

Parent/Carer Information Booklet



FOREWARD

Welcome to our School. Thomas Acres Public School has built a fine tradition in academic, sporting and cultural pursuits. We value our close links with our community and are appreciative of its support. You are always welcome to participate in our school because it is just that, *our school*. We look forward to a long and happy association.



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of Thomas Acres Public School is to provide each student with the opportunity to develop to his or her full potential in a caring and educationally stimulating environment.



- THE SCHOOL SONG -

This school is our school, this school is your school
Out from the playground, to the inside classrooms,
Our friendly natures, and our good manners,
This school is made by you and me.

We'll hold our heads high, and march on proudly,
And all will listen to a song sung loudly,
Our Thomas Acres, in smile written.
This school is made by you and me,
This school is made by you and me.



- AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM -

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are young and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

WEBSITE REFERENCES & RESOURCES

Principal: Mr Sean Pope
Deputy Principal: Mrs Catherine Flamos
Deputy Principal: Mrs Yvonne Bryce

Address: 59 Crispsparkle Drive
AMBARVALE NSW 2560

Phone No: 4626 4577
Fax No. 4626 8488
Canteen Phone No: 4628 7121

Email thomasacre-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Website <http://www.thomasacre-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

Facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/School/Thomas-Acres-Public-School-365957373573245/>

List of Current Staff <http://www.thomasacre-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/our-school/staff>

School Term Dates <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/calendars>
First day of Terms 1,2,3 and the last 2 days of Term 4 are SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

Busabout <http://www.busabout.com.au/schoolservices.html>
Phone No 4631 4200

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General information

Teaching staff

Programs of instruction are planned, implemented and evaluated by class teachers. These teachers are supported in this role by other support teachers.

Learning Assistance Support Teacher (LAST)

The Learning Assistance Support Teacher is responsible for the implementation of Learning Assistance Support Teacher programs. These programs are designed to assist the class teacher in providing support for students experiencing difficulty. The program's priorities are Literacy and Numeracy.

Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO)

The Home School Liaison Officer monitors the attendance of all students at school. Should your child be absent for any reason, a written explanation, signed by the parent/carer or caregiver must be given to your child's class teacher for school record purposes upon your child's return. If your child is to be absent for a period of longer than two days please contact the school as this will save an official request being sent home asking for an explanation.

School counsellor

Our school Counsellors are at TAPS every Monday, Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday. The school Counsellors provide assistance for children and helps to develop programs to assist children with special needs. They also assist class teachers by providing more in depth information as to why a child may be experiencing particular difficulties.

Aboriginal Education Officer (AEO)

The Aboriginal Education Officer assists our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ASTI) students enrolled at our school.

School Learning Support Officers (SLSO)

School Learning Support Officers are employed to assist students with diagnosed disabilities access the school curriculum

Release from Face-to-Face (RFF)

These teachers provide RFF teaching for your child's class teacher who is entitled to two hours a week release. A program of work is planned by the class teacher and the RFF teacher.

MultiLit program

The MultiLit Program is a research initiative of Macquarie University and stands for *Making Up Lost Time in Literacy*. MultiLit is an educational program for low progress readers, aimed at Year 2 and above. This program provides for individual instruction in word attack skills, sight words and reading texts. It is implemented in our school by our trained school Learning Support Officers.

Library

Your child will visit the Library each week. One of the best gifts any parent/carer can give a child is a love of good books and the joy that comes from reading. You will need to provide your child with a Library bag so that he or she is able to borrow from the school Library.

Computer Lab

Attached to the Library is our Computer Lab. While visiting the Computer Lab your child will have the opportunity to learn computer based skills (eg. creating and publishing a word document, power point presentation etc.) as well as learning to navigate the Internet safely.

To enhance students learning experience over a variety of devices, we provide access to technology by way of our Portable Lab. This includes mini laptops and tablets which allows each student with the opportunity to have a device on their desk.

Stage structure

Early Stage 1Kindergarten
Stage 1Years 1 and 2
Stage 2Years 3 and 4
Stage 3Years 5 and 6

Assemblies



Whole school assemblies, K-6, are held once a term usually commencing at 12pm. Students who have gained their bronze, silver and gold chips are presented at these assemblies and parents will receive an invitation to attend. Our Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) groups also have an opportunity to showcase their talents at these assemblies. All parent/carers are welcome to attend.

Attendance and punctuality

Children need to be at school by 8:55am.



If your child is late, they need to go to the office to collect a late note which they give to their teacher. If your child is absent, please provide a note explaining the absence. Absence booklets are provided at the beginning of the year for your convenience. If you require additional books, you can obtain them from the front office.



Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. For absences totalling 4 or more school days, an *Application for Extended Leave* will need to be completed. Relevant travel documentation such as an e-ticket or itinerary (in the case of non-flight bound travel within Australia only) will also be requested. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

Bells

When the first bell sounds, students are to walk straight to classrooms, except on Monday when a brief whole school assembly is held. For bell times, please also refer to section titled *School hours*



- 1 BELL Normal routine applies, all students outside and normal playground roster occurs
- 2 BELLS..... Buddy system - up to teacher to decide if they take their students out to the undercover areas. Each teacher is responsible for their own students
- 3 BELLS..... Buddy system and all students must stay indoors

One bell rings at 2:55pm for the end of the school day.

There will be announcements made for Evacuation and Lock Down. These situations are rehearsed regularly.

Bus travel

Student OPAL cards are available for children from Kindergarten to Year 2, for any distances. However, children in Years 3 to 6 must live in excess of 1.6km radius away from the school to be eligible for a pass. You can apply for a student OPAL card online at <https://www.opal.com.au/> Students travelling by bus are expected to conduct themselves in an acceptable manner at all times. Parent/carer are asked to monitor their child's behaviour in this area. The bus company retains the right to revoke a bus pass if behaviour is unacceptable. Students in Years 3 to 6 who live closer than the 1.6km radius must pay for their travel. Information about bus routes or any other travel matters is available from Busabout on 4631 4200.



Canteen



A healthy Canteen operates daily. Name, class and lunch order are to be written on a bag with preferably the correct money placed inside. If change is owed, it will be given to the student at lunchtime. Lunch order bags are available from the Canteen to purchase. Order is then placed in the chute in the Canteen door before 9:30 am. . Separate money is required for children wishing to purchase recess. Alternatively, for your convenience, you can order your child's lunch at online at FlexiSchools -

<https://www.flexischools.com.au/>.

If your child has special dietary needs, please contact the Canteen Supervisor to discuss alternative options on 4628 7121.

Please note orders are to be placed in the door chute before 9:30 am

Children required to leave early

Parent/carer wishing to take children from school early **MUST** first go the school office and obtain a printed release slip to take to the class teacher and a *TAPS Visitor* tag. Where a person other than the parent/carer or emergency contact is to collect a child, a telephone call or written authorisation and proof of identity must be presented. This procedure is for the protection of the child.



For safety NO child is allowed to leave the school grounds without permission between times of arrival and dismissal.

Contacting class teachers

Whilst teachers are very willing to speak to parents/carers, they cannot leave their class to do so. If you wish to speak privately to a teacher on matters concerning your child's wellbeing, please request an interview for a mutually convenient time.



Where a parent/carer needs to contact the school, via the telephone, the school administration officers, who are in a position of trust and confidentiality, will deal with important matters appropriately.

Custody of children



Where a court has determined restricted access by a parent/carer, an up-to-date official court document must be sighted by the Principal and a copy held on file. Please contact the Principal if you have any concerns or as new arrangements or developments arise.

Deadline for payments

During the school year your child will receive notes for planned excursions, visiting performances etc. On such notes a due date for payment will be clearly shown on the note and permission slip. For your child to attend the planned event you **MUST** sign and return the permission slip with payment in a sealed envelope or plastic bag **BEFORE** the closing date. Please also refer to section titled *Excursions*.



Parents/carers are urged to take special note of the closing date indicated for payment for an event as **NO LATE** payments will be accepted without prior arrangement. This is because numbers need to be finalised and given to venues and buses at least 5 days before the day of the planned event.

Payments can be made via:

- Cash (preferably correct amount – changed owed will be given to student at 2:30pm)
- Cheque made payable to *Thomas Acres Public School*
- EFTPOS located in the office (minimum of \$10)
- *POP (Parent/carer Online Payment – located on our website under *\$ Make a Payment* tab. Permission notes still need to be returned to the office – refer below.

**Please note - if a payment is made after 6pm weekdays or on a weekend, the school will not see that payment until the 2nd business day (eg. a payment made at 7pm on Friday evening will be on the report the school accesses on Tuesday morning). Therefore, resulting in a late payment, a refund or credit may be issued as a result.*

Emergency information

This information is retained at the office for use in case of emergencies and is supplied by the parents/carers at the time of the child's enrolment.

If any of the following details change, please notify the office as soon as possible to ensure records are kept up-to-date:-

- Residential address
- Home landline phone
- Mother/carer mobile and/or work number
- Father/carer mobile and/or work number
- 1st Emergency contact name and/or contact number
- 2nd Emergency contact name and/or contact number



**Your
Contact
Details**

A *Change of Contact Details* form is available at our office or a printable version is also located on our website for your convenience.

Excursions



Throughout the year, various excursions and in school performances are organised for students. These activities form an essential part of class work, and all students are encouraged to participate. If there are difficulties in meeting costs for excursions, please

contact the office for a *Student Assistance Application* and suitable arrangements may be made. A permission note explaining the cost and full details is given to all students involved in advance. You can also find these notes on our website for your convenience. For your child to attend the planned event, you **MUST** sign and return the permission slip with payment in a sealed envelope or plastic bag which clearly shows your child's name, class and event, **BEFORE** the closing date. Parents/carers are encouraged to check due dates for payments on all excursion notes as **no late payments** will be accepted. We are not permitted to take children on excursions without the **written consent** of parent/carer. Similarly, up to date medical information should be supplied for all students' benefit whilst on excursions. Please also refer to section titled *Deadlines for Payments*.

Note: If a student's behaviour is likely to compromise the safety of others, alternate arrangements may be necessary. Please note that students with behaviour concerns may not be able to attend excursions.

Finger nails and makeup

Please keep your child's finger nails trimmed at a safe length to minimise sport and playtime injuries. No decorative nail polish please. Makeup is not to be worn.



Hair



We do not encourage hair colouring except on Mufit or dress-up days. There are plenty of opportunities outside of school for students and their families to explore their individuality.

Health issues

Any special health care conditions (asthma, allergies and/or anaphylaxis etc) and any infection or disability (diabetes, heart condition etc) should be notified as soon as it is diagnosed. Individual health care plans will need to be created for students with particular needs. This will include a current ASCIA Action Plan signed and dated by a doctor for students suffering anaphylaxis. Our school does have children enrolled who are anaphylactic (ie. they can experience a life threatening allergic reaction to certain nuts, food products or insect stings) As a result, parents/carers are asked to avoid supplying their child with products containing nuts.



Immunisation



When enrolling a child, parents/carers will be asked to provide an Immunisation History Statement. This can be requested online at <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/australian-immunisation-register>.

A child without an Immunisation History Statement will not be prevented from enrolling in primary school. Under the NSW Public Health Act 2010, however, children without proof of immunisation may be asked by Public Health Officials to stay at home during an outbreak of vaccine preventable disease.

Common childhood disease which exclude children from school

Chicken Pox: Exclude for at least seven (7) days after the first spots appear. Return when fully recovered.

Measles: Exclude for five (5) days from appearance of the rash or until medical certificate is produced.

German Measles: Exclude for five (5) days from the appearance of the rash. Return when fully recovered.



- Mumps:** Exclude for ten (10) days from the onset of swelling.
- Ringworm:** Exclude until all evidence of the disease has disappeared or a medical certificate stating that the lesions are inactive has been produced.
- Scabies:** Exclude until all evidence of the disease has disappeared or a medical certificate stating that the treatment has been successful has been produced.
- Head Lice:** Exclude from school until hair has been treated with an anti-lice lotion, available from the chemist. The hair must be combed with a fine toothed comb, and bed clothes and linen must also be treated.
- Impetigo:** Exclude until treatment starts. Sores should be fully covered with a watertight dressing.
- Whooping Cough:** Exclude for three (3) weeks if untreated. Or Exclude until five (5) days after continued treatment with antibiotics.



Issues at school



Please contact your child's class teacher or an executive so that concerns can be investigated. Parents/carers are most welcome to come and discuss progress, problems and pursue inquiries. Please note that parents/carers are not to approach other students at school to discuss an issue. All issues will be addressed by school staff.

Jewellery

For safety and security reasons, we do not encourage jewellery to be worn at school. Pierced ears should have only sleepers or studs in them at school. Necklaces are to be worn under school uniform and not on display.



Library



One of the best gifts any parent/carer can give a child is a love of good books and the joy and benefits of reading. The child who reads widely has distinct advantages – a wider knowledge and a broader vocabulary, more ideas and a greater facility in speaking and writing. Students will visit the library for borrowing once a week. They will need a library or something similar (eg. pillow case,). Alternatively, library bags are available for purchase from our Uniform shop.

Book Club operates in our school via Scholastic's Linked Online Ordering & Payment (LOOP). No money is to be brought to school as this is an online service only. Catalogues will be sent home when no issues are available.

Lost Property

Names must be clearly marked on all items of removable clothing. Lost property is located under the Infants Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA). Parents/carers wishing to look for lost property items are asked to call at the office first. Any unclaimed items of clothing will be donated to charity at the end of each term. Only items with names can be easily returned.



Medication



Medication will be given at school after parents/carers have completed the appropriate forms. The correct dosage and the child's name must be clearly marked. All medication is stored in a locked cabinet. Children must not keep medication in school bags or self administer except for asthma puffers and EpiPens.

Mobile Telephones

Students are **NOT** encouraged to bring mobile phones to school. Parent/carer who provide their child with phones for safety reasons are advised that the school is not responsible for loss, theft or damage to the phone.



Phones must be switched off during school hours. Improper use of mobile phones will result in reflection and/or confiscation of the phone until after school.

Money

Throughout the year, money is collected for various activities such as excursions. The appropriate note and correct amount of money should be placed in a sealed plastic bag or envelope with the student's name, class, amount and purpose of money. All money should then be deposited in the chute allocated in the office. Payments can be via cash, cheque, EFTPOS or POP (Parent/carer Online Payment). Cheques should be made payable to 'Thomas Acres Public School'. Please also refer to section titled *Deadline for payments*.



Morning arrivals & afternoon dismissal procedures

MORNING: At 8:30am a teacher is on duty in the Infants and Primary shade structure area. Children should not be at school before 8:30am for safety reasons. Parent/carer say goodbye to their child at the school gate or designated waiting area and allow their child to walk into the school and to the playground area. Children who arrive early are to sit in the designated area.

AFTERNOON: Teachers will walk the children to either the front entrance to our school or to the Glen Alpine gate at the rear. Children can then walk home from there or meet you then proceed home.

Kindergarten students are to be met at the fenced safety area at the front of the school each afternoon – front gate dismissal.

Bus children are met at a collection point at the bottom of the office steps, near the hall, and wait with the teacher on bus duty. *After School Care* children meet in front of the office and are walked by After School Care personnel.

Teachers need to be informed if a child's exit point from school changes so that the teacher can take the child to the correct gate.

Wet Weather Routine

MORNING: In wet weather both Primary and Infants children are to move to their respective shelters. If it becomes too wet, an announcement will be made and students will move to their classrooms.



AFTERNOON: An announcement will be made for parents

- Front gate students will be walked to the shelter areas where their parent/carer will collect them. Parents/carers of primary students are asked to wait under the primary shelter – not in the canteen quadrangle. Parent/carer of infants children are to wait under the infants shelter.
- Glen Alpine gate – teachers will walk the students to the infants shelter, where parents/carers can collect their child.

Newsletter

The school newsletter will be made available on our Website.

The newsletter contains important information directly related to your child's education, and so is a vital link between home and school. In addition it will contain articles written by our students.



Parents and Citizen Association (P&C)



The P&C meets several times a term. All parents/carers and community members are invited to attend. Meeting times will alternate between afternoon (3:15pm) and evening (6:30pm) sessions. The P&C provides a forum for discussion of educational issues and a link between home and school. Many resources are purchased for the school as a result of the wonderful fundraising activities organised by the P&C and volunteers.

Parent helpers

Parent help in school activities is encouraged. Parents/carers may become involved through:

- P&C membership and attendance at meetings
- Voluntary work in the library
- Fundraising projects and working bees
- Excursions and special school events
- Voluntary classroom help in a variety of areas, particularly with remedial reading programs. (Training workshops are held for helpers).

Please talk to your class teacher or any member of the Executive, if you are able to help for any period of time.

ALL parents/carers working within our school are required to sign on/off in the visitors sign-on book located in the office and to collect a TAPS visitors tag to wear whilst on school premises. In the event of an evacuation parent/carer names will be checked off. All parents/carers working in a voluntary capacity with students are also required to complete a Working With Children screening. Please see the office staff for appropriate documents and to provide proof of identification.



Playground supervision

The playground is supervised by teachers before school from 8:30am, during lunch and recess. Staff members are rostered on duty to help ensure the well-being of all children who must play in designated areas, in which a teacher is always visible and available. Children are made well aware of out of bounds areas. A reflection/withdrawal program operates for misbehaviour in the playground. There is a quiet area (near trees and under the COLA) as well as a games area (main field). In addition a range of structured play programs operate at lunch and afternoon tea. All students wishing to play in uncovered areas must wear a hat.

Reporting to parents/carers

The school will send home student progress report at the end of Semester 1 and 2. These include:

- English
- Creative Arts
- History
- Personal Development, Health & Physical Education
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology



Connect meets involving parent, teacher and student are held 3 times per year.

Road Safety



Children who need to cross Crispsparkle Drive **MUST** cross at the marked pedestrian crossing. A crossing supervisor directs the traffic and helps the children across the street. The crossing supervisor is on duty from 8:15am to 9:15am in the morning and from 2:15pm to 3:15pm in the afternoon.

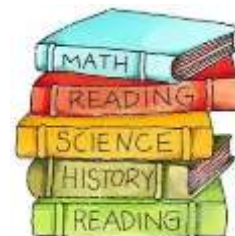
For the safety of all children parent/carer are reminded to observe the 40kmph driving limit surrounding schools as well as parking signs. Police patrol the area on a regular basis and book parent/carer not doing the correct thing.

School Contributions

School contributions play an important role in the overall position of school finances. Every dollar raised is spent on resources for your children.

Voluntary Contribution charges are set annually by the P&C.

- \$30.00 per year for 1 child
- \$35.00 per year for 2 children
- \$40.00 per year for 3 or more children.



Further information in regard to payment will be issued at the beginning of the year.

School Development Days



Five (5) days during the year are designated as School Development Days (ie. pupil free days). They are the first day of Terms 1, 2 and 3, and the last two days of Term 4. These days are set aside in order to develop programs, policies and curricula which are necessary for the effective and efficient running of the school.

School Hours

8:30 am	Teachers on duty
8:55 am – 10:55 am	Classes commence
10:55 am – 11:35 am	Lunch
11:35 am – 1:25 pm	Class time
1:25 pm – 1:55 pm	Recess
1:55 pm – 2:55 pm	Class time
2:55 pm	School dismissal

School Photographs



School photographs will be taken early in the school year (around March). Our photographer operates on an envelope system, each child will be issued with one (1) envelope, please look after it. Place the **CORRECT** amount of money or pay online for the photographic package you wish to purchase. Please return the envelope prior to 'PHOTO DAY'

No payment will result in an order not being placed. Parents/carers are advised that the photographer collects envelopes on photo day and that the school will have no record of envelopes presented. Any problems that may arise are, therefore, between parents/carers and photographer.

Sick Children

Children who are unwell are better off at home. Children who become sick or hurt at school are sent to the sick bay. Where a child needs to be sent home or to a doctor, the school will telephone the parent/carer or emergency contact, to come and collect the child. Where the school believes it necessary and parent/carer are not able to be contacted the child will be transported by ambulance to hospital.



It is most important that parents/carers also provide the school with at least 2 emergency contacts who will be available throughout school hours.

HEALTH PLANS: Children with high risk medical conditions are required to submit health plans to the school. Please refer to section titled *Health issues*.

Smoking on school premises



In line with Departmental regulations, smoking is **TOTALLY** prohibited on school premises, both inside the buildings, in the school grounds and at ALL school organised events (eg. sporting events, excursions etc). Staff, parents/carers and visitors are ALL expected to comply with this regulation.

Sport

Sport is organised on a grade basis for students in Kindergarten, Year 1-2. Students are introduced to activities in order to develop their gross motor skills. Students in Years 3-6, participate in school sport activities and/or represent the school in the Public School Sports Association (PSSA) competition. This competition is organised on a gala day basis (ie. set days in which teams participate in a number of games). Individuals who excel in a particular sport are given the opportunity to compete at District, State or National level.



Student Financial Assistance



This scheme exists to assist families who experience difficulty in meeting the cost of a school activities (eg. camp, excursions or uniforms). The scheme takes the form of subsidising the cost involved. To ensure an equal distribution of the funds is available, each case is determined on its merits and is approved by the Principal. Funding is not automatically given for every school activity. Please contact the office if you require financial assistance.

Student Welfare

Student Welfare underpins every action taken within the school. It is the responsibility of the entire school community, with the Principal and school executive having particular responsibility for planning, evaluating, monitoring and co-ordinating all aspects. Every family will receive a copy of the School's Discipline Policy. This policy outlines the procedures that are applied to reinforce student behaviour.



Sun sense



Students are required to wear a school hat every day throughout the year when they are in the playground during lunch, recess and sport. We have a "No hat, No Play" policy.

Transferring to another school



If your child is to move to another school, library books or other school equipment should be returned, before the transfer is made. Before leaving, you should notify the office so documentation can be sent to the new school.

Toys at school

Although children like to bring toys to school we ask that parents/carers supervise what they actually bring. Toys must be of a safe and sturdy nature and simple in design preferably without removable parts. Parents/carers are advised that the school does not take responsibility for loss and damage to items.



Telephones, electronic games, radios and other valuable items **are not to be brought to school**. The school cannot accept responsibility for their loss or damage.

Uniform

All students are expected to wear full school uniform at all times. Our school and sports uniform may be purchased at the school uniform shop. The shop is open on Tuesday afternoons between 2.30 and 3.30pm. Parents/carers may also order online at <https://www.picklesschoolwear.com/>. We also offer second-hand uniforms where parents can donate unwanted items to be resold at a cost of \$5 each. Limited stock is available, so please visit the office between 10am – 2pm to view selection.

Parents/carers will be advised when their child's sports programs are scheduled.

GIRLS

Summer:

- Navy, white and jade polo shirt
- Navy shorts or scorts
- Navy tracksuit
- Navy hat (wide-brim or legionnaire)
- Navy, white and jade check dress



Winter:

- White or white, jade and navy long sleeved polo shirt
- Navy tracksuit
- Navy tartan pinafore
- Navy or navy, white and jade jacket with emblem
- Navy tights or slacks
- White socks, black shoes
- Optional: Navy beanie



BOYS

Summer:

- White, navy and jade short-sleeved polo shirt
- Navy shorts
- Navy tracksuit top
- White socks, black shoes
- Navy hat (wide-brim or legionnaire)



Winter:

- White, jade and navy long sleeved polo shirt
- Navy tracksuit
- Navy trousers
- Navy, or navy, white and jade jacket with emblem
- White socks, black shoes
- Optional: navy beanie



SPORT: We do not have a specific sports uniform. Students are to wear appropriate items from our uniform selection and sports shoes. PSSA teams will be provided by the school with a special team shirt to wear at gala days.

OPTIONAL

Aboriginal Cultural Shirt

- These shirts are intended to be an 'add-on' to our current school uniform. This shirt can be worn by our students and staff, especially for Aboriginal days of recognition and when representing the school. Special bulk orders will be placed throughout the year. When orders are to be taken, a note will be sent home with students.



Year 6 Commemorative Polo

- Year 6 students will be given an opportunity to purchase a Commemorative Polo (designs may vary from year to year). Students will select name or nickname to appear on the back along with a list of all Year 6 students and their teachers. A one-off bulk order will be made early in the year at which time an order form will be sent home.



Website and Facebook

Website www.thomasacre-p.schools@det.nsw.edu.au

The website is a great source of information as it provides parents/carers and interested parties with our newsletter, school notes, the uniform shop times, school information and a term calendar showing all events and important dates for the term. This is a great reference for excursion dates, payment dates, gala days etc.

Permission notes for excursions, sporting events etc. are available for downloading.

The website is updated regularly.

Facebook www.facebook.com/pages/category/School/Thomas-Acres-Public-School-365957373573245/

Our Facebook page is a valuable source of information relating to all aspects of school. It is updated daily with reminders, upcoming activities, community news and a vast photo gallery. Alerts will also be posted informing parents/carers if students are due back later than expected from excursions.

Kindergarten information

The school is often asked what children need to know before beginning school. It is more important to look at what a child "is" rather than what they know.

Are they:

- emotionally and physically independent for their age?
 - can they dress/undress themselves?
 - can they use toilet paper independently?
 - can they use language to make themselves understood?
 - can they manipulate/build with/arrange equipment?
 - do they trust adults outside the family – are they happy away from mum/dad/grandma etc.?
 - can they share attention with others?
- self confident, secure in the love and understanding of their family?
- able to get along with peers, older children, adults?
- willing to share and take turns, co-operate most of the time, and able to play with or along side other children – share toys most of the time?
- curious about what is happening around them?
- willing to participate in new experiences – particularly group experiences?
- able to communicate verbally with others and listen to others – tell about something that has happened?
- able to understand and follow instructions?
- able to enjoy stories, music, TV, DVD's, computers and imaginative play?
- able to concentrate on something that interests them for a reasonable amount of time without distraction?
- able to, sometimes, finish tasks they start?
- able to help tidy up after themselves and look after equipment in a proper manner?



If you answered "yes" to most of these questions then your child is quite ready for school whatever they know or don't know.

Kindergarten experiences help children to socialise by encouraging them:

- to play cooperatively with others – share toys etc. and respect other people's ideas, feelings and property.
- to accept change.
- to accept the teacher's authority.
- to accept being "one of the group", to work in a group and share the teacher's attention.
- to listen and communicate with others, and above all, to enable your child to gain self-control, build up self-confidence and become independent.

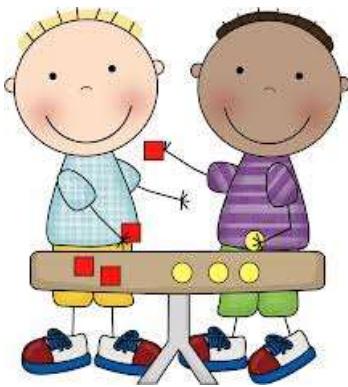
Learning to read at school is prepared for by helping your child during the early months of Kindergarten:

- recognise their name, colours, differences and similarities in size, shape, colour, direction and detail
- to develop the ability to work from left to right in reading and writing
- to listen and move to various commands
- to listen and recall a short story or sequence of numbers
- to hear blends in words, recognise words and give rhyming words
- to use pencil or crayon and cut with scissors
- to skip, hop, jump, catch and throw
- to know left from right
- to speak in sentences



Maths activities in Kindergarten include:

- number games and rhymes
- recognising and learning colours and shapes
- sorting and grading by various means
- building patterns and free play with a variety of equipment
- matching sets
- recognising numerals 0-100 and writing numerals 0–30
- using the number line to count, jump –orally and written
- using coins to do simple shopping
- learning the days of the week
- telling the time (o'clock)
- developing thinking and problem solving skills



We encourage children to be able to write their first name eg. Zoe, Jack. Please use a capital only for the first letter. We do not expect a child to be able to read, count to 30, use a computer or colour in neatly. If they reverse letters, words or numbers it doesn't matter at this stage.

We do not expect a child to be able to tie shoelaces, but hope that they can put on and take off their shoes.

Teachers assess each child's achievements "where they are at" and take them on from there.

Food and drink

For easy selection for your child, the food you send with them needs to be wrapped in two separate packs – one for lunch and a small amount for afternoon tea.

Lunch

Let your child be the judge of the amount they can cope with. Question them over the first few days to gauge whether you have given them too much or too little and adjust accordingly. We will ask the children to take home the things they do not eat so that you can judge how much to send for them. A piece of fruit, a couple of biscuits or a sandwich is quite sufficient.



Drinks



Many children now bring cool drinks which can be pre-frozen each night. On those very hot days you may wish to send two drinks as most of the children need a drink at lunchtime and afternoon tea.

Paint shirt

We ask parents/carers to provide their child with a painting coverall – a suitable (large) coverall to protect their uniform during Art and Craft lessons. A very simple overall can be made by taking an old long sleeved shirt, removing the collar and inserting elastic in the top and sleeves and make them fit. Please ensure that your child's name can be seen clearly.



If your child happens to get paint on their clothes, please don't worry as it is water based and non toxic. It will be removed easily with cold water and soap – do not pre-stain.

