transport



G & N Bus Services Pty Ltd is our local bus company. This local school bus transports children from Dunoon, Dorroughby and Whian Whian daily. Applications for bus travel can be accessed online at: **transportnsw.info/school-students** *Selecting G & N Bus Services as the bus transport provider.*

This transport is free for the following situations:

- For children in Kindergarten to Year 2, regardless of the distance from the school
- For children in Years 3 - 6 who live more than 1.6kms (radial distance) from school
- For children in Years 3 - 6 who reside more than 1.6kms (walking distance) from the nearest bus stop
- Parents and guardians who live far from school or public transport can apply for the 'School Drive Subsidy' at transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive
- **If you have more questions , phone Transport for NSW on 131 500.**

