



*Smithfield*  
Public School

# Smithfield Public School Kindergarten 2021



# Best Start Assessment

Please read the Parent Information note which explains the Best Start Assessment process for all Kindergarten students. This assessment will be completed at the beginning of the school year, 2021.

## First Day of Kindergarten

All students will start their first full day of Kindergarten on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> February at 9.00am. Classes begin at 9.00am each day and lessons finish at 3.00pm. Kindergarten children must be taken home from school by an adult during Term One. After that, older siblings may collect Kindergarten students if approval has been provided to the classroom teacher. It is very important that you are always on time to pick up your child, as they can become distressed if they are the last ones left to be picked up.

On the first day, the Kindergarten teachers will meet the children at the hall and take them to the classroom and assist them to hang up their bags. If the department's COVID19 guidelines regarding parents on site change prior to the first day, we will inform you via the school app. Please ensure you download our school app, as this will be the main platform of communication.

If your child is upset or hesitant to leave you, try not to worry! Reassure them you will be back. It is our experience the children usually settle within 5 to 10 minutes.

## What will my child need to bring?

Please ensure all belongings are clearly marked with your child's name. All children will need to bring;

- A school hat
- A lunch box they can open by themselves
- A change of underwear in case of small accidents
- A raincoat
- A paint shirt

Kindergarten students do not require a pencil case or pencils as this is provided as part of a Book Pack.

It is important the children learn to hang up their own bags so they can find their bag at eating time. This task also encourages the students to become more independent.

## **What will my child need to eat?**

Your child will have three breaks in the day to eat; Crunch and Sip, Lunch and Recess. Your child will need to know the difference between their lunch and their recess.

**Crunch and Sip:** This is a short break to eat fruit or vegetables and drink water in the classroom. This is a ten-minute break that occurs between 10.00 and 10.10.

**Lunch:** The first 10 minutes are spent sitting down eating lunch. The students play from 11.00 a.m. until 11.40 a.m. Teachers are on duty, supervising the students. Students also have the choice to access the library during the lunch break. It is a good idea to practise eating lunch from a lunch box before starting school.

**Recess:** The first five minutes are spent sitting down eating. Teachers are on duty, supervising the students. Children need a small snack they can open themselves.

## **Where will my child play during Lunch and Recess?**

Children are supervised by teachers at all times during play times; however, it may not be your child's Kindergarten teacher supervising. This can be a little stressful for some children and you should discuss this with your child before they start school.

During the first two weeks of school, Kindergarten children are encouraged to play together in our 'Quiet Land' area.

## **What if my child needs to go to the toilet?**

Kindergarten students are taken to the toilet before and after lunch and recess breaks. Your child should be able to toilet themselves. Please teach your child to ask a teacher if they need to go to the toilet during class time.

## **What if my child is sick?**

If your child stayed home because they were too sick to come to school, they must bring a note explaining their absence on the day they return to school. If your child is going to be away for more than three days, please phone the school.

If your child is sick at school we will ring you or your emergency contact to pick them up. As a result, it is very important your contact details are kept current. If you change your phone number, please let the office know.

# Can I contact the classroom teacher?

You are always welcome to visit Smithfield Public School. It does not matter whether your visit is to praise, to find out some information or discuss a matter of concern. It is just as important for you to come to the school and settle any grievance as it is to attend an important function. Please remember, we cannot solve a problem if we do not know about it. Not only is this important but studies have shown that children do best at school when the home and school work together.

If you have any questions or concerns, the first point of call is your child's classroom teacher.

We understand that parents are keen to know how their child is progressing, however, it is very difficult for teachers to speak with parents when they are trying to welcome children into classrooms in the morning. If there is an urgent matter you need to discuss, please make an appointment at the front office. Kindergarten teachers are generally available for a brief chat of an afternoon if required.

# What should my child know before starting school?

These are some important skills for children to have before commencing school. You can help your child by teaching them these skills.

Can your child:

- Use the toilet independently?
- Follow verbal instructions and directions?
- Dress and undress?
- Put on shoes and socks?
- Identify and recognise their name in print?
- Look after their belongings?
- Share with their friends?
- Express or indicate their needs and wants?
- Hold a pencil to make marks on paper?
- Take turns?
- Speak clearly?
- Identify their school bag and their belongings?
- Open their lunch box and lunch items?
- Use a tissue?
- Know their name, address and phone number?

# How can I help my child to start school?

Always be positive about school and give your child lots of support and encouragement in their early attempts at writing and reading. Establish regular morning and afternoon routines so children know what to expect and ensure they get to sleep at a reasonable time.

There are lots of good story books about young children starting school. Try to find one to read and discuss with your child. You could borrow these texts from your local library. Some possible titles include:

- First Day by Andrew Daddo
- I Am Absolutely Too Small for School by Lauren Child
- The Things I Love About School by Trace Moroney
- The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn
- Going to School by Anna Civardi
- Starting School by Janet and Allen Ahlberg
- Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten by Joseph Slate
- Chu's First Day of School by Neil Gaiman
- Countdown to Kindergarten by Alison McGhee

