We welcome you and your family to Eastwood and we know that your experiences will be happy and memorable.
School contacts

Phone 9870 6103
Email eastwood.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Web www.eastwood.vic.gov.au
Facebook Eastwood Primary School and Deaf Facility

Home Group Teachers
Anthony Mead, Charlotte Pile, Michelle Cohen-Beavis

Principal
Rukshana Verzijl

Assistant Principal
Marie Beale

Deaf Facility Coordinator
Simon Shepherd

Keeping in touch

- Home Group Teacher
  - by note (in our home folders)
  - by ‘quick chats’ for minor matters
  - by appointment for issues requiring further discussion
  - by Compass
- Principal/Assistant Principal by telephone at most times
- Information Night – February 2016
- Parent reports/conferences – June 2016
- Notes will be posted on Compass for special events
- Notes can also be sent to school by you (in home folder)
- Compass – parent portal
- Epsilon (school newsletter)
- Our school website www.eastwood.vic.edu.au

Transition Program

- So far the children have settled quickly and easily – it was immediate with most
- Our Transition program helps with a smooth start to the school year – over a number of years now we have had successful starts to the year for Foundation students
- Provides familiarity with the school, particularly the toilets but especially the playground
- We value your feedback. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for improving our Transition Program
- Teachers receive information from Pre-school settings and Transition Statements
Building works

- Foundation students will begin the year in our new learning pod
- Stage 2 of the building works is expected to be completed August 2016
- All building areas are safely fenced off and students are shown areas that are ‘out of bounds’ whilst at school

Class structure for 2016

- There will be 3 Home Groups
- There will be various groupings throughout the school day and the children will work with all 3 teachers
- The large learning space will allow for flexible groupings in all curriculum areas
- The children will attend Specialist classes
- Teachers are highly experienced in Early Years teaching and learning

Foundation School Entry Assessment

- Children begin school with a wide range of abilities and knowledge and classroom programs are based on the learning needs of each child
- **Wednesday Assessments** On one Wednesday in February, a time (approximately for 45 minutes) will be arranged for you to bring your child into school to do some fun, individual activities with your child’s teacher. These will be held in our classrooms and will give the teacher an opportunity to gain further information about your child’s abilities. All children commence school with a background of various experiences and have different skills, abilities and knowledge. Through our initial assessments and observations we can make informed decisions regarding the needs and starting points of learning for each child. During this time you are welcome to relax in the staffroom with a cup of coffee and perhaps a book or the newspaper, or you may have errands to run and can return to school to pick your child up
- **English On-line assessment** This will done during February as indicated above
  It will include; concepts about books and reading, letter identification, phonemic awareness and writing their name
- **Early Years Numeracy interview** The first part of this will be completed during your child’s Wednesday assessment time. The children enjoy this as it is like a set of games for them to complete. Teachers will complete the second part at a later date, this will be done during class time
- The Teacher’s observations are very important to help support your child with their learning
- Additionally, any information you can give us about your child will also be appreciated
**Eastwood 1:1 Tablet Program**

- ICT is an integral part of current education
- Mobile technology is easy for young children to manipulate and navigate
- Lesson planning includes a balance of ICT use and written work
- Students are often given the choice of using their tablet or pencil and paper
- More information and documentation regarding this program will be provided in Term One
- The 1:1 tablet program will begin at the start of Term 2

**Foundation Swimming Program**

- The program will take place during Term 3 2016, and will cost approximately $110
- Payment for swimming will be due late in Term 2 (June 2016)
- The Foundation Swimming Program is an important part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum

**Excursions and incursions**

- Excursions and incursions are part of the learning program as they relate to our learning focus for the term
- Costs for these events are included in your term Learning Activity Fees and are kept to a minimum

**Teaching Programs**

- We plan all our curriculum using AUSvels, beginning with Foundation (formally Prep) level
- We teach literacy through explicit teaching focused on skills in reading, writing and spelling. Children are often grouped with others of like abilities or in pairs, or individually. We use the CAFÉ reading approach and have also created our Daily 5 program to teach reading, spelling and writing
- Our Maths program is also focused on explicit teaching of strategies and skills for young learners. Children are grouped or work in pairs or individually. Many of our activities are ‘hands-on’ allowing the children to manipulate materials to deepen their understandings
- We teach the integrated topics (Science, Humanities, Civics and Citizenship, Communication, Design, Creativity and Technology and History) through our Investigation Time program. We have developed our investigative program based on the research of Kathy Walker, and the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework. We allow for a combination of child-directed play and learning, guided play and learning and adult-led learning
- We attend specialist classes for PE, Art, Performing Arts and LOTE (Auslan) on a weekly basis
How can you help?

- Classroom helpers (Literacy, Maths, Investigation Time, Art, General Classroom help)
- Making classroom resources
- Excursions/swimming
- Sporting activities
- Whole school events/fundraisers
- Working in the ‘Snack Bar’
- School Council
- Eastwood Parents and Friends (EP&F)

Supplies

- Stationery supplies are purchased in bulk by the school and used in the classroom throughout the year. The 2016 Parent Payment notice has been sent home and is due for payment.

Accidents and sickness

- Please ensure contact telephone numbers are up to date at all times in case of illness or accident
- The school has a number of teachers who have first aid training and a sick bay in the office
- Please do not send your child to school if they have had a gastric upset or high temperature in the previous 24 hours
- You can log in to Compass to approve a student absence, phone the school, or send a note when they return to school

Parking around the school

- All streets have signed parking areas, please check signs as you park
- Arrive early if you want to escort your child into the school ground
- The ‘No Parking’ zones are for quick setting down only – never leave your car in this zone
- Always drive around the block in preference to U turns
- Council parking attendants patrol the area regularly and enforce fines
- The Staff car park is limited and for staff only
- Please observe the school zone speed limit and consider the safety of all road users

Uniform

- Uniform is expected to be worn each day. Students out of uniform are required to have a note of explanation from their parents
- School hat is compulsory, no hat no play
- Children will need an art smock (the waterproof ones are preferable as they keep out paint, etc)
• Children will be presented with a library bag made by their Buddy
• School uniform can be bought from Primary School Wear (PSW) Lusher Road, Croydon
• Please clearly label all items!

Food and Drink

• Practise eating a ‘school lunch’ over the next few weeks
• Please send water only in drink bottles – named water bottles can be kept in classrooms
• Eastwood is a school that encourages healthy eating and has a healthy eating program
• Children are encouraged to have a healthy fruit snack during class time. Small, easy to access healthy items are ideal (cut fruit, vegetables)
• All families must provide children with nude food (rubbish free) lunch by using reusable, named containers and eliminating pre-packaged foods. Any wrappers will be sent home
• Our school provides canteen lunches (prepared off site and delivered) Wednesdays each week. This is an easily managed online system with a variety of healthy options
• Eastwood parents provide a ‘Snack Bar’ during some lunchtimes selling icy-poles and popcorn (days to be decided for 2016)

Preparing for the first day

• Visit the school and play on the playground after hours
• Purchase/wear uniform (new uniform from PSW, Lusher Road Croydon)
• Positive talk about school
• Talk through the possible activities that may happen at school
• Prepare snacks and lunches as you would when your child starts going to school
• Allow your child to practise eating his/her snack and lunch from a lunch box/bag and opening containers
• Try to be available to share the experience

First days of school 2016

Friday 29 January 2016
• Please take your Foundation child to the classrooms
• 9:00 am Foundation students with older brothers/sisters at school come into the classrooms
• 9:30 am Foundation students from families new to the school come into the classrooms
• This staggered start helps to ease congestion in the room
• Parents are invited to the staffroom for tea and tissues
• 1:00pm Children will be brought out to the line up area near our rooms to be collected by parents. Please wait outside, as the internal corridor becomes very congested with so many people collecting children
Monday 1 February and Tuesday 2 February 2016
- Foundation students attend 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

There are so many emotions involved in sending your children to school, and we understand this. Please enjoy your day and don’t worry, we will look after your children. Perhaps you can have a cuppa with some friends, go shopping, visit special people and look after yourselves.

For the month of February
The starting time will be 9:00 am and the Foundation students will finish at 3:30 pm. They will have Wednesday at home and will not be required at school. These are long and eventful school days and we are mindful that the children will be very tired. We wish to make it as easy as we can for them. Please ensure your prep child gets adequate rest and sleep, particularly during warm weather.

Daily assembly point
- The children will gather together near the playground and walkway entrance to the Foundation classrooms
- The children will be taught to return to this area after recess and lunch breaks
- We will place important notices and reminders on the noticeboard for you

Our first day of school
Very much like the two morning sessions of transition
- As children enter classrooms, they will be welcomed by their teacher(s) and begin their day
- There will be photos of the children and their families
- There will be a story, songs, a toilet visit, and a learning activity
- We will eat our snack and play outside – the Foundation teachers will be in the designated play area for the first few weeks
- After play there will be a ‘Getting to know you’ activity, a story, a learning task, a toilet visit, eating of a light lunch, and packing up
- Students will go home at 1:00 pm

2016 Foundation school hours

Please see the attached flyer. Please place this somewhere at home as a reminder of days and times.
Thank you for your wonderful help in preparing your children for school

The children coped well during the first transition day and this is largely due to your enthusiasm and co-operation. We are excited about next year and look forward to working with you and your children

Please remember that we will be here to help you next year, so don’t worry about asking any questions or for advice

Good luck with your preparations!