



GRAFTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Welcome to Kindergarten!

We are so excited to be teaching your child and we are looking forward to a fantastic year. We have outlined some important information for the year ahead to keep you well informed about all aspects of your child's first year at school.

Resources/Books:

While the school provides books and basic writing equipment (coloured and lead pencils) for your child, children in Kindergarten will also need:

- 4 Glue sticks
- A box of tissues
- 1 pump action liquid soap
- 1 ream of paper
- Roll of paper towel
- * 1 A4 display folder (black)
- * 2 plastic A4 envelopes for homework & readers
- * Library bag and school hat (provided)
- * 1 pair of headphones

Please ensure all belongings and equipment is clearly marked with your child's name.

School Times: Please be on time so valuable learning time is not lost.

Times are as follows:

- Start School at 8:45 am AND Finish School at 2:45 pm
- Recess is at 10:50 to 11:15 am
- Lunch is at 12:55 to 1:45 pm

Late arrivals must report to the office before going to class. It is school policy that, if you arrive late or collect your child during the day for any reason, you must go to the front office first. You will be given a pass to hand to the class or duty teacher. This also includes recess and lunchtime.

Absences: These are required to be explained either in written form or by a phone call to the school. If your child is absent and we have not heard from you, on the third day of absence we will contact you or the emergency contact by phone. These are formal requirements of the Department of Education.

Bus lists: These are kept at the front office. Remember the school policy is that there must be a note for Infants children if changes occur. If you are picking your child up but haven't sent in a note in the morning then your child will still be on the bus list, so please see the teachers on bus duty (or front office) so that he /she can be marked off.

Homework: Homework is usually given out on Monday and is due back Friday. This consists of things taught in class and will give your child further understanding of those essential foundation concepts and skills. These include:

- **Homework Booklet:** 2 pages (back to back) each week that contains; important messages, handwriting, maths and literacy tasks. Also a focus is highlighted for Best Start which you can refer back to your feedback to parents' sheet for further tasks.
- **Ants in the apple:** Go through book every night for quick recall of sounds.

Home Reading: A reader is sent home daily with a recording book. Children should be encouraged to read for at least 5 minutes, 5 nights a week (5 for 5). Reading books are a couple of levels below student's actual reading level. This is to allow the child to enjoy reading while developing fluent and expressive reading. Tips for reading are outlined in the Home Reading Record Book and some strategies we have placed in their Home Reading Folder.

Sight word Program: Sight words are 'tricky words' that your child needs to learn in order to develop fluency in their reading. These should be shown DAILY and are a great way for your child to get ahead. Games can be played with the lists provided. Your child gets 10 words in each set and will need to get them all correct 3 days in a row to move up to the next level.

Parent Helpers: Our room is an open classroom. We love having parent helpers involved in our room. If you can spare any time to help with our Home Reading and Sight Word Program would be greatly appreciated. Just return the parent helper note if you can assist.

Banking: This is on every Tuesday and children are encouraged to bank regularly.

School levy: This covers the cost of classroom resources. Each child will be provided with exercise books, coloured pencils, lead pencils, scissors, writing paper, art / craft supplies and photocopied work. An additional cost is the **\$10 handwriting text money**. Please pay this as soon as possible as we will start using these in Week 4.

Birthdays: In Kinder we will say a lovely poem, sing the birthday song, clap the number of candles and 'talking time' is provided for sharing how their morning was spent/gifts etc. Icy poles, Freddos or cupcakes are an easy way to share a special treat on your child's birthday should you wish.

Communication: Any questions or concerns you have, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher. A meeting can be arranged at a mutually convenient time. Likewise you can leave a message at the front office to call you or feel free to email the teacher at at: grafon-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au should this be easier for you.

We look forward to meeting you and teaching your child in a safe and caring environment. May we grow and learn together in 2017!

Yours in teaching and learning,
Kindergarten Teachers.

“Nil Sine Labore”
Nothing gained without effort