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2024 FOUNDATION INFORMATION BOOKLET



SYNDAL SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

14 Montgomery Avenue, Mt Waverley

Phone: 03 9802 5277

Email: syndal.south.ps@education.vic.gov.au

www.syndalsp.vic.edu.au

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Principal's Welcome

WELCOME TO SYNDAL SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Helen Freeman - Principal

Syndal South Primary School is a vibrant place, where learning and relationships are the centre of our school life. We aim to deliver opportunities and experiences which will stay with our students for a life-time. As students only pass through their school years once we know that their learning foundations must be sound, in preparation for future growth.

We have high expectations for our students academically and deliver an innovative and comprehensive curriculum which promotes creativity, curiosity, tolerance and nurtures self-worth and self-expression.

Positive relationships with the students and their families, based on trust, respect and support are built. Each student is highly valued, as is their time with us. We endeavour to unearth their talents, arouse their interests, promote the development of citizenship and personal character and nurture and guide individual growth.

Walking into a school is the perfect way for you to gain an understanding of what it can offer your child and what is valued in the school community. Our school values of respect, curiosity, resilience, integrity and care are built into how we interact as a community. When we ask our current parents, what drew them to Syndal South they often comment that it was the 'feel' or 'vibe' of the school.

We look forward to you getting involved in our school, working with us as a team to support your child on their learning journey.

We welcome your interest and feedback and would be pleased to communicate with you further. Please do not hesitate to contact the Office on 9802 5277 if you would like to book a school tour or to discuss any aspect of our school.

School Staff & **SCHOOL INFORMATION**

Syndal South Primary School No. 4924
14 Montgomery Avenue
Mount Waverley 3149

Office: 9802 5277

OSHC: 0484 300 259

Facsimile: 9886 1301

Email: syndal.south.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Website: www.syndalsp.vic.edu.au

Principal: Helen Freeman

Business Manager: Katie Forbes

Office: Julie Pfitzner
Michelle Huppe

Library: Inger Robinson

OSHC: TeamKids

Teachers:

Irene Antzoulatos

Chloe Bourke

Michelle Dodson

Jessie Evans

Joanna Fisher

Maria Giannone-Perri

Kate Holly

Rachel Howes

Marina Hughes-Onslow

Jessica Jason

Leo Kahans

Michelle Lee

Merrilyn Mann

Jan Oliver

Amber Panagopoulos

Flavia Petrucci

Kate Phillips

Jarrold Riley

Clare Searle

Veena Sen

Janine Stockdale

Rebecca Stonehouse-Melke

Skye Threadgold

Aides:

Sally Blaber

Alec Blaber

Samantha Pergadis

Ramya Sundar

James Wang



More **SCHOOL INFORMATION**

2023 TERM DATES

Term 1 – 27 January – 6 April

Term 2 – 24 April – 23 June

Term 3 – 10 July – 15 September

Term 4 – 2 October – 20 December

2024 TERM DATES

Term 1 – 29 January – 28 March

Term 2 – 15 April – 28 June

Term 3 – 15 July – 20 September

Term 4 – 7 October – 20 December

Note: On the last day of Terms 1, 2 & 3 the students are dismissed at 2.30pm and at 1.30pm on the last day of the year.

PUPIL FREE DAYS

All schools have four Pupil Free Days a year to undertake staff professional learning and to write reports. One pupil free day is held adjacent to the beginning of Term 1 each year, and the other days will be advised at a later date.

BELL TIMETABLE

First Bell:	8.50am
School begins:	9.00am
Morning Recess:	10.40am – 11.10am
Eating Lunch:	12.50pm - 1.00pm
Outside Play:	1.00pm - 1.50pm
School finishes:	3.30pm



NO SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAYS

There will be no classes for Foundation students on Wednesdays in February. These Wednesdays are set aside for the teacher to meet with each Foundation child individually to read and count together.



DAILY OVERVIEW

Here is a sample of a day in the life of a Foundation student at Syndal South Primary School.

- 8.50 - Daily Organisation
- 9.00 - **Fine Motor Skills**
- 9.50 - **Literacy Focus - Phonics, Reading, Writing**
- 10.40 - Recess
- 11.10 - **Literacy Focus - Phonics, Reading, Writing**
- 12.00 - **Numeracy**
- 1.00 - Lunch time
- 1.50 - **Specialist Class***
- 2.40 - **Humanities Lesson**
- 3.30 - Home Time

** Specialist classes include Science, Art, Music, P.E and Japanese
This overview is reflective of a day in Term 1

CURRICULUM

The curriculum at school is based on the Victorian Curriculum. At Foundation Level, the focus is largely on foundational literacy and numeracy skills and the development of physical, personal and social capabilities. There are 8 Learning Areas and 4 Capabilities as follows:

LEARNING AREAS

Literacy
Numeracy
The Humanities
Science
Technologies
Languages
Health & Physical Education
The Arts

PERSONAL CAPABILITIES

Critical & Creative Thinking
Ethical
Intercultural
Personal & Social

SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT

BE RESPECTFUL

BE RESILIENT

BE CARING

BE RESPONSIBLE

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) is a framework that promotes positive behaviours. Syndal South Primary School uses the framework by; modelling and teaching positive behaviours, explicitly and incidentally teaching expected behaviours, and rewarding students for using positive school behaviours in line with our school values which are care, responsibility, respect and resilience. SWPBS is a really fun and positive way to teach students expected behaviours and reinforce their efforts. When unexpected behaviours arise, students are reminded, retaught and given choices to help them get back on track in a non-punitive yet constructive approach. This systematic and school-wide approach to behaviour management removes the unexpected for students and helps them continue with their learning and have their hard work and efforts recognised.

FINE MOTOR SKILLS



Fine motor skills improve the ability to coordinate movements of the eyes and hands to manipulate tools and objects with dexterity and ease. Children need to be able to manipulate materials and tools and have good hand/eye coordination. As children acquire greater skills in manipulating, grasping and hand/eye coordination they are gaining writing and reading readiness. This is why at Syndal South we prioritize fine motor skills by starting the day with a range of fine motor activities designed to develop:

- Body awareness
- Spatial awareness
- Balance
- Midline awareness
- 5 senses - which we experience everything through!
- Webspace between fingers and finger isolation
- Strength in shoulders, wrists and hand muscles.

PHONICS

At Syndal South Primary School we use a systematic phonics program to support students learning to read, write and spell. This program also fosters speaking and listening skills which are the foundations for English. In this session, we explicitly teach students about the sounds letters make, spelling choices, blending and segmenting in English. We help children to understand the relationships between the phonemes of spoken English and the 26 letters of the alphabet. Students participate in a wide-range of fun activities making our sessions powerful and engaging.



READING

At Syndal South, we recognise that great readers need to be well-rounded in all areas of reading including fluency, decoding unknown words and discussing concepts within, beyond and about the text. After being assessed using the school-wide assessment program, Fountas and Pinnell, students strengths and areas for improvement in Reading are targeted.

These are then specifically taught to in a range of lessons including whole class and smaller targeted groups called Guided Reading. In Guided Reading sessions, students will read a variety of genres and explore concepts such as authors message, text ideas and author's craft.



To practise reading at home, all students will be given small books at their reading level called Take Home Readers. Reading one of these books each night is the only homework students in Foundation have. Your child's reading level will be determined by the Fountas and Pinell assessment. Practising the readers at home will help your child grow in decoding words, comprehending the text and developing their fluency.

WRITING

At Syndal South, we have a whole school writing program that encourages students to see themselves as real writers. To help students see themselves as writers and create authentic writing pieces, everyone in the school has their very own Writer's Notebook where they collect ideas as writing seeds to feed their writing in a range of genres. Using strong mentor texts and experiences (hands-on activities, experiments, crafts and excursions) to generate ideas, we then begin the writing process. After completing the writing process, we celebrate our success as writers through publishing and celebrations. These celebrations include school-wide picnics, gallery walks and open nights to view the finished piece of writing. Within a writing lesson, students will also practise applying their strong knowledge of phonics by using deep phonological awareness to spell words.

MATHEMATICS

In our daily Mathematics sessions, students will participate in many hands-on and real-life activities that develop their number sense, mathematical skills and strategies. Within each of the three content strands of the Victorian Curriculum - Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability - Foundation students engage with the content to develop proficiency in understanding, fluency, and problem-solving and reasoning.

At Syndal South Primary, we pride ourselves on knowing our students personally and academically. We understand that every learner has different strengths and interests. This is why we plan for and assess student understanding in Maths by organising learning tasks to both support and extend students. Within each lesson we aim to engage all students by teaching mathematical concepts in a range of ways such as reading storybooks, using ICT, completing investigations and using hands-on materials.

Throughout the year, students are exposed to a range of activities and lessons that develop a strong 'number sense' using a variety of mathematical tools such as ten frames, number lines and hundreds charts. Each day, students will count the number of days they have been at school up to 100. This daily activity helps students to conceptualise and visualise numbers up to 100. It allows them to recognise patterns in counting and truly understand what it means to be 'x' number. On the final day we celebrate 100 days of school with lots of counting games and fun activities.



100 Days of School! Dressed up as 100 year olds, our students completed various games and activities to practice number recognition to 100!



Foundation students playing The Shape Game and naming features of each shape they land on.

BUDDIES

In Foundation your child will be paired with a Year 5 buddy. This is always a highlight of the week for our Foundation and Year 5 students alike! Our Buddy program sets out to promote a sense of community and belonging to school. Year 5 students support our Foundation students in knowing school routines and help them develop the confidence to be themselves in a new environment.

Our Buddies are so beneficial for the Foundation students as it gives them a big helper to visit in the playground and look out for them in the school. Every Friday, students meet with their buddy to do fun activities or challenges.



THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

The Resilience Project is an emotionally engaging program that shares the benefits of Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness, and easy ways to practise these in everyday life. It also incorporates Emotional Literacy, Connection and Physical Health education and activities as they are foundational contributors to positive mental health. Here at Syndal South Primary School, we understand that the more positive emotion you experience, the more resilient you will be. For that reason, we focus on three key pillars that have been proven to cultivate positive emotion; Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness (GEM), with Emotional Literacy being a foundational skill to practise these strategies.



SPECIALISTS



At SSPS all students take part in one 50-minute session of each specialist, each week. In addition to this, there are also celebrations and special days throughout the year for some specialist classes, for example, National Science Week, Cross-Country, House-Sports and Japanese Day.

ART

Foundation students have a weekly 50 minute Visual Arts lesson. These lessons take place in our fantastic dedicated Art Room. The focus of the Visual Arts program in Foundation is having fun and having a go as we explore and create. Students develop their fine motor skills by using a range of materials and techniques. They also respond to visual artworks and share and reflect on their own artwork.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Physical Education Program for each class is composed of daily and weekly activities taken by the class teacher and the physical education teacher. To maximise the benefits of the PMP program, it is essential to have parent volunteers to help to supervise and run the activities. The weekly timetabling for year levels in the school are shown below, satisfying the requirements as identified by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Foundation - 2 (PMP, swimming, gymnastics, dance, fundamental motor skills, fitness):

- 50 minute lesson with the Physical Education Teacher
- 30 minute session of the Perceptual Motor Program (PMP)
- An intensive swimming program in Term 4 over 8 days.

Additional School-Based Activities:

- Hot Shot Tennis Clinic
- After School Sport
- Auskick Football Clinic
- House Athletics Sports (Term 4)
- Active Transport to School Days
- Physical Education Week activities during Term 4.

SCIENCE

In Science, Foundation students explore the properties of familiar materials and objects and discovering their behaviours through mixing and physical changes with their science teacher. They investigate naturally occurring cycles around them, such as the weather, day and night and the seasons. Through hands-on activities they explore light and sound and the features of living things. Students pose questions and investigate to find answers and solutions. They use their senses and begin to record observations and communicate their findings to others.



PERFORMING ARTS (MUSIC)

Music Education develops in the student enjoyment, appreciation, creativity, skills and understandings. Some of the goals of the music program are to develop skills and techniques as a musician and sing, play, create, move and listen to a variety of music. In Term 1, Foundations experience singing, dancing, listening, playing and creating music through many songs and activities. They learn to use their voices by speaking, singing and whispering. They join in games that help to develop each student's sense of beat, rhythm and pitch. In addition to the scheduled Music lesson, private instrumental lessons are available for piano, ukulele, cello, violin and guitar on a user pay basis.

JAPANESE

The Japanese program allows students to experience the Japanese language and culture. Each week, the Foundations have one 50 minute session. During these sessions, the Foundations learn Japanese words, songs and greetings, as well as simple hiragana (Japanese alphabet) and origami. These are also supported with classroom activities.



PREPARING FOR SCHOOL



Starting school is an exciting, yet daunting, experience for most children and parents alike. One way to reduce anxiety and develop confidence for the transition to school is by building and celebrating independence in your day to day lives. The transition to school will be a much happier and successful one if your child can:

- Speak clearly
- Listen to a story
- Concentrate on one activity for 10-15 minutes
- Be independent in dressing, eating and toilet use
- Play cooperatively with other children and solve associated friendship problems
- Have practice using pencils, crayons and scissors
- Follow simple instructions
- Confidently seek assistance when they need it
- Be responsible for packing up after an activity
- Be aware of personal hygiene including washing their hands
- Tie up their shoelaces
- Have a consistent sleep routine
- Eat independently including managing their own lunchbox.

School Readiness:

WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME

Over the next few months get your child used to:

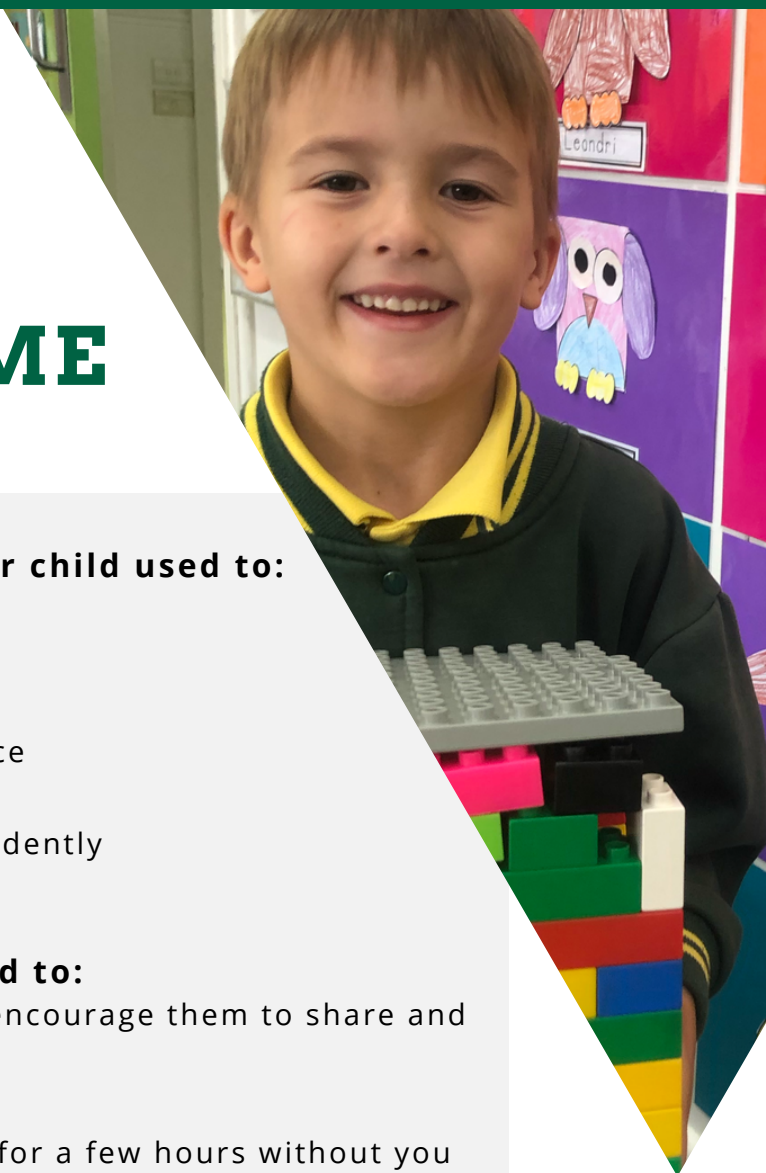
- Putting on and taking off clothes
- Putting their belongings away
- Putting on and doing up shoes
- Eating and drinking without assistance
- Using a tissue
- Using and flushing the toilet independently
- Identifying their name

Also try and let your child get used to:

- Playing with groups of children and encourage them to share and take turns
- Use playground equipment safely
- Stay at a friends' or relatives' house for a few hours without you around
- Caring for and putting things away
- Helping with small jobs around the house such as putting clothes or toys away

These experiences will aid your child's development:

- Using chalk or crayons to draw patterns and pictures
- Making and creating with play dough
- Cutting paper and materials
- Rolling, throwing and catching different sized balls
- Doing jig-saw puzzles



Useful Information

FOOD

In Foundation students eat in the classroom under the supervision of the classroom teacher. We encourage 'nude food' which are lunches and snacks that have no rubbish.

Brain Food

Brain Food is a small piece of fruit or vegetables packed each day in addition to lunch and snack. Each day the Foundation students eat their two brain foods at 9.50 and 11.50am.

Lunch Orders

Classroom Cuisine can be ordered online all days except Tuesdays. The orders are delivered to school before lunchtime. Orders need to be placed before 8.30am.

🖱️ <https://classroomcuisine.com.au/>

Allergies

Some children in Foundation have allergies to different foods. We ask that where possible you avoid sending nuts to school. Being a neat eater and washing hands after eating helps minimise the risk of an allergic reaction.

If your child is allergic or anaphylactic to anything please inform the school and teacher.

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Our Out Of School Hours Care (OSHC) program is run by TeamKids and is available every day before and after school. Before School Care runs from 7.15 - 8.45am and After School Care runs from 3.30 - 6.30pm.

For more information:

<https://teamkids.com.au/venues/syndal-south-primary-oshc/>

Phone: 0484 300 259

Email: syndalsouthps@teamkids.com.au

HOMEWORK

The most important aspect of homework in Foundation is reading the TAKE HOME BOOK. From time to time, teachers may give your child an activity to do at home. These are designed to be fun tasks, which complement the work we are doing at school.

LIBRARY

Each week students have the opportunity to borrow books from the school library to take home and share. Books can be kept for two weeks. Books need to travel in the red library bag provided.

Useful Information

SCHOOL UNIFORM

School uniform is worn by all students and can be purchased new from PSW (online or in-store) or from the second hand uniform shop. The school uniform includes black shoes, a school bag and a school hat. All items must be named.

PSW

- 📍 PSW Waverley
342-350 Springvale Road
Glen Waverley, 3150
(Behind Officeworks)
- ☎ (03) 9768 0335
- 🖱 <http://www.psw.com.au/>



Scan the QR code to be taken to the Syndal South PS section of the PSW online store.

Second Hand Uniform Store

- 🕒 9am on the first Thursday of each month
- 📍 In the OSHC Kitchen
Syndal South Primary School

LOST PROPERTY

Lost property is located in the 1/2 Building. Please feel free to take a look if something goes missing. Make sure all students clothing and belongings are clearly named.



Connecting with the school

PARENT HELPERS

Parents are very welcome to join in with any classroom activities. Parent involvement is a vital part of our Early Years Literacy program, where parents work with small groups of students. They are equally vital in our PMP program. There may be opportunities to also help out with special activities throughout the year. To volunteer you will need to have a Working With Children Check and have completed a quick induction session with the school.

Volunteer Working With Children Checks are free. A Working With Children Check can be obtained by filling in the online application form on the following website and then finalising it at the Post Office.

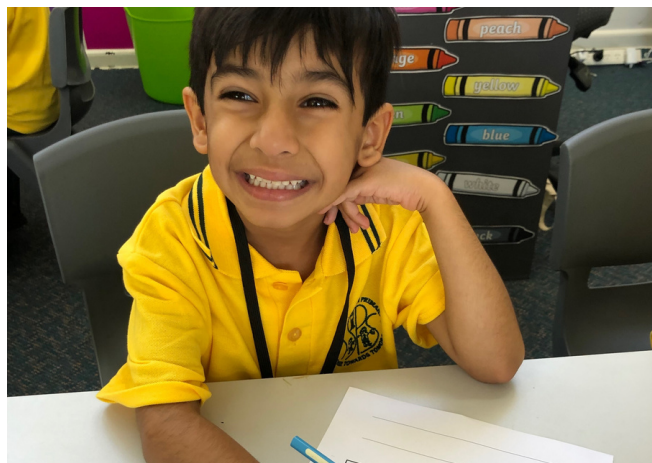
<https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/individuals/applicants/how-to-apply>



Scan the QR code to be taken to the Working With Children Check application page.

COMMUNICATION

The school communicates news, including our newsletter via the COMPASS portal. Parents can communicate with the classroom teacher in person or by email via COMPASS too.



PARENT'S ASSOCIATION

We welcome any parent or carer to become involved in the Parent's Association in order to assist in providing wonderful experiences for our children and families.

For more information please do not hesitate to contact Julie Jago-Kerr at pa@syndalsp.vic.edu.au.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

Parents will have the opportunity to attend an information night during Term 1, allowing teachers to 'meet the parents' and find out relevant information about each child. Parents will receive a written report at the end of Term 2 and Term 4. Parent/Teacher interviews will be conducted following each report. All teachers are happy to arrange interviews at any time throughout the year if you have anything you need to discuss.



**EXPERIENCE
OUR LEARNING
ENVIRONMENT**

CONNECT WITH US!

www.syndalsp.vic.gov.au

Follow our social media pages to get a feel of our school and a glimpse into the everyday learning experiences we so proudly offer at Syndal South Primary School!



Syndal South Primary School



@syndalsouthps



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