

2025 Kindy

Thomas Acres Public School

Parent Information Session



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Thomas Acres Public School would like to acknowledge the First Nations People who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we live, learn, work and play. We acknowledge that we are coming together on Dharawal Country.

We would like to pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, traditions, culture and hopes of First Nations People. We recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community.

We extend our respect to other Aboriginals, and non-Aboriginal people, and acknowledge the many homelands we all represent.

We acknowledge that the land of this nation was, is and always will be, Aboriginal Land.



Welcome to Thomas Acres!

- Our school has a **warm and friendly environment** where all children are challenged to reach their full potential.

In an increasingly complex and challenging world, the education of our students is grounded with **academic achievement** and the holistic development of **social skills** and **confidence**.

- The Kindergarten program at TAPS aims to create an environment where children learn through a mix of **student-centred learning, hands-on activities** and **teacher directed learning**, which are **engaging** and appropriate to their **developmental level**.



Information



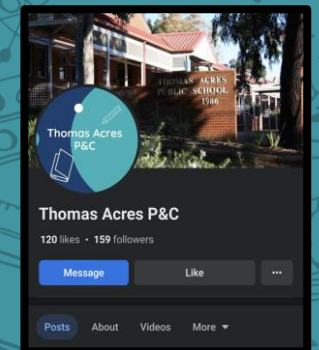
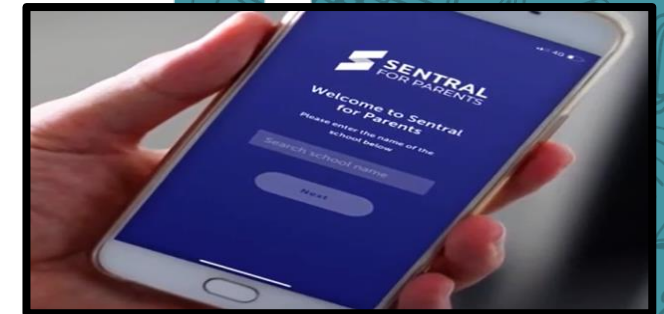
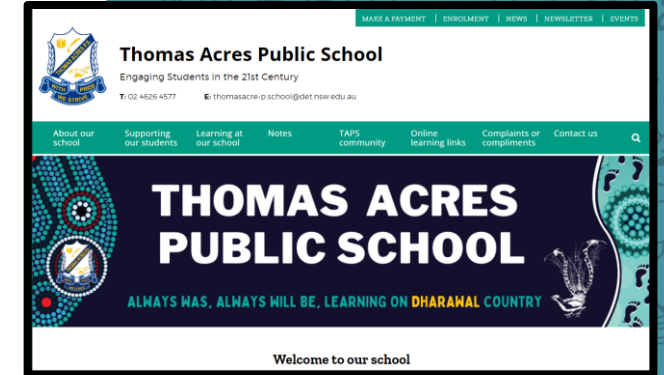
Our **school website** includes up to date information including policies, newsletters and notes, and Department of Education information.



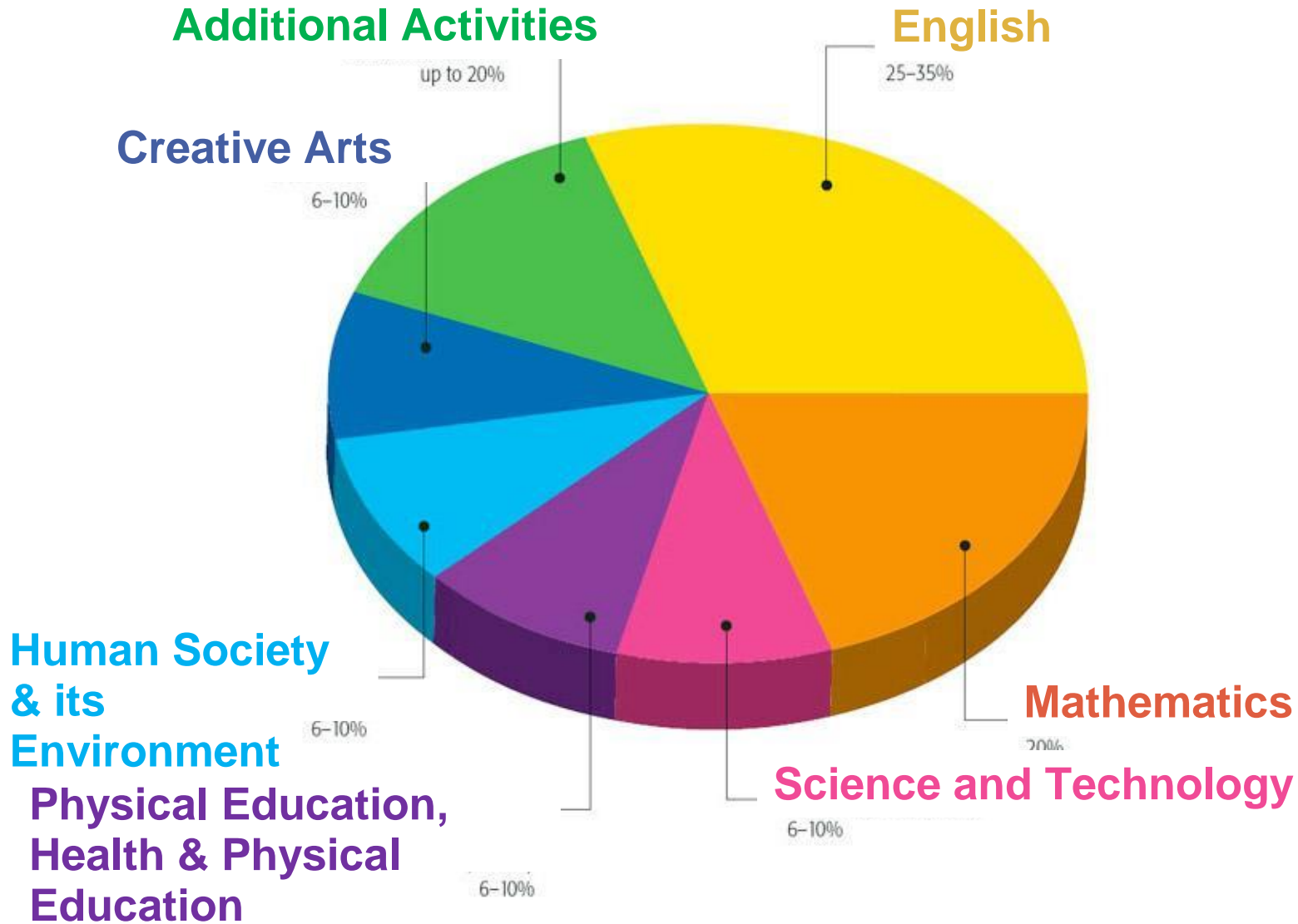
The '**Sentral for Parents**' app is our key point of contact for payments, attendance and communication.



We also have active **Facebook pages** for our **school community** and **P&C** which are a great way to stay up to date on special events, photos and videos, or mass communications from staff.



NSW K-6 Curriculum



Additional Learning Opportunities

- Sports in Schools Australia
- STEAM Studio + Lab
- Excursions
- Incursions
- Assembly
- Library
- Character education
- Developmental play



Health & Individual Needs



Inform the school, and provide documentation if applicable if your child has:

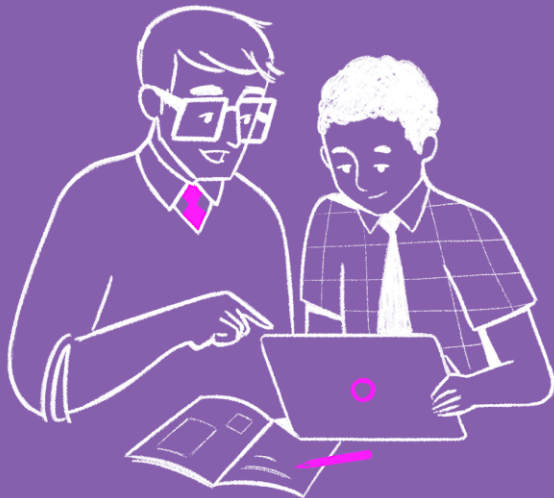
- **Medical Condition** e.g. anaphylaxis, asthma, epilepsy, diabetes – you will need a health care plan and/or ASCIA action plan from your child's doctor
- **Allergies** (mild to moderate) e.g. food, insects, skin irritants
- **Special Learning Needs** e.g. hearing, vision, mental health, specific diagnoses
- **Needs regular medication** administered at school
- **NDIS or External Service Providers**

Let us know as early as possible so we can work together to develop plans to support your child!

Support Staff

Class teachers provide **differentiated** classroom instruction to **cater for individual needs**. Further adjustments can inform **Individual Learning Plans** or **Personal Learning Pathways** which will be regularly discussed with carers.

- **AP Kindergarten**
- **AP Curriculum & Instruction**
- **AP Learning & Support**
- **EAL/D teacher**
- **School Counsellors**
- **Aboriginal Education Officer**
- **Community Liaison Officer**
- **Learning Support Officers**



Behaviour



Merit Award System

The merit system is an integral part of the student behaviour management system at Thomas Acres Public School. The aim is to encourage each student to strive for their personal best.

The Merit Award is a tiered system spanning a students' whole school career at Thomas Acres Public School. The tiered system is where certificates are traded for the next level of award. The system rolls over from year to year and the onus for keeping and trading awards is with the student.

Our award system is designed to provide individual students with positive recognition of effort, achievement, and progress. Students accumulate merit awards as recognition for their achievement as they progress through a levelled award system as they aim to achieve their bronze, silver, gold certificates and badges throughout their years at TAPS.

Students can receive the following awards:

<p>Certificate of Merit (Mini merit)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distributed weekly by the class teacher in the classroom. Both the RFF and library teacher can issue one per class per week.
<p>Quality Achievement Award (Mini Merit)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distributed at the primary or infants' assembly. Only one student per class is nominated for each assembly - approximately 10 recipients per class each year.
<p>Good Character Award (Mini Merit)</p>	<p>This award is designed to recognise any student who is displaying any of the 12-character traits (respectful, kind, fair, mindful, resilient, persistent, cooperative, inclusive, assertive, honesty, empathy and appreciation) that are covered throughout the course of the year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to be included as part of weekly class quota. Distributed by class teacher in classroom.
<p>PSSA Gala Day Sportsmanship (Mini Merit)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distributed on Gala days by the coach of each team. There is a maximum of 2 awarded to both the junior and senior team.
<p>Great Attendance Award (Mini Merit)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distributed by class teacher in classroom. Will be awarded to any student at or above 95% at the end of each term. Will be organised by the executive overseeing attendance.

<p>Great Attendance Award (Mini Merit)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distributed by class teacher in classroom. Will be awarded to any student at or above 95% at the end of each term. Will be organised by the executive overseeing attendance.
<p>White Awards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five mini merits (Certificate of merit or Quality Achievement or Good Character or PSSA Gala Day Sportsmanship or great attendance Award) can be traded in to receive a White Award. White Awards are handed out at the K-2 and 3 - 6 assemblies.
<p>Bronze Award</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four White Awards = Bronze Award and chip (20 mini merits) Will be handed out at Monday morning assembly at the end of each term. Parents will be invited to the assembly to see their child receive their award.
<p>Silver & Gold Award</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeat for Silver and Gold Certificates and chips Will be handed out at Monday morning assembly at the end of each term. Parents will be invited to the assembly to see their child receive their award.

Essentially:

5 mini merits = 1 white award
4 white awards = Bronze award & badge with bronze chip

Repeat for Silver and Gold certificates and chips.

The following number of awards are to be handed out each week:

- Early Stage 1 = 3 mini merit awards per week (inclusive of the Good Character Award)
- Years 1 - 6 = 4 mini merit awards per week (inclusive of the Good Character Award)

It is important to note that:

- 10 students in each class per year have an opportunity to receive a Quality Achievement award.
- Every student has an opportunity of receiving an addition for mini merits per year for great attendance.
- Students in Years 3-6 also have an opportunity of receiving the PSSA Gala day Sportsmanship Award.

Attendance

It is important for your child to attend school each day for their intellectual and social development. **It is also a requirement by law.**



GOOD ATTENDANCE FOR SUCCESS Every Minute in School Counts



When your child misses just ...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is...
10 minutes each day	50 minutes each week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks each year	Nearly ½ a year of learning
20 minutes each day	1 hour and 40 minutes each week	Nearly 2 ½ weeks each year	Nearly 1 year of learning
30 minutes each day	2 ½ hours each week	4 weeks each year	Nearly 1 ½ years of learning
1 hour each day	1 day each week	8 weeks or nearly 1 term each year	Over 2 ½ years of learning

Your child's best learning time is at the beginning of the day

Absences

If your child is absent our system will automatically send you an SMS that you can reply to with the **specific reason for absence**. If preferred, you can write a note for your child's teacher.

Any absence over 3 days will require a medical certificate.



Sample explanation:

*My child **John Smith** in class **KB** was away on **Monday 10th February**. He had a **fever and a positive COVID test**.*

Before / After School Care

YMCA are our recommended provider.

YMCA Ambarvale OSHC

We believe in the power of inspired young people




Prices exclusive of child care rebates

Before School Care

6:30am - 8:30am **\$18.50**

After School Care

3:00pm - 6:00pm **\$25.50**

\$2.00 extra for casual attendance

Government
subsidies available.
Call us today to
receive a quote!

Big Breakfast!

Your stomach is sure to rumble once you read what we have on offer. Our 'big breakfast' options change daily, these include: Weetbix, toast and yoghurt plus scrumptious pancakes, raisin toast and French toast depending on the day. Take the hassle out of breakfast at home!

Healthy Afternoon Tea

We provide a nutritious and delicious afternoon tea including a fruit and vegetable platter each afternoon alongside yummy meals like, taco's, healthy wraps and antipasto platter!

YMCA Ambarvale OSHC

We believe in the power of inspired young people

Every day we offer plenty of craft, outdoor activities, games, sports and more. In addition there are specialised extracurricular programs that children are welcome to also participate in as outlined below.

Recycled Arts & Crafts

Do you have an artist on your hands? Or even one in the making? We put our masterminds together to make some fabulous creations out of recycled materials. If DIY craft projects are more your style come along and create something out of this world—your imagination is the only limit!

Knitting Classes

Learn how to knit together! Learn new techniques and make home great creations to wow your family and friends with!

Active Kids—Mind and Body

Get here fast before the fun starts! Children participate in any exciting group games including: capture the flag, red rover, jump rope. The games don't stop there with relay races and sports such as; Soccer, Tennis and Netball. To get our kids active we play stimulating games such as naughts and crosses and hang man. A great program to build both social and motor skills. Bring your own amazing game ideas as we'd love to hear them!

Y Chef

Children will build confidence in their cooking skills, learn about science and maths and develop healthy eating habits with a variety of cultural foods and yummy treats to make. Come along and cook up a storm.

Table Tennis

Do you know table tennis works parts of the brain that are responsible for movement, fine motor skills and strategy? Join us on o develop these skills and many more!

Play with our service pet

Ambarvale offers a pet rabbit that the children love! Our very own Honey—children's choice of name of course! Of an afternoon Honey gets to stretch her big feet and go for a run and cuddle with the kids. As a special reward children take us to feed Honey a carrot—only when she is on his best behavior!

Optional Homework Space

We accommodate a designated homework area where children needing to complete homework can have a quiet space and can seek help with their homework from educators and peers if required.

My Time Our Place

We provide down time after school for children to do what makes them happy - read a book, use their creative skills, spend time with friends, enjoy construction with lego, mobile and zoobles!







Follow us on facebook to see what exciting activities the children get up to here at YMCA OSHC!

www.facebook.com/yymcaoshmacakart



Enrolment Procedures

The Department of Education requires the following before children start school:

- 100-point residential address check
- Birth certificate
- Immunisation records

Please see our front office staff when you are ready to complete your child's enrolment.



The screenshot shows a document titled "Residential address check" for the enrolment of students in NSW Government schools. It includes a table of requirements and a "More information" section.

Document showing the full name of the child's parent	Points
1. Only one of (a, re additional points for additional documents): 1.1 Council rate notice 1.2 Lease agreement through a registered real estate agent or contract of sale (6 months or rental bond receipt) or sale (6 months or rental bond receipt) 1.3 Enrolment record of use with settlement to occur within the applicable school year	40
2. Any of the following: 2.1 Private rental agreement for a period of at least 6 months 2.2 Certificate of occupancy showing home address 2.3 Electrical not statement	10 each
3. Any of the following documents: 3.1 Electricity or gas bill showing the service address* 3.2 Water bill showing the service address* 3.3 Telephone or internet bill showing the service address* 3.4 Drivers licence or government issued ID showing home address* 3.5 Home liability or home contents insurance showing the service address 3.6 Motor vehicle registration or compulsory third party insurance policy showing home address 3.7 Database registration listing the child's residential address, how long they have lived there, and any necessary information or documentation of this *up to three months old	10 each

More information
Contact your local school or visit <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/enrol-to-a-public-school/enrolment>

NSW Department of Education | Enrolment of students in NSW Government schools | Residential address check | education.nsw.gov.au

Is my child ready?

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Your child **can** start Kindergarten at the beginning of the school year if they turn five on or before 31 July in that year
- All children **must** be enrolled by their 6th birthday.



Is my child ready?

SELF-MANAGEMENT SKILLS:

- Use the toilet, wipe, and wash hands independently (urinals for boys)
- Blow their nose
- Open lunch containers and drink bottles
- Dress themselves (buttons, zips, sleeves, shoes)
- Pack and unpack items in their bags

MOTOR SKILLS:

- Hold a pencil or crayon
- Use scissors safely
- Run, jump, climb and play ball

Is my child ready?

COMMUNICATION SKILLS:

- Be understood by an unfamiliar adult when speaking
- Tell someone when they need help
- Follow simple instructions
- Share talking time with others

SOCIAL SKILLS:

- Generally get along with other children
- Play independently for short periods of time
- Recognise basic emotions and manage them appropriately

First Days of Kindergarten

Day 1



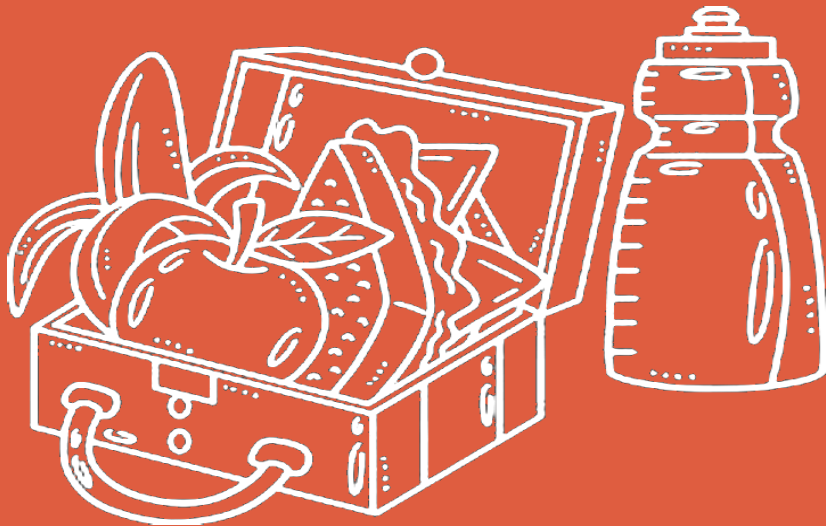
For 2025 Kindergarten students are expected to begin classes on **Thursday 6 February.**

8:55	Morning bell – Years 1-6
10:00	Kindy arrival and welcome in hall (Day 1 only, arrive at front gate by 8:55am each school day after this)
10:00-2:30	Kindy classes begin Lessons, eating times, play
2:30	Kindy pick-up from front gate (First few weeks only. Kindy staff will notify families when students are ready to complete full days and will send notes home to nominate preferred pick-up gates)

Families may have the chance for a brief check-in with teachers or teacher's aides before or after school, but for detailed, complex or confidential matters we encourage you to book an uninterrupted meeting through the teacher or office staff.

First Days of Kindergarten

Food & Drink



Students should **pack their school bag** with a:

- Healthy snack (for 'fruit break')
- A healthy lunch
- A water bottle

Consider **healthy food options** with your child:

- Food that is familiar, easy to eat independently, and not too messy.
- Pre-cut items such as oranges, celery and carrot
- Open packaging (partly or completely)
- Experiment with different types of breads, rolls, wraps or muffins for variety.
- Limit sweets, chips and treats.
- Water could be flavoured with fruit or juice.

Please do not make lunch order from the canteen in the first few weeks as our break times will not match the rest of the school!

First Days of Kindergarten

Stay positive!



Make the first day as enjoyable as possible by ensuring your family is prepared. Allow time to:

- Have a healthy breakfast.
- Get to school safely and on time.
- Discuss what to expect during the day.

Have a positive attitude!

- Demonstrate your trust in the teacher and your enthusiasm about school and learning.
- A short reassuring goodbye with a reminder you'll see them after school encourages independence.
- Talk positively about the first days showing special interest in any work they bring home

If in doubt trust the guidance of your child's teacher for further strategies to ensure the first days are as stress-free as possible for parents and children

‘Best Start’ Assessment

The ‘**Best Start**’ Kindergarten Assessment is conducted with all NSW Kindergarten students. It identifies student’s existing **literacy and numeracy skills** on entry to Kindergarten.

Thomas Acres will complete these as interviews in the early days of term 1 during school time.

No preparation or ‘study’ is required!



How can I help prepare my child?

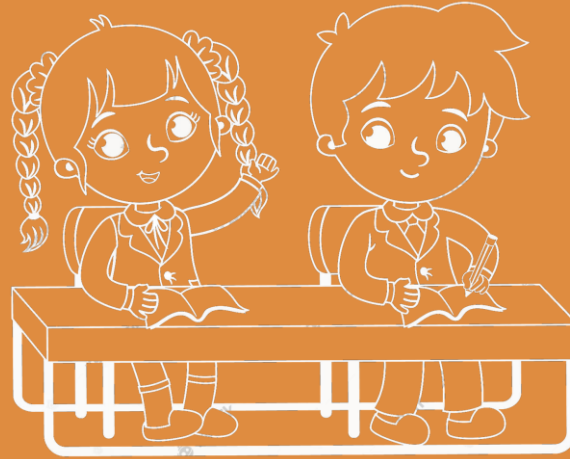
- Encourage **play**. Play develops social skills, creativity and communication. Play helps children cooperate and manage feelings.
 - Practice **turn taking** and **sharing** with other children
 - Encourage them to **pack up** after play.
- Allow your child to stay with relatives or friends for short periods of time to help them understand you will be back to collect them.



How can I help prepare my child?

Have 'practice' school days where children:

- Use a bedtime and morning routine
- Dress themselves in their uniforms
- Pack and carry their school bag
- Use lunch box lunches



Practice **school skills**:

- Hold pencils, textas, crayons, paintbrushes
- Use scissors and glue safely
- Read together and talk about the story
- Discuss your child's daily activities

Suggested School Resources

For Students	For Classroom
School bag	1x box of tissues
Lunch box	1x paper towel rolls
Water bottle (no glass)	1x pump sanitiser
Library bag	4x large glue stick (Bostik and UHU are best)
School hat	Whiteboard markers (4 pack)
Paint shirt (optional)	
Spare clothes (including underwear and socks)	



LABEL EVERYTHING!






School Uniform

- **NEW UNIFORMS:** purchased at **Lowe's** at **Macarthur Square** after **November 7th**.
- **SECOND-HAND UNIFORMS:** donated second-hand uniforms are resold at just \$5 each from the office between 10am-2pm (money raised used to purchase student resources).
- **SPORTS UNIFORM:** not required, students to wear appropriate items and sports shoes. Students may be invited to wear colours of their 'house' for sports carnivals.
- **ABORIGINAL CULTURAL SHIRT:** Optional uniform add-on for *all* students and staff that can be ordered through school twice per year.



Usual School Routines



8:55	Morning bell
9:00	Roll call
	Morning session: Lessons, fruit break, brain breaks
10:55	Eating time – lunch
11:05	Playtime
11:35	Lining up with class
	Middle session: Lessons, brain breaks
1:25	Eating and playtime – Recess
1:55	Lining up with class
	Afternoon session: Lessons
2:55	Afternoon bell