



HASTINGS PRIMARY SCHOOL

FOUNDATION INFORMATION BOOKLET 2026



School No: 1098

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School Principal: Simone McDonald

Assistant Principal: Rebecca Legge & Michelle Aldridge



We would like to acknowledge the Bunurong people past and present, the traditional owners of this place, for taking care of the lands on which we live, learn and play.

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Welcome from our Principal

Welcome to Hastings Primary School and your child's first year at school.

We are delighted you have chosen Hastings P.S as the place for your child to commence their education, and we know they will be given the very best of care and attention while they are at our school.

Our excellent student well-being and management policy is the basis of the provision of a safe and secure environment for your child/ren and encourages them to respect the rights of others while making appropriate behavioural choices.

Student well-being is a priority seen to be shared between the school and home. Close communication is sought and maintained in order to maximise your child's opportunities for success and wellbeing.

Our curriculum programs are very comprehensive and are designed to give the children of our school the best education that can be provided, and give them the opportunity to reach their full potential socially, intellectually and emotionally. Nobody cares more than Hastings Primary School.

Please read through this booklet carefully, it will tell you all that you need to know about a most important year in your child's education.

Simone McDonald
Principal



Foundation at Hastings Primary School

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
January 27th to April 2nd	April 20th to June 26th	July 13th to September 18th	October 5th to December 18th

Important Term Dates 2026

Term 1












Tuesday 27th Jan - Student Free Day

Wednesday 28th Jan - Students in Year 1 - 6 Start

Thursday 29th Jan - Foundation Students Start

Interviews will take place on Wednesdays in February; Dates and times will be communicated by the teacher to each family. Foundation students do not attend school on these Wednesdays, except at their scheduled interview time.

School Times

8:50am	Come inside, our day starts	
9am	Fresh fruit or veg snack	
10am	Learning Time	
10:50am	Eat Snack	
11am	1st Outside Play	
11:30am	Learning Time	
12:30pm	Eat Lunch	
12:40pm	Learning Time	
1:30pm	2nd Outside Play	
2:15pm	Learning Time	
3:15pm	End of day, time to go home	

Foundation students also participate in weekly specialist programs, including;
Visual Arts, Physical Education, Auslan & Music

STARTING SCHOOL

To start Foundation, the first year of primary school, your child needs to **turn five by the 30th April** that year. Your child must be at school in the year they turn six, which is the compulsory school starting age. Parents of children starting school at four years of age should carefully consider whether their child is ready to cope with school at this early age.

Our Foundation cohort will have children whose ages range from four and a half to six. We know the tremendous development that occurs in the early years of childhood; an 18 month difference in age usually means a significant range in intellectual, social and emotional maturity.

If you are unsure about your child's readiness for school please discuss this with their pre-school teacher and/or one of our Early Years of Schooling teachers.

WEDNESDAY INTERVIEWS

All Foundation students will participate in Interviews on Wednesdays in February; Dates and times will be communicated by the teacher to each family. **Foundation students do not attend school on these Wednesdays, except at their scheduled interview time.**

These interviews happen on a Wednesday for the first 4 full weeks of school and will enable the Foundation teachers to co-ordinate the testing of all students' English and Mathematics skills. Each child will be invited back to school to participate in these tests in a one-on-one time slot.

IMMUNISATION

Before your child can be officially enrolled at school you must present your child's **birth certificate** and **proof that your child's 'Immunisation History Statement'** which can be obtained from the Medicare website. Full immunisation means your child must have been given the 4 year old Diphtheria, Tetnus, Pertussis & Polio Immunisation.

For emergencies and information ring the school: 5979 1517



PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR SCHOOL

It is a good idea to introduce your child to being separated from you over the next few months. Start by leaving them with a familiar friend or relative for a short time to begin with and gradually lengthen the time. Always leave your child cheerfully and explain that you will be back shortly and that you are sure they will have a good time while you are gone.

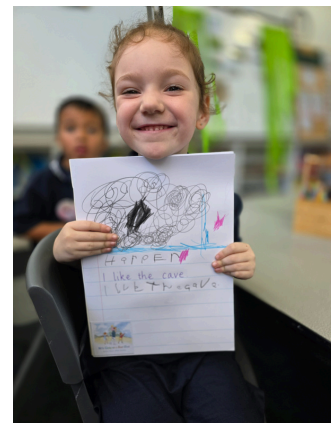
You should use the same strategy on the first day to assist your child to settle quickly to an activity in their classroom. Explain that you will be back in the afternoon and leave cheerfully. After you leave the room we invite you to have a cup of coffee and a chat with the other new parents and members of our school's wellbeing team.

It is also a good idea to practise managing a lunch box during the holidays so your child will know what this means and can cope with eating lunch without assistance. It is helpful to practise unwrapping plastic wrap, opening yoghurt, snack packs, peeling fruit, etc. Remember a snack/lunch packed with lots of 'nude food' (as little packaging as possible) is a great way to go. There is a wide range of lunch box styles that support 'nude food' snacks and lunches.

Most learning in the early years of primary school takes place through active classroom and play activities. That is, the child learns by talking, playing and doing. The development of listening and speaking skills provides a basis for learning at this level. Listening skills can be developed in many ways, but probably the most effective is by talking to your child during your daily activities together and regularly reading stories to them. This has the added advantage of developing an appreciation of books and print and thus motivating your child to learn to read and write.

CHILDREN WILL BE SUCCESSFUL WHEN:

- They feel confident and successful in areas of interest.
- Motivated and excited to learn.
- Curious about the world around them.
- Encouraged to take risks in their learning.
- Responsible for their own belongings.
- Able to share, compromise and take turns with friends.
- Engaged in their learning journey.
- Have an open-mindset about making mistakes.
- Challenged to think, to ask questions and find out for themselves.



ONCE SCHOOL BEGINS

Try to ensure your morning routine is not rushed so that your child arrives at school, happy, calm and on time. The bell goes at 8:50 and all children move into classes to prepare for their day.

Arriving 10 to 15 minutes early allows your child to play on the playground, go to the toilet or visit breakfast club before starting school.

If your child is absent from school for any reason, please notify the school via the Compass Parent Portal or a phone call to the school via the absence line on the day. This is a legal requirement.

Late arrivals- Parents must bring their child to the office to sign in if late and the child or parent must take the pass to the classroom teacher.

Early departures- Parents are to come to the office and sign their child out. This early departure pass is to be taken down to the classroom and handed to the teacher.

TIREDNESS

It is normal for children to feel particularly tired during the first term of school. It is a good idea to provide a snack, drink and rest before talking to your child about their day.

COMMUNICATION

If you have a problem, no matter how trivial it may seem, we are always ready to listen. Don't hesitate to come and talk to us.

Compass Parent Portal – Compass Parent Portal is the main communication platform for Hastings Primary School. You can download this application on your phone/iPad. The school uses this communication tool to send out updates regarding the school, the school newsletter, reminders, events and much, much more! Parents will be provided with log in details once their student commences at Hastings Primary School.

Newsletters – An electronic newsletter is generated fortnightly on a Wednesday and is available via the school website and Compass Parent Portal. Please ensure you read the newsletters so your family doesn't miss out on any information about things that may be happening in the school.

Facebook – Hastings Primary School has a Facebook page which you are welcome to join. Regular reminders/updates are provided and pictures are uploaded of our student's involvement in the curriculum & extra-curricular activities.

Notices - Always check with your child to see if there are any special notices. There may be a notice about an excursion or a special day etc. All Foundation children have a notice pocket that notices are placed in each day, please check school bags daily. These will also be made available on Compass when payments are required.

Classroom - You are invited to contact your classroom teacher, or the school office to discuss any concerns, issues and changes in your family situation or illness. Please be mindful that the beginning of the day can be a busy time. Teachers are always happy to make a time to discuss important matters privately, however Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons teachers are in staff meetings.

Reports - You will receive written reports each semester via Compass.

Student Led Conferences – Student Led Conferences are held following the Semester 1 written report to discuss your child's progress and areas for improvement. This format has a significant focus on goal setting for the future. An online booking system is used to book interview times with teachers.

SAFETY & SUPERVISION

Foundation children are too young to be given the responsibility of walking to school by themselves. Please arrange for them to come with a friend or older child if you cannot bring them.

Teachers are on duty supervising the yard between 8:40-8:50am and 3:15-3:30pm. Please ensure your child does not arrive at school prior to 8:40am. If you require supervision earlier see the details below relating to Team Kids before and after school care.

There is a safe, secure bicycle enclosure in the school grounds BUT it is recommended children DO NOT ride unaccompanied by an adult until at least 8 years old, and they must have a safety helmet if riding a scooter or bicycle.

Children who haven't been collected at the end of the school day are brought to the office and an adult is called to collect them.

We ask that you let us know if you are running late or someone other than yourself will be collecting your child at any time.

TEAM KIDS BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Hastings Primary School provides an Out of School Hours Care program onsite. The service is available between 7am-8:50am and 3:30pm-6:00pm held in our school hall. Bookings are recommended please call 1300 035 000.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Students can attend breakfast club before school from 8:40am. Breakfast club is held in the kitchen.

VOLUNTEERING AT SCHOOL

We encourage Foundation Parents and other family members to be involved in their child's education. We will be asking for parents and other family members who are interested in helping in the classroom on a regular basis.

All class helpers must have a current Working with Children check completed and a copy given to the office.

We also run a Friends of Hastings Primary School (FOHPS) who are volunteers that assist with fundraising events, meal deals and other activities run by the school. If you would like to be included in this group please see or email our assistant principal Rebecca.legge@education.vic.gov.au

PRIOR TO SCHOOL INTERVIEWS

Interview times will be sent to you over the summer holidays with details of a family interview with your child's teacher. This interview will be held on Wednesdays in February. This is a friendly get together with a small group of other Foundation families for a play and chat time.

The early childhood service that your child attends prior to school provides vital information to assist your child to transition to school smoothly. This is provided to us through the transition statement, which you should be given an opportunity to contribute to.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SCHOOL LUNCH

1. Please pack **snacks and lunch** in a clearly named lunch box or bag that your child can open and close themselves.
2. A drink bottle containing **water, NO JUICE OR CORDIAL AT SCHOOL.**
3. One piece of **fresh fruit or vegetable** for 10am fruit snack.
4. One **sandwich, wrap or roll**, cut in half or “lunch” alternative like rice/pasta.
5. One **snack** item, e.g., a muffin, popcorn, or cheese and biscuits are popular options.
6. One **additional healthy** item for those ‘I’m extra hungry’ days.

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Our school has become a 5 star energy school through various energy efficiency and recycling programs. One of these is the NO RUBBISH policy in the yard and less is best in the classroom. This means no food in wrappers is ever taken outside to eat and any wrapper or rubbish sent to school will come home in the lunch boxes.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

School uniform is compulsory.

It looks great! Our colours are navy blue & white.

- Sun Smart Hat [available from the office]
- Track Pants
- Polo Shirt [white or navy]
- Shorts/Skorts
- Navy Windcheater [crew neck] and / or Bomber Jacket
- School Dress - only available at PWS Mornington Store



As we are a “Sunsmart” school, hats must be worn between 1st September and 30th April and can be purchased from the school office.

LOST PROPERTY

The amount of lost property is unbelievable.

Please spend time labelling your child's items of clothing and belongings. Most named items are quickly returned to their owners! With compulsory school uniforms you would appreciate how difficult it is to find the owner of various items of clothing when they are not named.

EXCURSIONS

During the year your child may be invited to participate in an excursion as part of their class curriculum. Before your child can participate on any excursion outside the school ground your written permission and the necessary indemnity must be signed and the excursion paid for. Every request for payment has a deadline date. If you are unable to pay by the deadline you must request an extension of payment at the office BEFORE the deadline date.

SCHOOL CROSSING

The school crossings on Hodgins Rd are very important to the safety of our pupils. The school crossing is supervised each day from 8.00 am - 9.00 am and from 3.00 pm – 3.45 pm. It is only a school crossing when the flags are displayed. Children need to be reminded frequently about the correct use of the crossing and not crossing the road further up the street.

STRIDE AND RIDE

At Hastings we actively encourage walking to school as our best means of transport. If you live close enough, leave the car at home and walk. If you live some distance from the school we are encouraging you to drive part of the way and walk the rest of the way. Car parking is NOT permitted within staff carparks without a permit.

THINGS TO PRACTISE WITH YOUR CHILD BEFORE SCHOOL

How to say their name and address. How to put things away after use. How to dress themselves. How to fasten their shoes (Please wear shoes they can put on by themselves). How to use and dispose of a handkerchief/tissues properly. How to use a toilet/urinal properly. How, when and why to wash hands. How to recognise their own printed name. How to behave near roads.

**Relax, and enjoy the first year of your child's Primary School.
Your child is in good hands!**



HUNDRED LANGUAGES OF CHILDREN

The child

is made of one hundred.

The child has
a hundred languages
a hundred hands
a hundred thoughts
a hundred ways of thinking
of playing, of speaking.
A hundred always a hundred
ways of listening
of marveling of loving
a hundred joys
for singing and understanding
a hundred worlds
to discover
a hundred worlds
to invent
a hundred worlds
to dream.
The child has
a hundred languages
(and a hundred hundred hundred
more)
but they steal ninety-nine.
The school and the culture
separate the head from the body.
They tell the child:
to think without hands
to do without head
to listen and not to speak
to understand without joy
to love and to marvel
only at Easter and Christmas.
They tell the child:
to discover the world already there
and of the hundred
they steal ninety-nine.

They tell the child:

that work and play
reality and fantasy
science and imagination
sky and earth
reason and dream
are things
that do not belong together.
And thus they tell the child
that the hundred is not there.

The child says:

No way. The hundred is there.

Loris Malaguzzi

(translated by Lella Gandini)



SNAPSHOT OF LEARNING IN FOUNDATION AT HPS

