Starting School

Caboolture State School

Enjoy Learn Succeed
Dear Parents/Caregivers, Boys and Girls,

We are very pleased to welcome you all to Caboolture State School where we promote a happy team relationship.

In this booklet we have attempted to give you information about our school and particularly what happens on the first day of the school year.

If you already have some family members at Caboolture State School, I trust that this will refresh your memory and maybe provide a little new information. Prep and Year 1 are the most important years in a child's schooling as it's here that attitudes and patterns of learning are established.

We at Caboolture State School look forward to meeting and working with you to ensure that each child receives the happiest and best education possible.

**ENROLMENT – PREP and YEAR 1**

In 2016 your child is eligible to enrol in Prep if he/she was born in the period 1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011. Your child is eligible to enrol in Year 1 if he/she was born in the period 1 July 2009 – 30 June 2010.

When enrolling your child in Prep or Year One (if your child has not attended Prep), documentary evidence of the child's date of birth is required. The following would be acceptable:

- Official Birth Certificate
SUGGESTED GAMES AND ACTIVITIES
To play with your child to prepare him/her for school.

MATHS:
• Set the table with your child. How many forks will we need? How many knives?
• Play board games eg. Snakes & Ladders.
• Play dominoes.
• Sing songs eg. 1,2,3,4,5 Once I caught a fish alive. Hickory Dickory Dock ......
• Look for shapes in your home.
• Ask your child if their glass of milk is empty or full.

LANGUAGE:
• Read stories together.
• Respond to children's interest in letters, sounds and words.
• Retell favourite stories to each other eg. Cinderella, The Big Enormous Turnip.
• Play memory/snap games.
• Encourage reading favourite books.
• Talk about the front cover and illustrations in books.
• Encourage children to play write stories about pictures and paintings or write the story for your children.

ART & CRAFT:
• Cut and paste pictures from old magazines and newspapers.
• Talk about favourite colours.
• Find things in the environment that are Mum's favourite colour, Grandfather's favourite colour etc.
• Lots of experience with coloured pencils, crayons and felt pens with drawing, colouring and writing.
• Finding objects that are the same and different eg. 😊😊
• Finding patterns and making patterns.
SEMESTER 2 OF PRECEDING YEAR

- Ensure that the Enrolment forms are complete, particularly with regard to a contact phone number other than your own.
- Ensure that the school has sighted proof of Date of Birth.
- Develop in your child the desire to start school.
- Familiarise your child with the school and where you will pick him/her up.
- Ensure that your child has a good understanding of road safety.

PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO:

- Repeat his/her own given and family name.
- Recognise his/her own name on goods (clothing, lunch box etc).

UNIFORMS AND GENERAL CARE

- PLEASE - NAME ALL BELONGINGS so that we can recognise them too.
- Uniforms should be loose fitting and comfortable.
- Uniforms should be washed regularly and kept in reasonable repair.
- Enclosed shoes should be of a jogger type suitable for PE and running.
- Flush toilet after use, and if a boy he is familiar with a urinal.
- Wash his/her hands after visiting the toilet.
- Encourage children to look after their own belongings (eg. Put play items and colouring pencils away after use).
THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL


2. Beware many children rise early on this day. They do not need to be at school until 8:40am.

3. When packing lunch and snacks, discuss with your child what you are packing and ensure they can unwrap/open them.

4. Be prepared the night before so that your morning runs smoothly.

5. Class lists will be posted on boards in the undercovered area, teacher aides will be there to direct you to the correct classrooms.

6. Teachers will be in classrooms to welcome you and your child at 8:40am.

7. Discussions and activities occupy the day. Children may learn some words and talk about numbers, listen to stories and play group games.

8. Teachers supervise children at lunch and snack times.

9. Children can be collected at 2:55pm from the classroom area. This process should continue throughout the year.

10. Bus children will assemble outside the Performing Arts Hall.
FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Your interest in your child’s work will serve to keep your child interested and motivated. Discussing school events, good and bad, will also help your child understand.

If you have any questions or concerns talk to your child’s teacher. Should you wish to talk further please contact administration.

While teachers greatly appreciate parent helpers in the classroom, parent helpers must operate under teacher direction. Classroom helpers are governed by the rules of confidentiality. They must not discuss the progress or ability of children outside the classroom.

When you are helping in the classroom, please appreciate that it may be different from the next classroom.

We are all aiming for the same thing

YOUR CHILD’S LEARNING
LUNCH BREAKS

* Lunch and a snack should be packed separately.
* Nutritious lunches are important. Sandwiches, crackers & cheeses, dried fruit are ideal. Children can become tired and teary if too many “treat” foods are included. We encourage you to send your child with a small water bottle.
* Plastic containers (named) are the most suitable. Check your child can easily open the lunch container.
* We suggest that foods that take a long time to eat (eg. A whole apple) are not really suitable for snack. As oranges may be difficult to peel, consider peeling and re-wrapping in the skin or plastic wrap.
* We advise children to take home any food they can’t eat rather than letting them put it in the bin. We feel that it’s better that you know exactly what the children are and are not eating.
* Pack spoons for yoghurt etc.

* **DO NOT** send glass bottles or knives to school.
IF YOUR CHILD......

..........is tearful in the early days, take him/her to the teacher, firmly say goodbye and confirm arrangements for the afternoon and leave quickly without returning for “just another hug”. Often the tears are very shortlived as the class settles down to work, your child becomes involved in class activities and forgets whatever caused the initial upset. There are many instances where parents have spent a very upset day only to greet their child smiling and excited at three o’clock.

..........is teary and cranky in the early weeks, ensure that he/she is going to bed early as school days are long, hot and very active. Children tire very easily until they adapt to their new routine.

..........is teary and cranky in the early weeks, check that lunches are being eaten and that he/she is having extra drinks of water at school.

..........reports an incident to you concerning another child, check with the class teacher or ring the office on 5431 4555 and we will investigate any incident.

..........says nobody plays with me, check with the class teacher. Often it is only a matter of not locating their friends at lunchtime because there are so many other children. Teachers will also assist in forming friendships, if a real difficulty does exist.

..........says “but teacher never asks me”, you need to help your child understand that there are many children in class, all of them want to talk. Children need support and help to understand that they need to “share” the teacher with the class.

..........comes home with a worry, minimise his/her concerns until you can contact the teacher to clarify the situation. Try not to build the worry into something bigger for your child.

Your child needs to see your very positive attitude to school and to the class. With your daily assurance, that everything is fine, children can approach the new experience of school with confidence.
MAKING THINGS EASY IN THE EARLY DAYS OF SCHOOL

1. Pack a lunch box each morning during the holidays. At lunch and snack, have your child sort out what he/she is to eat at which break. Practise putting lids on bottles.
2. Label lunch and snack. Wrap it so that it is easily unwrapped by your child.
3. Discuss how learning to read and write takes time and that we mightn’t be able to do it ALL on the first day.
4. Keep all toys at home (They may get lost causing great upset).
5. Encourage children to use school toilets and ask if they need to go to the toilet.
6. Children can carry their own bags and belongings and be responsible for putting these away in their classroom.
7. Label ALL belongings (bag, lunch box, raincoats, etc).
8. Discuss the idea of going to school EVERY DAY.
9. Dress your child in clothing that he/she can manage easily in the toilet.
10. Don’t lead your child to expect things of school which may not happen eg. “You’ll get into trouble if you ..................... school”.

Just a REMINDER! the morning of the first day of the year is very busy. Teachers like to be able to respond to children immediately in these early days. If you wish to discuss anything with the teacher, it is important to make an interview time.

LEARNING TO WRITE

Learning to write is much like learning to speak. We learn best by doing it and by being encouraged. Just as children learn to talk, they learn to write – by experimenting and building from there. Children need praise not criticism. A child learning to write will succeed when he/she has the confidence to try new ways to look for answers and to write, regardless of whether he/she can do it “properly”.
In the beginning, Year 1 pupils will use letters or squiggles to represent the sounds and words they know and there will be many misspellings. It is important to remember that in English there are 73 rules for the pronunciation of the six vowels alone. As children read more and use written language more, the amount of “invented” spelling decreases.

Writing is more than good handwriting, spelling punctuation and grammar. All of these can be done well. Writing needs additional skills. Writing is using imagination – please encourage your child through reading, speaking, drawing and writing to develop his/her imagination.

These are the ways Caboolture State School is now looking at writing. Children keep their enthusiasm about writing when their writing is valuable for itself. Because it is their own, they cut and change it to make it better. It is their work, not the teacher’s.

The heart of the writing process at our school is listening to and encouraging children.

INTERVIEWS WITH TEACHERS - Teachers welcome the chance to meet parents and to discuss a child’s progress. This is often quite difficult during school hours so we suggest parents contact the teacher or office staff and make an appointment, which suits both parties. Interviews are required for the issue of report cards at the end of the learning cycle. It is most important that every parent make every possible attempt to attend these interviews. Communication between teachers and parents is encouraged and welcome. Also, please feel free to organise to spend some time participating in your child’s classroom.

SCHOOL HOURS - Monday to Friday 8:50am to 2:55pm. Children should be at school 15 minutes before school commences. Children should not be at school prior to 8:30am and should depart the school grounds at 2:55pm.

MONEY - If money is sent to school, please ensure that it is contained in a sealed envelope. The envelope should be labelled correctly (name, class, what purpose the money is for and amount enclosed). Encourage your child
to bring money to the cash window before going to class. Cash receipting is
done each morning between 8:15am – 12:30pm.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS – Contact the school if you have any changes to
your address or phone numbers.
This is important as we need to be able to contact you at any time in
case of emergency.

DENTAL – Usually once a year the School Health and Dental Serv
visits our school and will provide check-ups for dental health.
You will be notified of these visits by a dental clinic permission form
coming home with your child.

VALUABLES – Do not allow your child to bring any valuables to school as
they may get damaged or go missing. Valuables include, mobile phones, hand
held games, iPads, jewellery etc.

LEARNING TO READ – As adults, we take a lot of reading skills for
granted. Children must be shown many pre-reading skills such as how to turn
pages, how to read from left to right, from the front to the back of a book
and how to hold a book correctly.
At our school the initial emphasis will be on reading for enjoyment. Please
ask to see the variety of large and small books available. The pictures are
large and colourful and the text under each picture is written in large print.
Children will be encouraged to “read along” as the teacher points to the
words on each page. Each book is very different, and yet they all use the
element of repetition and rhyme to assist children recalling the words and
story. Small reading books will be sent home at a later date. We would like
you to help your child, not by covering up the picture, but by asking questions
such as:-

1. What is the story about?
2. Who are the characters?
3. What is the picture all about?
4. What happened in the end?
5. What is this word in this sentence?
6. Which word is cow?

Our reading books are designed to introduce children to reading as a
pleasurable experience. Make sure that you provide plenty of
encouragement and praise. If you are concerned about your child’s progress, then see your teacher to find out more about our exciting reading program.

**TUCKSHOP ROSTER** - The tuckshop is conducted by the parents of the school. It relies heavily on voluntary help. Any assistance you are able to give in this way will be greatly appreciated. If you would like to offer your services, please contact the convenor on 5431 4509.

**TAKING CHILDREN DURING SCHOOL HOURS** - If you need to remove your child from the school grounds during the school day, you will need to sign them out at the first aid room. If you are here for any other purpose, then you must sign in on the volunteer register at the front office. Children should come directly to school and return directly home. Please notify the class teacher if “going home arrangements” are changed.

**LATE ARRIVALS** - Students arriving late to school cause disruption to the classroom routine, so please try and keep late arrivals to a minimum. Students must report at the first aid room for a late slip before going to class.

**REGULAR ATTENDANCE** - This is very important. Irregular attendance affects a child’s progress at school.

**ABSENCES** - A note in regard to a child’s absence is required. If a long absence is anticipated, please contact your child’s teacher.

**MEDICINES** - Education Department Policy requires that ONLY medication that is prescribed and carries a current pharmacist’s label can be administered to children. Medication is not to be left in the child’s possession.

**SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS**

**BAGS** - The bag needs to be large enough to hold a drink flask, lunch box, books and raincoat. The backpack style is recommended.

**LIBRARY BAG** - the calico bag given to you at the time of enrolment will suffice.
HATS/CLOTHES - It is the Education Queensland Sun Safe Policy that all children must wear a hat to and from school, as well as at lunchtimes/playtime. Encourage your child to wear sensible shoes and the school uniform. All clothing should be clearly marked with the child’s name. Hats cannot be shared for health reasons. No visors or caps are to be worn. At Caboolture State Primary School we have a policy of NO HAT, NO PLAY, so we suggest that it is a good idea for your child to keep a spare hat in their school bag for emergencies.

BANKING - School banking is conducted on Wednesdays. Early in first term students will receive a Student Banking Application form. If you wish your child to open an account you will have to complete the forms and return them to the office.

TUCKSHOP - Lunches are available from the Tuckshop from Tuesday to Friday. Separate bags are required for each break. Mark each bag clearly with your child’s name, class, 1st or 2nd break and their food order. Place correct money in the envelope and mark on the front the amount it contains. A price list may be obtained from the school office or tuckshop. Children place their orders in the classroom tuckshop basket before school. The orders are processed and delivered back to the classroom.

COMMUNICATION - Each fortnight on a Thursday our school newsletter, Kabul Tales is published, this is one way we can communicate with the whole school community. The newsletter is available on our website www.cabooltuss.eq.edu.au then click on the newsletter tab and select a date. We also conduct our school assemblies on Wednesday afternoons each week, generally from 1:00pm. One week will be for the upper school and the next week will be for the lower school. Parents are most welcome to attend these assemblies.
PLEASE FILL IN AND LEAVE WITH THE TEACHER

NAME____________________________  CLASS_____________________

Please circle one of the following:

My child will be

1. Picked up by a parent
2. Collected by another person
   Name___________________________________
3. Waiting in class for an older brother/sister
4. Walking home
5. Going to After School Care
6. Other - please specify

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Signature_________________________________________Date_______________
On the following pages there are some fun activities to be shared by parents and children starting Prep or Year 1.

**THINGS YOU WILL DO AT SCHOOL !!!!!!**

- Listen to stories and tell stories
- Sing songs
- Learn to read little stories
- Learn more about numbers
- Have fun making interesting things
- Learn to write your name
CAREFULLY PUT THINGS AWAY WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED WITH THEM?

SAY “PLEASE” “THANK YOU” AND “EXCUSE ME” WHEN YOU SHOULD?

SHARE THINGS WITH OTHERS

WAIT FOR A TURN WHEN OTHERS ARE SPEAKING

GREET EVERYONE WITH A SMILE WHEN YOU SAY “HELLO”!

GO TO THE TOILET BY YOURSELF AND THEN ALWAYS WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP AND WATER.
CAN YOU COLOUR THESE SHAPES?
DO YOU KNOW YOUR

Teacher’s name and your class

How many people in your family

Telephone Number

Birthday and how old you are

First and last name

Address
YOU WILL LEARN TO PRINT THESE LETTERS

aA    bB    cC    dD    eE
fF    gG    hH    iI    jJ

Numbers

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9