

Welcome to Newbury Primary School



2025 Prep Information

On behalf of the staff at Newbury Primary School I welcome you and your family to our school community. We look forward to creating a strong and purposeful partnership with you and getting to know you and your children.

Newbury Primary School is a place where all members of the school community feel welcome, safe and appreciated. We work hard to create an educationally stimulating, safe, secure, calm and nurturing learning environment where student wellbeing and the recognition of effort are closely monitored.

Starting school is a very important event in a child's life and the start of a new phase of life for your family. Our aim is to make your child's move to primary school as smooth and enjoyable as possible. We work collaboratively with parents and carers to ensure that each child settles easily and happily into school life at Newbury Primary School.

Your child's teacher will keep you informed about how your child is settling in and we encourage you to also provide us with feedback. Open communication between school and home ensures that the transition to our school is as smooth as possible.

We look forward to working in partnership with you and your child at the start of their educational journey.

Michelle Nunn
Principal

STARTING SCHOOL- 2025

All Prep students will start school on Wednesday 5th February at 9.00am and attend full school days until 3.10pm.

In order to gain a better understanding of your child as they begin school, you will be asked to bring your child along to a short meeting with their class teacher between Wednesday 29th of January and Tuesday 4th of February. During this time teachers will administer a few short assessment tasks which will allow them to become more familiar with your child and their needs and plan programs accordingly. The assessment is conducted in a relaxed and calm environment and will take approximately one hour. An appointment time for one of these days will be emailed out to you.

PREPARING FOR SCHOOL

There are many things you can do to assist your child in preparing for school and having a smooth transition. We encourage your child to be independent, confident and resilient. Try not to be too anxious, as this will affect their perceptions of school. All children are individuals who learn at their own pace and they will settle in their own time.

As the time gets closer for your child to start school there are a number of things you can do to help your child settle in easily. This includes creating a routine for your child on what to do independently in the mornings before school eg: wake up, eat breakfast, get dressed, brush teeth etc.

BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS

In the lead up to your child starting school, encourage your child to be independent by showing them how to:

- Get dressed and undressed independently (especially using their school uniform)
- Put jumpers on and take them off
- Do up buttons, zips and Velcro
- Practise what to say when they are asked their name. This includes their first and last name
- Identify and comfortably carry their own school bag
- Open and close their lunch box, food and drink container
- Remove food from packaging (and storing it in their lunch box)
- Blow their nose correctly using tissues
- Practising appropriate toileting routines including for the boys, using a urinal correctly.

You can help by:

- Looking for easy fasteners when choosing shoes and bags
- Labelling all of your child's belongings and showing them where the labels are placed
- Helping them to recognise their name to make finding any lost items easier
- Checking when any special items, such as their library bag or art smock is needed at school
- Being sure your child has a balanced breakfast before starting the day
- Ensuring they have adequate sleep
- Packing a healthy lunch and snacks and explaining when they should be eaten
- Showing your child how to pack away their items back into their bag correctly
- Practise with your child to unwrap and open food wrappings.

BEGINNING SCHOOL

Starting school can be a very exciting time for children and parents. It is important to make the experience as positive and enjoyable as possible. We look forward to starting a strong and trusting partnership with you and encourage you to become involved in your child's education in any way you can.

Routines will quickly be established to support your child in feeling connected to the school and having a sense of order. Some children will find starting school quite tiring and can be worn out by the end of the day as a new environment and new routines are introduced.

When preparing for school it is best to allow additional time so there is no rush to get to school. Leave home with plenty of time to get settled before the school day starts and make sure you allow time to say goodbye and for your child to join others at play.

When saying goodbye on the first day you might stay for a while to ensure that your child feels safe and secure. Once they have settled and are comfortable, say a short and reassuring goodbye as this encourages independence. Always tell your child that you are leaving and what the arrangements are for picking them up at the end of the day. Be guided by your child's teacher if you are unsure whether to stay and be assured that if your child is unsettled they will be supported and taken good care of. A member of staff will call to reassure you that all is well if your child is unsettled when you leave.

SUPPORT

During the Prep year, students will have a classroom teacher who teaches them for the majority of time each week. They will also attend specialist teaching sessions with additional staff. Your child's classroom teacher will work closely with all staff within their learning community. All students will get to know each other and the staff within the learning community. This allows children to meet and form relationships with their peers.

CLASSROOM GROUPS

Class groupings will be finalised prior to the commencement of the school year after consultation with the preschools.

THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The first day of school will be Wednesday 5th February 2025. Parents and children should arrive between 8.40am and 8.50am. Please follow the map that will be provided when you receive your class placement letter, later in the year. Allow your child to place their bag in the locker with their name on it and join in some of the classroom activities. You should let your child know that you will be going to meet with the other parents and then you will be going home. Let them know that you will be waiting for them at the end of the school day or if they are booked into Out of School Hours Care, that they will be collected from the classroom.

Most children settle well although some can become distressed, particularly if they sense that their parents are worried about leaving them. Children who are distressed at first usually settle into the classroom activities quite quickly (particularly after mum or dad leaves).

At 3.10 pm children will be dismissed from their classrooms through the external doors within their own classes. No children will be released from the room without an adult.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Plan to arrive at school each day between 8.40am and 8.50am as children enjoy meeting friends for a quick play prior to the bell. Classroom doors will open at 8.50 am. This allows sufficient time for your child to hang up their school bag and familiarise themselves with the morning routine before instruction starts at 9.00am.

Children need to be at school before the bell. You will need to allow enough time to have breakfast and prepare for school without a rush. Routines commence as soon as the bell rings with notes being collected, daily reminders being given and the morning's learning focus being introduced. A late child can impact on the learning of all children as well as their own learning.

Attendance at school is compulsory. All children need to attend school every day. If children are kept home to go visiting, shopping, out of routine or have been kept up late it impacts on their routines and learning.

If your child is absent, please inform the school on the day your child is away. This can be done by completing the absence notification via the Sentral Parent Portal/app, leaving a message on the student absence voice mail system or sending a note via the classroom the following day.

LATE ARRIVALS / EARLY LEAVERS

If children are late for school parents must sign their child into school via the front office. Late children cannot sign themselves in at the office – a parent/carer must attend with the child.

Parents may need to collect children early on occasions due to medical appointments or other commitments. All children must be signed out via the front office prior to the child being collected. A message will be sent to your child's teacher asking for them to be sent to reception. We ask that, where possible, appointments are made after school hours.

Please avoid collecting children early from school between the break times 11:00-11:30am and 1:40pm-2:10pm as students are outside in the yard and the collection process is prolonged.

No early dismissals are granted after 3pm as students will miss out on important information for the following day being given by the teacher.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

All clothing needs to be labelled with your child's name to ensure misplaced items are returned promptly. Please make sure your child recognises the positioning and print of the label. If your child has new school shoes it is wise to 'break them in' prior to school beginning.

Please supply a change of underclothing in your child's bag in case of an accident – children are sometimes so eager to keep working or playing that they can leave it too long before going to the toilet.

Lunch boxes

Lunch boxes should be clearly named. Lunch boxes take a fair beating at school so please check to make sure it doesn't leak and has a lid that seals properly. Children need to have a separate snack from their lunch and a suitable drink container – no fizzy drinks – water is the best choice!

Lunch

Children in Prep eat their lunch in their classroom under teacher supervision. A healthy breakfast at the start of the day is essential to keep them energised throughout the morning.

Hat

All children will need a school hat in Term 1 and 4. Please ensure your child's hat is clearly labelled or marked with a permanent marker.

Art Smock

All children will require a long sleeve art smock for Arts classes. An old shirt is ideal. Please do not purchase plastic art smocks as children can become extremely hot in these.

Library Bag

All children will require a library bag to be supplied for use during the school year. Please ensure the bag is large enough to fit multiple books inside.

Lost Property

Items that have been misplaced or lost will be kept in a central lost property collection. Clearly labelling all of your child's belongings will make identification easier and allow us to ensure that items are returned to their rightful owners.

Lost property is cleared out on a regular basis. Please ensure that you check lost property regularly.

CSEF (Camp, Sport & Excursion Fund)

\$150 per child is available to any parent that holds a Centrelink Card that is valid on the first day of Term 1. This amount is non-refundable to parents and can only be used for Camps, Sports and Excursions including water safety. Please contact the Office for an application form. Completed application forms will need to be submitted to the office by Friday 4th July.

If you have any further questions or queries please contact the school office on [03 8691 6900](tel:0386916900).