



# Wahgunyah

Primary School



Wahgunyah Primary School  
It's our community, it's our school.  
Come and be part of it!

## STUDENT INFORMATION BOOK 2022



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Thank you for your interest in our School. I might be a little biased but I firmly believe that Wahgunyah Primary School sets itself apart from other schools. We care for every one of our students and strive to make them the best they can be in every aspect.

We pride ourselves on our school values, referred to as: 'The Wahgunyah Way'. This is made up of three elements, be your best, show respect and everyone belongs. We are a 'KidsMatter' school which strives to provide support for the prevention and early intervention of child mental health issues. We employ a Student Wellbeing Coordinator who helps to facilitate programs around mental and emotional wellbeing of our students as well as their families. We hope you feel the same way too.

Our intimate size and the strong relationships that the staff form with students is the secret to our school's success. At our school we think we've got the balance right. We want our kids to be resilient and independent. We support them but do not do everything for them. We're not afraid to comfort children who need it, but also not afraid to say, 'it's okay, you'll get past it.'" We do this with confidence because we take the time to get to know individual students. Knowing students means knowing when to protect and when to push.

On behalf of the Staff and the School Council, I extend a warm welcome to all parents and children. It is our school's aim to foster a strong relationship between the school and yourselves. There will be many opportunities to participate in both classroom and wider school community activities. Please take advantage of these opportunities as we welcome your involvement and interest.

This booklet has been prepared to give parents, carers and children an indication of the intended school routines and organisational structures. More information about our school is also available from our website at [www.wahgunyahps.vic.edu.au](http://www.wahgunyahps.vic.edu.au). If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me by phone or make an appointment to meet with me in person.

Kind regards,



**Josh Reid**  
Principal



## ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

The school is a well-resourced school with buildings that reflect both the new and old. In 2011 works on the new building were complete. The new learning spaces house our four spacious classrooms. The original school building is used for Breakfast Club/Kitchen, Library and Music Room (also used for Specialist French and Science).



The school enjoys spacious and well-kept grounds, set one street back from the main thoroughfare. The grounds boast an 'all-weather' basketball/netball court and sports oval. The school maintains a steady enrolment of around 90-100. Current classroom composition has been four composite classes; Foundation/1, 1/2, 3/4, and 5/6. These are flexible from year to year depending on student numbers at each year level.

Wahgunyah Primary School has always been a small school and as such allows children to be educated in a close, friendly atmosphere. There is a strong focus within the school on working with families to provide support to children and their carers. Visitors to the school often remark on the friendly, caring atmosphere and the pleasant tone. In addition to our fabulous teaching staff, the school also employ several Educational Support staff who help support students within their classes. The interaction with children of all ages helps students to learn tolerance and have well-developed interpersonal skills.

We feel that our school benefits from children, staff and parents all taking an active interest in the school and its activities and programs. Parents are always encouraged to participate and become involved in their child's education and are always welcome at the school.

Some of the specific programs we provide to our students include:

Individual Reading Programs 3-6  
Specialist Language lessons (French)  
Computer/iPad Ratio 1:2  
Art Van (Specialist teacher)  
Therapy Dog  
Life Education Van  
Bike Education

Specialist Science lessons  
Responsible Pet Ownership  
Inter-School Sport  
Social and Emotional Learning  
Play is the Way  
Digital Technologies Education



## **2023 Term dates**

### **Term 1**

Mon 30<sup>th</sup> January – Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> April

### **Term 2**

Mon 24<sup>th</sup> April – Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> June

### **Term 3**

Mon 10<sup>th</sup> July – Fri 15<sup>th</sup> September

### **Term 4**

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> October – Wed 20<sup>th</sup> December

### **Address:**

Elizabeth Street  
Wahgunyah VIC 3687

**Telephone:** 02 6033 1265

**Fax:** 02 6033 0002

**E-mail:** [wahgunyah.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:wahgunyah.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

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

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/wahgunyahprimaryschool](http://www.facebook.com/wahgunyahprimaryschool)

### **Staff**

**Principal:** Josh Reid

**Teachers:** Katie Bergin

Michael Hay

Isobel Tait

Claire Saffron

Marg Cheesley

**Educational Support:** Courtney White

Emily Morris

Emma Keys

Teagan Irlam

**Wellbeing Co-ordinator:** Stacey Thomas

**Business Manager:** Angela Grantham

**Grounds and Maintenance:** Warren Eyles

**Cleaner:** Lauren Connell

**IT Manager:** Michael Clear

**Office Hours:** 8.30am-4.30pm Monday, Tuesday,  
Thursday and Friday

## **Foundation (for following year) Transition Days**

Wahgunyah Primary run an effective transition program involving a total of seven transition sessions. The first being a one-hour session in Term 2, then an additional two sessions in Term 3. Term 4 has a total of three sessions that build up in time spent at school towards a full day (State-Wide Transition Day) held late in early December.

### **Normal School Hours**

School commences at 8.55am and ends at 3.05pm.

First bell rings at 8.55am. During the warmer months, children go to the oval for morning fitness (Tuesday – Friday).

9.00am to 11.00am	Session 1
11.00am to 11.30am	<b>First break/play</b>
11.30am to 1.00pm	Session 2
1.00pm to 1.30pm	<b>Second break/play</b>
1.30pm to 3.05pm	Session 3

*Children eat recess and lunch in their classroom immediately after their break/play times.*

Children should not be at school before 8.40am as the yard is not supervised by staff before this time. Once children are at school they are not able to leave the grounds without parental permission.

### **End of Term**

Students will be dismissed at 2.30pm on the last days of term and at 1.30pm on the last day of the year.



### **Adverse Weather Conditions**

Children will normally remain indoors on wet days – supervised by class teachers. No children are permitted in classrooms unless a teacher is present. If light showers commence during a recess or lunch break, the children may be asked to shelter under the covered areas or are moved inside. On very hot days, class programs will operate normally as all our classrooms are equipped with air-conditioners. Physical Education activities will be in the cooler mornings.

### **Ambulance Subscription**

As we do not cover the cost of transport by ambulance for a student who requires emergency hospital treatment, parents would be responsible for that cost if such a situation arose. To avoid this parents are urged to take out a subscription with Ambulance Victoria.

### **Art Smock**

An art smock is a necessity both as protective clothing and to encourage children to take part confidently in messy activities.



### **Arrival at School**

The school yard is supervised by teachers from 8.40am to 9.00am and children should arrive during this time. Whilst we prefer children to come to school, whether late or not, late arrivals do disrupt assemblies and classrooms. No teachers are on duty in the yard after the morning bell. Please note, if your child is late, a written note to the school is expected for our records.

### **Assembly**

There is a whole school assembly once a fortnight on Fridays at 9am. Parents and carers are invited to attend but are requested to remain at the rear of the school group and not to distract the children or allow younger children to disturb the

proceedings. Assemblies are a great opportunity to convene as a whole school community and celebrate achievements and events within the school. Assemblies are led by the student leadership team. Whole school meetings are also held at 9am every Monday morning. These meetings are an opportunity for the principal and staff to discuss things such as behaviour expectations and whole school foci.

### **Bicycles and Scooters**

With safety of children in mind and heeding advice from police and Bike Ed Educators, we recommend that children under 8 years of age do not ride their bikes to school unless accompanied by an adult.



Bikes/scooters are stored near the old toilet buildings during the day. This area is out of bounds except when children are handling their own bikes/scooters. Children must not ride their bikes/scooters in the school grounds for safety reasons. When entering the school grounds, students should wheel the bike/scooter to the rack.

### **Book Club**

The school takes part in Book Club with Scholastic. This gives children and parents the opportunity to purchase good quality books at a reasonable price. Catalogues are sent home twice per term. Online LOOP orders are the preferred ordering method. Orders can also be placed manually through the school.

### **Book Lists**

Book lists are ordered online via our Third Party provider, Maxim. The book list contains the essential items that children need throughout the school year. The book packs are delivered to school and collected the day before children commence school.

We encourage children to use and look after their own possessions and not borrow from others.

### **Bullying**

Bullying is when someone, or a group of people, deliberately upset or hurt another person or damage their property, reputation or social acceptance on **more than one occasion**. There is an imbalance of power in incidents of bullying with the bully or bullies having more power at the time due to age, size, status or other reasons.

Category	Includes
<b>Direct physical bullying</b>	hitting, kicking, tripping, pinching and pushing or damaging property
<b>Direct verbal bullying</b>	name calling, insults, teasing, intimidation, homophobic or racist remarks, or verbal abuse.
<b>Indirect bullying</b>	action designed to harm someone's social reputation and/or cause humiliation. Indirect bullying includes: - lying and spreading rumours - playing nasty jokes to embarrass and humiliate - mimicking - encouraging others to socially exclude someone - damaging someone's social reputation or social acceptance

<b>Cyberbullying</b>	direct verbal or indirect bullying behaviours using digital technologies. This includes harassment via a mobile phone, setting up a defamatory personal website or deliberately excluding someone from social networking spaces.
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*Note: Many distressing behaviours are not examples of bullying even though they are unpleasant and often require teacher intervention and management.*

*Mutual conflict:* Involves an argument or disagreement between people but not an imbalance of power. Both parties are upset and usually both want a resolution. Unresolved mutual conflict can develop into bullying if one of the parties targets the other repeatedly in retaliation.

*Social rejection or dislike:* is not bullying unless it involves deliberate and repeated attempts to cause distress, exclude or create dislike to others.

*Single acts* of nastiness or physical aggression are not the same as bullying. If someone is verbally abused or pushed on one occasion they are not being bullied. Nastiness or physical aggression that is directed towards many different people is not the same as bullying. However, this does not mean that single episodes of nastiness or physical aggression should be ignored or condoned as these are unacceptable behaviours.

We:

- Promote and support safe and respectful learning environments where bullying is not tolerated.
- Put in place whole school strategies and initiatives as outlined in the Department's anti-bullying policy.
- Work in partnership with parents to reduce and manage bullying.
- Take a whole school approach focusing on safety and wellbeing.

### **Calendar**

Every term a calendar is sent home which outlines important dates and events ahead for the term. The school endeavours to provide adequate notice of upcoming events, though occasionally extra things do pop up.

### **Camps**

The school's camping program enables students to further their learning and social skills development in a non-school setting. Camps may have a cultural, environmental or outdoor emphasis and are an important aspect of the educational programs offered at our school. Students in Years 3/4 and 5/6 attend a camp annually.



### **Children's Attendance at School**

It is compulsory for your child to attend school from the age of 6 years. It is also a requirement of the Department of Education that, when children are absent from school, the school should be notified in writing or via the Compass Parent Portal, including the reason for their absence. If using a note, this should be signed and dated. This is necessary as we are required to keep written records. As a courtesy, please phone the school if your child is absent for more than one day.

To protect your child, and to give you peace of mind, no child will be permitted to leave the school grounds during school hours (i.e 8.45am to 3.05pm), unless collected by the parent/guardian. Please ensure that the classroom teacher is notified BEFORE collection, and the sign out book is completed in the office. As children are not permitted to wait outside the school grounds, please allow sufficient time to collect your child from the classroom. It is also essential that we are

informed of any custody restrictions etc. that apply to your child. We must sight the court orders in these cases.

### **Computers In Our School**

The school is a big believer in using technology. We have a large fleet of laptop computers (operating on Windows) in addition to a class set of iPads for our junior classroom.



The school aims to develop the children's computer literacy by the inclusion of programs in English, Mathematics and many other curriculum areas.

Our web page is:

<http://www.wahgunyahps.vic.edu.au>

Our Facebook page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/Wahgunyahprimaryschool>

At the commencement of each child's schooling, parents are asked to complete a form giving permission for the publication of work and photos of their child/children. This includes the use of the internet, displaying work on the internet, displaying their photo on the internet, as well as in local media and newsletters.

### **Curriculum**

A balanced program of educational experiences is provided to all pupils in the following curriculum areas:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Humanities / Civics & Citizenship
- Health and Physical Education
- Language (French)
- The Arts (Visual and Performing)
- Personal Learning
- Interpersonal Development
- ICT & Technology



### **Cyberbullying**

Cyberbullying is bullying behaviour using digital technologies. This includes harassment via a mobile phone, setting up a defamatory personal website or deliberately excluding someone from social networking spaces.

### **Cybersafety**

Cybersafety refers to the way in which people behave safely and responsibly to keep themselves and their friends safe online. Children and young people are no longer passive recipients of information that is available on the internet. They actively produce web content and publish their personal details, creative works and comments on sites such as YouTube and Facebook. While some of this does occur within the physical school environment, much will inevitably be posted online from a site external to the school. Cybersafety is taught across all year levels in Term 1 of each year.

### **Damage to Property/breakages**

Children who damage school property are responsible for replacement/repairs. In the case of breakages eg. computer equipment, glass, furniture etc. the account will be sent to parents.

### **Departing from School**

Children should leave the school grounds promptly at the conclusion of the day as supervision of the yard finishes at 3.15pm. If a child is to be picked up from school prior to 3.05pm, it is necessary to first visit the office and sign the child out. Please note that parents are expected to make every effort to collect children on time and should always notify the school if problems occur.

### **Drinks**

Drinks need to be in a named unbreakable container. Cans/bottles are not permitted. Only water is permitted, no cordial.

### **Dress Code**

Wearing of a school uniform by children is **COMPULSORY**. Wahgunyah Primary School Council believes that a uniform provides a neat, economical and functional dress for students. Council believes that a school uniform has a positive role to play in promoting a sense of individual and collective pride in students and their identification with the school.



- It is expected that all students will be attired in the correct school uniform for normal classes.
- All students shall wear the school uniform which has been adopted by the School Council under the provision of the Amended Education Act of 1958.
- It shall be the responsibility of the parent or guardian to see that students wear the uniform consistently and properly.
- Whenever circumstances prevent a pupil from wearing correct uniform, parents or carers are expected to provide a note of explanation to the Principal.
- Students representing the school shall be required to wear school uniform unless otherwise instructed.

***Our uniform colours are navy blue and white***

### ***Summer Uniform***

### Girls

Navy blue shorts/skorts, navy and white polo top and sneakers. A blue and white check dress is also available, yet this is not commonly worn by many students.

### Boys

Navy blue shorts, navy and white polo top and sneakers.

### Hats

Broad brimmed navy hat – to be purchased at Brunella Schoolwear, Corowa. No bucket hats or caps. In winter, students are encouraged to wear a navy beanie.

All students must wear navy broad brimmed hats during all outdoor activities, including recesses and lunchtimes, and all Physical Education classes. Non-compliance will result in the student being confined to the shade.

### Footwear

Sneakers/Runners must be practical and suited to the activities being undertaken at the time. Thongs, clogs and surf sandals are impractical and not acceptable.

## **Winter Uniform**

### Girls

Navy tracksuit, navy and white polo top, navy windcheater, spray jacket and sneakers. White or navy long-sleeve shirts worn under polos are permitted.

### Boys

Navy tracksuit, navy and white polo top, navy windcheater, spray jacket and sneakers. White or navy long-sleeve shirts worn under polos are permitted.

School uniform is available at **Brunella Schoolwear** in Corowa.

## **PLEASE LABEL ALL CLOTHING**

It is expected that all students are comfortably attired for physical activities and wearing suitable

sports shoes. During special events and sports carnivals, students will be required to wear their 'House' colours (red, yellow or green).

## **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund**

Beginning in 2015, the state government provides \$125 per child to contribute towards the cost of camps, sports and excursions. This money is paid directly to the school. To be eligible, parents or carers must hold a current Commonwealth Health Care Card or Pension Card.

## **Excursions**

The school's excursion program enables students to further their learning and social skills development in a non-school setting. Excursions complement and are an important aspect of the educational programs offered at our school. All children are expected to attend. A notice informing parents or carers of each excursion will be sent home with your child beforehand detailing the venue, time and cost. No child will be permitted to go on an excursion unless a signed permission note is returned to the school prior to the event. Excursions are paid for by the parents before the actual day. Transport is often funded in part. If no payment is received, children will remain at school.

## **Hairstyles & Jewellery**

All students are expected to have neat and practical hairstyles. Shoulder length or longer hair should be tied back. No extreme hair colours or styles. The only items of jewellery permitted are watches and plain earrings or ear studs. We would prefer students do not wear nail polish to school.

### *Non-compliance:*

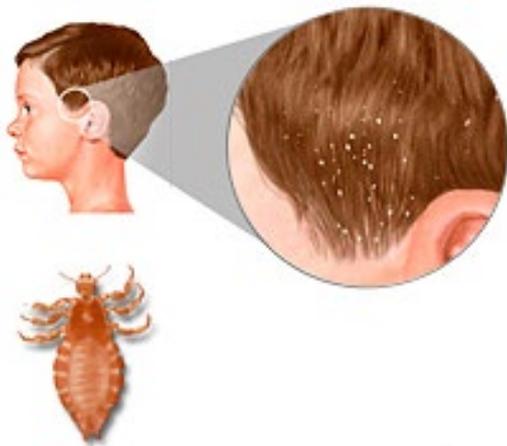
Non-compliance with the Student Dress Code will result in the first instance with a verbal request to the individual student to wear the uniform. Continued or regular non-compliance will result in communication with the parents or guardians to reiterate the dress code and to seek an explanation of the non-compliance.

## **Head Lice**

Throughout your child's school years, the school staff will be on the lookout for students who may have signs of head lice.

The school is aware that this can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining student confidentiality and avoiding stigmatisation.

If a child does have live cases or Head Lice, their family will be notified on the same day and the child will be excluded from school until a treatment has been applied. Please note that the law requires that where a child has head lice, that child should not be returned to school until appropriate treatment has been carried out.



### **Homework**

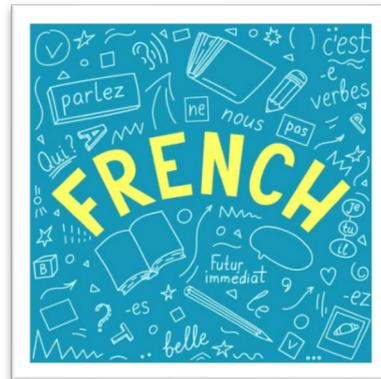
At Wahgunyah Primary School we look at the purpose behind why we do things. We have taken notice of the huge amount of research behind the benefits of homework for primary aged students. This research basically says that homework has very little benefit. As such our homework policy is comprised of the following elements:

- Students across all grades will participate in nightly reading at their level. This is to be recorded and signed off by the class teacher and a parent.
- Teachers may provide families with a list of ideas for homework tasks (comprising mainly of games and websites).
- Teachers may ask for some work to be completed at home on a non-regular basis (uncompleted class work or other tasks, eg. Big Write).

- Teachers will provide homework tasks to individual students requiring further consolidation of class work to meet the expectations of their grade level. This will be discussed at a parent meeting.

### **Language Program (French)**

All children, Foundation to Grade 6, learn French. The program is a socio-cultural one introducing the children to a culture and language different to ours.



### **Literacy**

At Wahgunyah Primary School we deliver a literacy program that is modified for each child's individual learning needs.

The literacy block occurs in our morning session, however literacy skills are taught through our integrated program across the day. Our literacy program incorporates reading, writing, spelling, speaking, listening, viewing and critical thinking.

Information Communication Technology is used appropriately, to research and publish. Current research and best practice models inform our literacy teaching. Teachers are educated in these through ongoing professional development.

Our students learn the skills required to be lifelong readers who have a love of reading. Students are involved in independent reading daily, which includes reading of books at their individual levels and sharing books with partners. Guided reading and small group instruction also occurs where students learn reading strategies and discuss elements of texts such as plot, characters and setting.



Our teaching is informed by ongoing assessment of the student. Teachers hold individual conferences with children during literacy to identify the specific needs of the student and acknowledge progress made. The Home Reading program complements our school literacy program. Students are required to read each night and to record the reading they do in the student reading diary that is purchased as part of their book list at the beginning of each year.



### **Litter**

We encourage all children to take pride in our school grounds and to keep the rooms and grounds tidy. There are bins in the yard and in each class for general rubbish, recycling and green-waste. We encourage a Waste Wise approach and teach the student what goes in each bin. Rubbish from lunchboxes is generally sent home in student lunchboxes each day.

### **Lost Property**

Lost property is kept in the old school building. We always seem to have a lot of windcheaters,

hats etc. unclaimed so by making sure your child's name is on his/her clothing and possessions, the amount of lost property in the school should be able to be reduced. At the end of each term all unclaimed lost property is donated to charities.

### **Lunch and Healthy Eating**

Having a balanced lunchbox at school is vitally important. Hungry children have difficulty maintaining concentration and making good decisions. Students have, fruit break, recess and lunch breaks where they will eat from their lunchboxes. Lollies, chocolates and other high sugar items are not allowed. Student drink bottles should only contain water.

Students have the choice of placing a weekly lunch order with 'The River Fish and Chip Co' from the school lunch order menu. Orders must be placed at the school by Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday at the shop.

### **Reading Eggs**

This is another web-based program that our junior students will be using to consolidate what their learning in reading, comprehension and spelling. Students have individual user names and passwords and the program can be accessed at home. Once again this is paid for as part of the book list.

### **Medical Insurance**

Parents need to be aware that accidents which cause injury to students happen from time to time. School Council is not responsible for medical costs incurred as a result of accidents which happen during school hours.

### **Medication**

Parents are reminded that if staff are requested to oversee children's medication such as tablets etc. a medication authority form needs to be collected from the office. It MUST be completed and sent along with the medication in its original package with a pharmacy label. Children must hand the medication to the teacher and not retain them in their possession.

If regular or timed medication is required, arrangements should be made with the school office for dispensation to the children. Again, it is

inappropriate for children to retain this type of medication in their possession. Any enquiries in this area should be directed to the school office. Asthmatic students must have an Asthma Action Plan completed by their doctor and handed to the office.

### **Newsletter**

A school newsletter is emailed every fortnight on a Thursday afternoon. Families are able to request a hard copy of the newsletter. The newsletter informs you of things happening in the school, meetings, special events etc. and will often include examples of children's work. Please remember to check school bags regularly for notes sent home.

### **Non-Desirable Items**

Children are not permitted to bring the following items to school: mobile phones, chewing gum, skateboards, guns, knives, water pistols, radios, iPods, iPads, hand held computer games and glass containers. It is also not advisable to bring toys such as games and dolls as these may get misplaced or lost. The school will not accept any liability if any such items are brought to school and as a consequence are lost or damaged. If your child needs a mobile phone to contact you out of school, the phone is to be stored in the office.



### **Parent/Carer Helpers**

Many parents or carers are needed to assist throughout the school in various areas. If you are willing to help, please inform the class teacher or the Principal.



Types of help most often required are: Reading, Maths, excursions etc. Please complete a Victorian volunteer Working with Children's Check before commencing in the classroom. These are free and forms are available at Post Offices or can be completed online.

### **Parent/Teacher Interviews and Reports**

Semester reports are issued in June and December. Parent/teacher interviews are compulsory in Term 1 however a second interview in Term 3 will only occur upon request by the teacher or parent. Parents or teachers may request interviews at any time throughout the year. Appointments can be made through the school office or by letter for a mutually convenient time. Please note that teachers are not able to conduct interviews when they have teaching commitments.

### **Paying Money to School**

It is preferred for payments to be made direct into the school bank account. However, cash can be sent to the office in a sealed envelope stating child's name and what the money is for.

### **Physical Education**

The Physical Education Program at Wahgunyah Primary School is a comprehensive program covering many sports and activities. All children are given experience in fine and gross motors skills, ball handling, athletics, swimming and general fitness. It is essential that all children wear appropriate footwear during Physical Education lessons and on Sports Days. Sports briefs or school shorts are also desirable for girls. Children in upper grades take part in interschool sports. A

daily fitness program is conducted at 9.00am, for 15 minutes, Tuesday to Friday.



### Pupil Free Days

These days are allocated by DEECD throughout the school year when children do not attend school. Details with respect to these days will be confirmed during the year. Generally they are for Report Writing and Professional Learning.

### Safety

Please support us in teaching your child:-

1. To observe the correct way to cross a street.
2. To go straight home after school.
3. Not to accept gifts or lifts from strangers.
4. Not to leave the school grounds without permission.

### School Council

School Council is comprised of up to 14 members (made up of 8 elected parents, 3 nominated staff members, the Principal and 2 co-opted members). School Council meets twice a term and is responsible for the school's finances, educational policy, maintenance of equipment, grounds and buildings. Elections are held in March every year.

### School Nurse

During Foundation, every child undergoes a medical check by the School Nurse. This is a free service and is basically to check hearing, eyesight, height, weight etc. It is a non-invasive examination. Forms are sent home at the appropriate time.

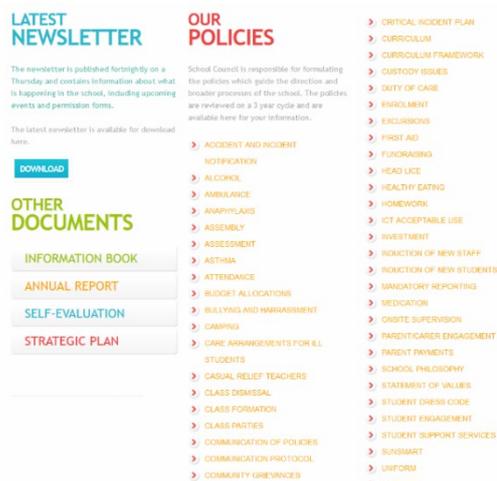
### School Photographs

School photos are taken once a year. Class and individual (and possibly family groups) photos will

be taken at that time. Please note that supply of photographs will be on a pre-paid basis.

### School Rules and Pupil Behaviour

The school's rules, expectations and consequences are detailed in our *Student Engagement Policy* which is available for download from our website.



### Sick and injured children

There are first aid supplies kept at the school and all teachers are proficient at handling minor injuries. In the case of major accidents every effort is made to contact parents prior to initiating medical treatment. **If your child is ill, please keep him/her home** for the welfare of all. School is not the place for sick children and we do not have facilities or staff to care for them. If your child becomes ill at school, you will be contacted. Please endeavour to pick up your child as quickly as possible. It is essential that the school has up to date contact numbers for yourself and at least two reliable emergency contacts that are close by, have a car and are available.

### Sign out Register

Parents and carers need to record absentees in the Sign Out Book in the office if a child/children leaves school during school hours. Children are only allowed to leave the school with people on their emergency contact list.

### Sun Safety

A Sun Smart Policy has been developed to ensure that all students are protected from over-exposure to the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.

**Objectives:**

The goals of the Sun Smart Policy are to:

- Increase student and community awareness of skin cancer.
- Assist students to develop strategies which encourage responsible decision making about skin protection.
- Work towards a safe school environment which provides shade for students and staff.
- Encourage students to wear protective clothing, hats and sunscreen during high risk times such as lunchtimes, sports, excursions and camps.
- Ensure that parents are informed of the School's Sun Smart Policy.

**Implementation**

- Encourage all students to wear sun protective hats that shade the face, neck and ears during recess, lunchtime and during sporting activities; wear clothing with sleeves and collars that are made from a closely woven fibre;
- Encourage parents and guests to the school to be 'Sun Smart'.

**School Organisation:**

- School Uniform: Include a Sun Smart hat as part of the school uniform
- Physical Education and Sport: All students are to be protected from the sun during outdoor physical education and sport classes by the use of hats and sunscreen. Maximize the use of indoor and shade facilities.
- Camps and Excursions: Suitable hats, clothing and sunscreen will be required for all camps and excursions.
- Sunscreen: Will be available in the classroom and from the office.

**Curriculum:**

Incorporate sun protection and skin cancer prevention programs into the school curriculum.

- Encourage students to be actively involved to protect the school community from over-exposure to the sun.

- Promote sun protection throughout the year via the school newsletter, assemblies, daily messages, parents and staff meetings and whole school activities.

**Environment:**

- Ensure there is adequate provision of shade within the school grounds for students and staff.

**Telephoning the School**

The school's telephone number is 02 6033 1265. Please note that teachers are unable to come to the phone when teaching but a message may be left at the office.

**Welfare and Support Services**

The school employs a Wellbeing Coordinator who in conjunction with the Principal, oversees all aspects of the welfare program, particularly in relation to behavioural, social and emotional issues.

The Wellbeing Co-ordinator works with staff and parents, along with whole classes, small groups and individual children.

Appointments with the Wellbeing Co-ordinator should be made through the office. The school can also help families access support through outside agencies (costs associated) such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, psychological services and the diagnosis of specific educational issues that children may have. The Principal is available to children, teachers and parents for counselling, educational assessments and advice regarding such things as behaviour management, social needs, family and parenting issues. Access is also available to both DEECD and outside agencies that can provide services not able to be provided by school staff. All parents are welcome to discuss any concerns about their children, preferably after consultation with the class teacher. Appointments need to be made.



### Wellbeing Dog

We are blessed to welcome Rosie the Groodle to our school almost every day. Rosie is a trained wellbeing dog who spends a lot of her day in with the Year 5/6 students who also take on a lot of responsibility for taking Rosie for her exercise breaks and playing games. She often goes out with the teachers on duty to get as many pats as she can!



### The Wahgunyah Way

Be your best, show respect, everyone belongs. The Wahgunyah Way expresses the school values through a series of expected behaviours that are explicitly taught and rewarded throughout the school. Children who demonstrate key behaviours of the Wahgunyah Way are rewarded via a hole punch on special WOW cards each student has. When students complete an entire card they are able to choose rewards such as the Principal's chair for a day, pick a different class for the day etc.

### Written Notes

Written notes are required:

- For any absence (required by law)
- Variation to fitness / sport activities
- Any medical problem or to administer medication (eg. asthma puffers etc.)

### Yard supervision

Recess and lunch periods are supervised by teachers and it is their responsibility to monitor the behaviour of the children in the yard. There will also be teaching staff on duty in the playground from 8.40-9.00am and from 3.05-3.15pm.



# Minimum period of exclusion from primary schools and children's services<sup>1</sup> for infectious diseases cases and contacts

Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019

## Schedule 7

Column 1 Number	Column 2 Conditions	Column 3 Exclusion of cases	Column 4 Exclusion of Contacts
1	Chickenpox	Exclude until all blisters have dried. This is usually at least 5 days after the rash appears in unimmunised children, but may be less in previously immunised children	Any child with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection. Otherwise not excluded
2	Conjunctivitis	Exclude until discharge from eyes has ceased	Not excluded
3	Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection	Exclusion is not necessary	Not excluded
4	Diarrhoeal illness*	Exclude until there has not been vomiting or a loose bowel motion for 24 hours	Not excluded
5	Diphtheria	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received following at least two negative throat swabs, the first not less than 24 hours after finishing a course of antibiotics and the other 48 hours later	Exclude family/household contacts until cleared to return by the Chief Health Officer
6	Glandular fever (Epstein-Barr Virus infection)	Exclusion is not necessary	Not excluded
7	Hand, Foot and Mouth disease	Exclude until all blisters have dried	Not excluded
8	Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	Exclude until 48 hours after initiation of effective therapy	Not excluded
9	Hepatitis A	Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received, but not before 7 days after the onset of jaundice or illness	Not excluded
10	Hepatitis B	Exclusion is not necessary	Not excluded
11	Hepatitis C	Exclusion is not necessary	Not excluded
12	Herpes (cold sores)	Young children unable to comply with good hygiene practices should be excluded while the lesion is weeping. Lesions to be covered by dressing, where possible	Not excluded
13	Human immuno-deficiency virus infection (HIV)	Exclusion is not necessary	Not excluded
14	Impetigo	Exclude until appropriate treatment has commenced. Sores on exposed surfaces must be covered with a watertight dressing	Not excluded
15	Influenza and influenza like illnesses	Exclude until well	Not excluded unless considered necessary by the Chief Health Officer
16	Leprosy	Exclude until approval to return has been given by the Chief Health Officer	Not excluded
17	Measles	Exclude for at least 4 days after onset of rash	Immunised contacts not excluded. Unimmunised contacts should be excluded until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case. If unimmunised contacts are vaccinated within 72 hours of exposure with any infectious case, or received Normal Human Immunoglobulin (NHIG) within 144 hours of exposure of any infectious case, they may return to the facility
18	Meningitis (bacterial —other than meningococcal meningitis)	Exclude until well	Not excluded
19	Meningococcal infection	Exclude until adequate carrier eradication therapy has been completed	Not excluded if receiving carrier eradication therapy
20	Mumps	Exclude for 5 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner)	Not excluded
21	Molluscum contagiosum	Exclusion is not necessary	Not excluded
22	Pertussis (Whooping cough)	Exclude the child for 21 days after the onset of cough or until they have completed 5 days of a course of antibiotic treatment	Contacts aged less than 7 years in the same room as the case who have not received three effective doses of pertussis vaccine should be excluded for 14 days after the last exposure to the infectious case, or until they have taken 5 days of a course of effective antibiotic treatment
23	Poliovirus infection	Exclude for at least 14 days from onset. Re-admit after receiving medical certificate of recovery	Not excluded
24	Ringworm, scabies, pediculosis (head lice)	Exclude until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced	Not excluded
25	Rubella (German measles)	Exclude until fully recovered or for at least four days after the onset of rash	Not excluded
26	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is produced	Not excluded unless considered necessary by the Chief Health Officer
27	Shiga toxin or Verotoxin producing Escherichia coli (STEC or VTEC)	Exclude if required by the Chief Health Officer and only for the period specified by the Chief Health Officer	Not excluded
28	Streptococcal infection (including scarlet fever)	Exclude until the child has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and the child feels well	Not excluded
29	Tuberculosis (excluding latent tuberculosis)	Exclude until receipt of a medical certificate from the treating physician stating that the child is not considered to be infectious	Not excluded
30	Typhoid fever (including paratyphoid fever)	Exclude until approval to return has been given by the Chief Health Officer	Not excluded unless considered necessary by the Chief Health Officer

### Regulation 111

A person in charge of a primary school, education and care service premises or children's services centre must not allow a child to attend the primary school, education and care service premises or children's services centre for the period or in the circumstances:

\* specified in column 3 of the Table in Schedule 7 if the person in charge has been informed that the child is infected with an infectious disease listed in column 2 of that Table; or

\* specified in column 4 of the Table in Schedule 7 if the person in charge has been informed that the child has been in contact with a person who is infected with an infectious disease listed in column 2 of that Table.

\*Diarrhoeal illness includes instances where certain pathogens are identified including Amebiasis (*Entamoeba histolytica*), Campylobacter spp., Salmonella spp., Shigella spp. and intestinal worms, but is not limited to infection with these pathogens.

### Further information

Please contact the Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Section on 1300 651 160 or visit [www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion](http://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion)

<sup>1</sup> Children's services cover the terms 'education and care service premises' or 'children's services centre' used in the regulations. It includes centres such as childcare centres and kindergartens.

### **Hours for Term 1**

All Foundation students will have Wednesdays off to let them adjust to school life in February.

### **Before the first day**

1. Make sure your child is accustomed to spending time away from you. Student/parent separation can be frightening.
2. Train your child in the management of buttons, zips, shoes, smock etc. Velcro may be a better alternative to shoe laces. Know how to take off, and put on outer clothing, such as raincoats or jumpers without help.
3. Give your child opportunities to eat an individually packed lunch and tidy up when finished.
4. Check that your child can manage the school drinking taps.
5. Make sure your child can confidently use a public toilet and wash and dry hands unaided.
6. Make sure all clothing and possessions are CLEARLY AND PERMANENTLY NAMED and that your child can recognise his/her own name.
7. Train your child in safety habits, e.g. road safety, staying within the school boundary, not throwing sticks or stones, stranger danger. This training will be enforced at school.
8. Perform simple duties around the home. This will help foster confidence in the performance of small tasks.
9. Put away playthings and materials after using them.
10. Your child should know his/her name and address well enough to repeat if necessary.
11. Being at school should be a happy experience. A positive attitude is of utmost importance and if there is no unnatural fuss your child will accept school as a matter of course.

### **Requirements**

- Lunch (lunch box needs to be named on the base and lid)
- Drink bottle (with water only)
- Playlunch (wrapped separately)
- School bag (named)
- Smock (named)
- School uniform including hat

### **Please note:**

1. Any clothing which may be removed should be permanently and clearly named, including shoes and socks. Please note that pupils are not allowed to wear thongs to school.
2. In Terms 1 and 4, school uniform hats are compulsory and sun screen is a good idea. The school has a 'No Hat No Play' rule at this time.

Parents are requested to leave each day as soon as their child goes into class. All children must be at school by 9.00am and should be collected at 3.05pm. It can be unsettling for many children seeing parents at the door while school is still in operation.

### **Adjusting to school**

In the early weeks your child will probably show signs of tiredness but should soon adjust to the longer day and more formalised routine – earlier bed times are recommended.

Encourage your child to talk freely about the events of each day. However, do not force the issue if he/she is inclined to be uncommunicative.

If your child has older brothers and sisters at school, encourage them to allow the Foundation children to play together and establish friendship patterns with their own age group.

Since you are the most important people in your child's life, he/she may naturally bring home toys, aids etc. from school to show you. Do not reprimand, just share the pleasure and then explain that if other children are to enjoy these toys they must be returned to school and that next time

it would be better to take you into the classroom rather than bring something home.

Remember also that these little ones are learning to mix with a large group of children of various dispositions. Their little quarrels are usually short-lived and soon forgotten. While we take a firm stand against fighting, unless your child appears to be being bullied, it is probably wise not to make too much of the incident. However, if you are really concerned, please get in touch with us.

### **How to help your child**

Here are some easy ways you can help your child. It takes time but it IS worth it.

1. Talk to your child – This helps more than many parents realise. The more words a child understands, the easier it is to learn to read. You are your child's major language model.
2. Listen to your child – Children always know if we are paying attention to them. Take an interest in what they have to say. Listen to whether your child is using the correct word pronunciation. Children tend to spell words the way they say them.
3. Read to your child – Read every day and not just at bedtime (though this is often the best sharing time for a family). Always keep books in the car. Read to fill in the odd minutes throughout the day.
4. Have your child read to you – Listen carefully but concentrate on whether the writer's message is understood. It is not absolutely necessary for a child to read every word. If a word is left out or substituted with another that is fairly appropriate, don't be

critical. That spoils the fun! Relax, enjoy it and don't demand a word perfect performance.

5. Praise your child – Children work hard at school and need all the encouragement they can get. After all, they are trying the best they can.
6. Buy books – Books for Christmas and birthdays are gifts that children never outgrow.
7. Television may help – Children learn a lot from television – often not suitable things! Choose programs with care and watch them with your child. Talk about what you have seen and look for books on the same theme.
8. Gross motor practice – Encourage your child to throw and catch balls, run, jump, climb etc. to develop muscle strength and co-ordination.



**Wahgunyah Primary School**  
**It's our community, it's our school.**  
**Come and be part of it!**

