Preps
Little people with big ideas!

Clayton South Primary School
CLAYTON SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL – CONTACT INFORMATION

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Acting Assistant Principal: Lynne Foster
Business Manager: Gay Kuzmiuk
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          PO Box 1205 Clayton South 3169

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SCHOOL HOURS

Start 9.00 am
Morning recess 11.00 am - 11.30 am
Lunch eaten inside 1.30 pm - 1.40 pm
Lunch play 1.40 pm - 2.30 pm

School dismisses 3.30 pm

No early dismissals occur on days of extreme heat.

On the last day of Terms 1, 2 & 3 school dismisses at 2.30pm

Term 4 school dismisses at 1.30pm
VICTORIAN SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4th February</td>
<td>Friday 8th April</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 2*:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 27th April</td>
<td>Friday 1st July **</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Term 3:</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 18th July</td>
<td>Friday 23rd September</td>
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<tr>
<th>Term 4:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 10th October</td>
<td>Friday 22nd December</td>
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* (25 April is Easter Monday - a public holiday - as well as ANZAC Day. 26 April is a public holiday in lieu of ANZAC Day)

Please note Preps will start on Friday 4th February with the rest of the school.

Welcome to Clayton South Primary School
PREP TIMES 2011
The prep students will commence school on Friday 4th February 2011

For the first month of school, preps will NOT attend school on Wednesdays. On the remaining four days students will attend from 9.00am -3.30pm. Please see the Principal if this will cause your family some difficulties. Preps will begin school full time on the week beginning Monday 7th March.

Individual Prep School Entry Assessment will also be carried out on Wednesdays. Your family will be notified when your child is required for an appointment on one of these Wednesdays.

1. Please bring your child at 9.00am to the Prep with a cut lunch in their lunchbox.
2. Ensure you take your child to the class teacher. Notify the teacher of any special lunch or after school arrangements.
3. In the morning, please leave the Prep area as soon as possible. A tearful child will settle down more quickly among other children if parents are not in the area.
4. A special ‘Tea and Tissues’ social gathering will be held in the staffroom on the first day for tearful (and cheerful) Prep parents.
5. Need to pick your prep up on time at the door to the prep building. If your child is left when all the other preps have gone home they feel very insecure.

FIRST DAY REQUIREMENTS

1 LARGE box of tissues to be shared
1 art smock - named
1 Library bag - named
1 school Sunsmart Hat - named (to be left at school)
Daily: Extra socks and underwear (to be kept in school bag for emergency use).

Please encourage your child, as soon as possible after February, to enter the building on their own and to hang up their bags and coats and go into the classroom without your constant attendance.

STUDENTS LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS

Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds during normal hours of instruction without the permission of the Principal or Assistant Principal. Students may
leave the school ground on school business but only under the supervision of a
teacher. If they are taken out of the school parental approval is also required.
Our school has the security of excellent fencing on all boundaries and the gates are
locked during school hours.
At the parents’ written request, students may be released during the day provided they
are called for at school. In the instance students are collected at the office or
classroom. It is not the practice to allow unattended students to leave the grounds. A
form must be completed at the office and handed to the student’s teacher before the
student leaves. Urgent matters can be dealt with at any time – please contact the
office.

AFTER YOUR CHILD STARTS SCHOOL

1. Encourage regular and punctual attendance (see bell times).

2. Absence from school - Please supply the teacher with a written note
immediately upon their return to school, explaining your child’s absence.

3. Please notify the school immediately, if your child arrives home unattended
during school hours. No child is permitted to leave school during school hours
unless a written request is received from the parent. In these circumstances, it
is necessary that you call at the office, sign your child out and then collect your
child from the classroom.

4. School hours are 9.00 am – 3.30 pm. Students eat lunch in their classroom,
supervised by the class teacher, from 1.30 – 1.40 pm, at which time they go
outside for lunchtime play. Lunches may be ordered through the school from a
local café on Mondays and Fridays. (although this is not advisable until
March, when Preps are more settled into their school routine)

5. With the exception of Tuesday, 2nd February as explained in First School Day
Procedure, students should be at school at the latest by 8.45 am. Please
ensure your child is punctual. Line-up music is played at 8.55 am when students
then move quietly into school.

IMPORTANT NOTES

VSN – Victorian Student Number
All students commencing school for the first time in Victoria are allocated a VSN –
Victorian Student Number. This number will be carried right through to the end of a
student’s schooling. This number is only for school records and should not be divulged for any other reason.

**ABSENCES**
It is not necessary to phone the school on the day of your child’s absence, however regulations require that parents supply a written explanation of the student’s absence upon their return to school. (this is a legal requirement)
If a student arrives at school after the morning assembly they are required to report to the office, accompanied by an adult to obtain a “late pass.”

If a student is taken home before the dismissal bell, the person with permission to collect him/her must first report to the office for an “early dismissal” slip.

A sick child must be kept home as we have limited facilities for caring for sick students.
If a child becomes sick during the day or has an accident at school all efforts are made to contact the parents or the emergency contact shown on the child’s enrolment form.
For this reason, it is vital that the school is notified of any changes in your address, business and home telephone numbers and those of your emergency contact.

**BIKE RIDING**
Students are permitted to ride their bikes to school, but must wear approved, well-fitted helmets. Parents should also ensure that their children are able to ride their bikes competently and that they know the road rules. Bicycles must not be ridden in the school grounds, on the footpaths around the school. We do not encourage students below Grade 3 to ride to school. Bicycles are locked in the bike enclosure during school hours.

**CURRICULUM DAYS**
The Department of Education & Training has set aside four days in the school year where teachers will be in attendance but students will not. These days are devoted to the Professional Development of teachers, to improve the quality of the program they offer and to assessment and reporting. The dates of these days are published in the Newsletter as early as possible to assist parents arranging for child care.

**CUSTODY/ACCESS RESTRICTIONS**
It is vital that if there is any custody/access restriction relating to your child/ren that the School is notified and that a copy of any court papers is on file at school. Please also notify the Office or your child’s classroom teacher if family circumstances change.
Further to this, it is important that we are notified of any change of address, phone numbers or emergency contact numbers.

**EARLY DEPARTURE**
No student is permitted to leave School during school hours unless a written request is received from the parent. In these circumstances, it is necessary that you call at the office, sign your child out and then collect your child from the classroom. Please notify the school immediately if your child arrives home unattended during school hours.
EARLY DISMISSAL
No early dismissals occur on days of extreme heat or on wet days. On the last day of terms 1, 2 & 3 school dismisses at 2.30 pm and term 4 at 1.30 pm.

EATING AT SCHOOL
Students eat at morning recess and at lunch-time. Fruit or savouries such as biscuits and cheese are recommended for playlunch. Lunch is eaten in the classroom under supervision. This ensures correct eating habits and also that lunches get eaten. A normal Prep lunch might consist of a sandwich, a piece of fruit and one other item, e.g. yoghurt, dried fruit etc. Please don’t send too much food with your child – so much is wasted! To help alleviate the problem of litter in the schoolyard, it would be appreciated if children could bring as little pre-packaged food as possible. Personal plastic bottles are suggested if drinks are brought to school: please do not bring drinks in glass bottles.

Your child’s lunch box must be named with grade on the outside. Bubble-gum and chewing-gum are not permitted. Cellophane chip packets and such like are banned at school due to litter problems they cause.

EMERGENCIES
An emergency form is on file for each student so that contact may be made with parents in times of illness or accident. Parents are asked to notify the office if their child has been diagnosed with any condition which may need special consideration. Again, parents should also notify the office immediately of any changes in their own or their emergency contact's address or telephone number. A First Aid Certificate holder is on duty at all times at our school. If necessary, the local ambulance service will transport students to the hospital or doctor (normal fees will apply).

ENROLMENT FORMS
Please note that your child’s enrolment is not complete until the school has received a completed enrolment form, a copy of your child’s birth certificate and also a copy of a “school entry immunization certificate”.

EXCURSIONS
Excursions are arranged at reasonable intervals during the year to enable students to have direct experience in a variety of situations. These excursions are part of our Discovery and Inquiry Learning curriculum development. Parents are notified of any excursion well in advance. Our policy is that no student should miss out if it can possibly be avoided. It should be noted that no student can be taken on an excursion without a signed parental permission form or correct school uniform, unless otherwise advised.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND CONTACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease or Condition</th>
<th>Patient shall be excluded from School</th>
<th>Exclusion of contacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amoebiasis Entamoeba</td>
<td>Exclude until diarrhea has ceased</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campylobacter</td>
<td>Exclude until diarrhea has ceased</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken Pox</td>
<td>Exclude until fully recovered or for at least 5 days after the eruption first appears. Note that some remaining scabs are not a reason for</td>
<td>A child with an immune deficiency should be excluded for their own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condition</td>
<td>Exclusion Policy</td>
<td>Protection Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conjunctivitis</td>
<td>Exclude until discharge from eyes has ceased</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
<td>Exclude until diarrhea has ceased or until medical certificate of recovery is produced</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diphtheria</td>
<td>Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received following at least two negative throat swabs, the first not less than 24 hours after finishing a course of antibiotics and other 48 hours later</td>
<td>Exclude family/household contacts until cleared to return by the Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haemophilus type b (Hib)</td>
<td>Exclude until medical certificate of recovery</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand, Foot and Mouth disease</td>
<td>Exclude until all blisters have dried</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis A</td>
<td>Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received, but not before 7 days after the onset of jaundice or illness</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herpes (‘cold sores’)</td>
<td>Young children unable to comply with good hygiene practices should be excluded while the lesion is weeping. Lesions to be covered by dressing, where possible</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human immune-deficiency virus</td>
<td>Exclusion is not necessary unless the child has a secondary infection</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impetigo (School Sores)</td>
<td>Exclude until appropriate treatment has commenced. Sores on exposed surfaces must be covered with a watertight dressing</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza-like illnesses</td>
<td>Exclude until well</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leprosy</td>
<td>Exclude until approval to return has been given by the Secretary</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles</td>
<td>Exclude for at least 4 days after onset of rash</td>
<td>Immunized contacts not excluded. Unimmunized contacts excluded until 14 days after 1st day of appearance. If vaccinated within 72 hours of their 1st contact with the 1st case -may return to school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disease or Condition</td>
<td>Patient shall be excluded from School</td>
<td>Exclusion of contacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meningitis (bacteria)</td>
<td>Exclude until well</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meningococcal infection</td>
<td>Exclude until adequate carrier eradication therapy has been completed</td>
<td>Not excluded if receiving carrier eradication therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumps</td>
<td>Exclude for 9 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner)</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediculosis (head lice)</td>
<td>See Ringworm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poliomyelitis</td>
<td>Exclude for at least 14 days from onset. Re-admit after receiving medical certificate of recovery</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ringworm, scabies, pediculosis (head lice)</td>
<td>Re-admit the day after appropriate treatment has commenced</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubella (german measles)</td>
<td>Exclude until fully recovered or for at least four days after the onset of rash</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmonella, Shigella</td>
<td>Exclude until diarrhea ceases</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)</td>
<td>Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is produced</td>
<td>Not excluded unless considered necessary by the Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streptococcal infection including Scarlet Fever</td>
<td>Exclude until the child has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and the child feels well</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trachoma</td>
<td>Re-admit the day after appropriate treatment has commenced</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>Exclude until receipt of medical certificate from the treating physician stating that the child is not considered to be infectious</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever</td>
<td>Exclude until approval to return has been given by the Secretary</td>
<td>Not excluded unless considered necessary by the Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verotoxin producing <em>Escherichia coli</em> (VTEC)</td>
<td>Exclude if required by the Secretary and only for the period specified by the Secretary</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whooping cough</td>
<td>Exclude the child for 5 days after starting antibiotic treatment</td>
<td>Exclude unimmunized household contacts aged less than 7 years and close child care contacts for 14 days after the last exposure to infection or until they have taken 5 days of a 10 day course of antibiotics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worms (intestinal)</td>
<td>Exclude if diarrhea present</td>
<td>Not excluded</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Exclusion of cases and contacts is NOT required for Cytomegalovirus Infection, Glandular Fever (mononucleosis), Hepatitis B or C, Hookworm, Cytomegalovirus Infection, Molluscum Contagiosum or Parvovirus (erythema infectiosum fifth disease)

LATE ARRIVAL
If your child arrives at school after the 8.55 am bell, it is necessary for you to bring your child to the office and sign a Late Arrival slip which is then given to the child’s teacher.

LIBRARY
The students attend weekly library lessons and are encouraged to borrow regularly. As one book is returned, another may be borrowed. The use of library bags is necessary for the protection of the books.

LOST PROPERTY
Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly named. An unbelievable amount of clothing ends up in Lost Property each year – much of it unnamed. The Lost Property box is situated outside the Library. You are welcome to search through for any lost items.

MONEY BROUGHT TO SCHOOL
From time to time, for various activities, money will need to be sent to school with your child eg. excursion money. Please place money in the printed envelope provided with the child’s name, grade, teacher, the excursion/incursion name and amount enclosed clearly written on the front of the envelope. We also request that permission forms NOT be placed inside the envelope but attached separately. Money should be taken to the class teacher (not the school office) so that it can be recorded against your child’s name in the official Cash Book. A receipt will be issued through your child.

PFA and Administration all have separate bank accounts. We are unable to accept one cheque to cover all payments. Therefore, please send a separate payment for each.

NEWSLETTER
Our weekly Newsletter is issued every Thursday and sent home with the youngest child in the family. Its primary purpose is to keep parents fully informed of current school events, important dates and policies.

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE
An Out Of School Hours Care Program operates nightly from 3.30 pm to 6.00 pm in one of the school’s portable classrooms. All queries relating to the program and enrolment procedures should be directed to Brighter Life Australia. The program includes a wide variety of both indoor and outdoor activities and the costs are kept to a very reasonable rate, with Government subsidies available to eligible families.

PARENT CONTRIBUTIONS
Parent contributions are vital to our school. They enable us to maintain our excellent standards and further improve the education offered to your child. Government grants provide only the basics. Additional contributions allow School Council to supply many extras, such as computers, interactive whiteboards, sporting equipment, netbooks, library books, playground equipment etc.
Using these contributions, our school purchases all books and classroom supplies in bulk, to ensure the same materials are provided to all students at the lowest possible cost. The remainder of the parent contribution goes towards resource materials, improvements to play areas and equipment, sports equipment, visual arts, etc.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT
There is ample opportunity for parents to get involved at Clayton South Primary School. At the beginning of each year, parents are asked to indicate areas in which they are willing to assist, e.g. reading, library, Kitchen Garden Program, swimming, camps, excursions, working bees, fund-raising activities, PFA, School Council, etc.

PARKING ON ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE
Parents should park their car and safely see their child/children into the school grounds and also collect them from Narrumburn Road or at a pre-arranged spot near the school. **(Please do not use the staff car parks)**. For the safety of students, please observe parking signs.

Students are supervised at the school side gate in Nurrumburn Road from 8.45 am in the morning until 9.00 am and from 3.30 to 3.45 pm.

Please park your car correctly and collect your child / children from the side entrance to the school. Children **must not** run between parked cars to get into your car. It must be parked by the curb in a designated parking spot. Please do not double park. Offenders are regularly ticketed by Shire Parking Officers.

Students are supervised until 3.45 pm at the side gate of the school after which time they will be escorted to the front office where parents must sign their child out when collecting them.

**Parent cars are not permitted to enter the school grounds or staff car park**
Traffic in this area is a serious potential hazard for students. The car park is reserved for staff parking and drop-off / pick-up of physically disabled students.

ROAD SAFETY
Your child should be taught to observe basic road safety rules in order to prevent accidents. Students should take the most direct route to school without taking short cuts through reserves where they may be endangered. Students crossing Clayton Road **MUST** use the lights with the Crossing Supervisor and parent supervision is desirable.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES
School Assembly is held on Monday mornings from 9.00 am in the Multi-Purpose Facility. We acknowledge and recognise the achievements of our students and celebrate as a whole school community. Parents are encouraged to attend.

On the last day of term 1, 2 & 3, an assembly is held at 2.00 pm followed by early dismissal at 2.30 pm. Term 4 dismissal is at 1.30 pm after an assembly commencing at 1.00 pm. Parents are always welcome.

SCHOOL UNIFORM
The School Council stipulates that it is compulsory that all students wear the official school uniform. Order forms are available at the office. NOTE: cheques should be made out to PSW Quality Apparel

STUDENT PROGRESS REPORTS
Two written reports are issued to parents during the year, in June and December. Formal interviews are conducted in March and June but parents are encouraged to contact the school and arrange an appointment to discuss their child’s progress at any time during the year. If any problem arises, contact the school immediately to arrange an interview.

SWIMMING PROGRAM
Our Swimming Program is an eight day intensive instructional program. Students receive an hour lesson each day for the duration of the program. These lessons are taken by trained instructors and we aim to provide a sequential program that enables students to learn to swim and to build their skills. A data base of student achievement levels is maintained so progress is monitored and students can be efficiently allocated to classes each year. All students are expected to participate in this vital aspect of our curriculum.

VISITORS
If you are a visitor/helper to the school you must wear a Visitor’s Badge provided by the Office. It is necessary that you call at the Office, sign the Visitor’s Book and collect a
Visitor’s Badge. After completing your visit, please return to the Office and return the badge and sign out.

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR SCHOOL

Before your child starts school:
- Leave your child for periods with another adult to help him/her gain both independence and confidence that you will return.

- Have practice play lunches and lunches in his/her lunchbox before he/her starts school. This will familiarize him/her with the procedure and show you the difficulties caused by “glad wrap” and lunch boxes that are difficult for little fingers to open. It would assist both the teacher and your child if a small play lunch could be packed quite separate from the lunch. Preferably as a nude food box – with no wrappers!

- Train your child to say his /her name, address and telephone number. He /she should be able to repeat this information clearly when asked.

- Please teach your child to put on shoes and tie shoelaces correctly. It your child is unable to tie shoelaces, buy shoes with clips or buckles that your child can handle.

- Be sure your child can use the toilet unaided and know how to flush it and to wash his/her hands afterwards. Be sure your son understands how to use the urinal.

- If possible walk with your prep child in 2010 to school so they know the way (even if you intend to drive them

- Give your child challenging and interesting things to do. Puzzles, games, sorting activities etc will all make schoolwork so much easier. Recognising jigsaw shapes will one day help them to recognize the shapes of numbers and words.

Provide blunt nosed scissors, paper, plasticine, paints, crayons etc. giving them plenty of opportunities to practice with them.
• If you have any doubts about your child’s hearing or eyesight, take him/her to your doctor before starting school. Poor hearing or eyesight may affect your child’s progress at school.

• Please ensure that your child knows how and when to use the school crossing. If you drop them off by car, let your child out of the car at the curb side, it is important that he/she still walks along to the school crossing to cross the road.

• Talk about how long the school day will be eg. “It’s as long as Kinder, but you’ll have your lunch after that and perhaps some stories and then I’ll come and get you.” Talk about the difference between “playtime” and “lunchtime.”

• Teach your child to put on a coat, a jumper and cardigan without assistance.

• Make sure your child always has a handkerchief and knows how to use it.

• Develop a sense of responsibility in your child by encouraging him/her to keep his/her room tidy, put their soiled clothes in the laundry, etc. At school, one activity has to be tidied up before another can be started. Understand carrying out basic responsibilities at home helps children adapt to responsibilities at school.

• Help your child’s developing independence by allowing him/her to tackle appropriate tasks by himself/herself, and praising both the effort and the result.

THE FIRST FEW DAYS

• On the first day, if tears start, assure your child that you will pick him/her up at home time, kiss goodbye and leave. Tears usually cease very soon after the parents are out of sight. Please keep the “before school” routine as calm and “normal” as possible.

• Most students are very tired after their school day and need an earlier bedtime or extra naps on weekends or after school to “catch up”. Your child may not wish to discuss his/her day at school, or he/she may give you every detail. Always show interest in what is offered and peruse any work that is brought home. Parents provide the strongest role model for their children and your interest and encouragement will be reflected in the efforts of your child.
• Please try to be punctual at all times. Ensure your child is at school on time and you are there on time to pick him/her up after school.

• Please make sure your child attends school regularly “It’s not OK to be Away.” Absences are a handicap to a child’s progress. The first year at school is most important so unless your child is ill please make sure he/she attends school every day. **A written note is always required after an absence.**

• If you are concerned about any aspect of your child at home or at school please make an appointment to see his/her teacher.
HELPING YOUR CHILD LEARN TO READ

Until now, you have been your child’s main teacher. Now our school is sharing this task in partnership with you.

Your child will have many new experiences at school. One of these is learning to read. It is important to note that while the development of reading skills follows a similar pattern for all students, the time taken to do so will vary with each individual.

Encouragement is the key to making sure that your child develops confidence as a reader and enjoys reading now and in the future.

Quite a lot is now known about what happens when we read and programs such as “Early Years Literacy” which is followed at Clayton South Primary School with Independent Reading reflects this. Reading is more than recognizing or sounding out words. It is seeing print and attaching meaning to it; it is sharing ideas and information, eg. To read a sentence - “The dog jumped over the fence” with understanding, we need to know
What a “dog” is
What a “fence” is
What “jump” means
What “over” means
The way a sentence is put together
Something about print

Here are some ways you can help your child have the experiences needed to become a successful reader.

HOW TO HELP CHILDREN TO READ

Encourage your child talk about everyday things. Things you see when you are out shopping or in the car, watching television programs and things children draw and build. In this way you extend the words they understand and the ways they can share ideas through language.

Read stories to your child every day! The stories maybe in English or in any other language your child understands. Make it an enjoyable time, perhaps at bedtime.
Through stories, you share your pleasure in books and help your child get to know the language of reading print.

As you read, hold the book so your child can see the print too. You might run your finger smoothly along under the lines as you read, so that your child becomes aware of some of the features of print, such as where to start reading. Encourage children to join in the parts that they know by heart, thus building confidence in their ability as readers.

Not all print is in books. The breakfast table usually has plenty of print on it. The cereal packet, the margarine or butter container, the bread wrapper all have valuable reading material. So do road signs, service stations, shops etc. Whenever your child comments on print please respond enthusiastically! “Yes, the same word is on the label too! Can you find it?

When your child draws or when you have been talking together, write down one of his/her sentences and stick it up on the wall or refrigerator. Encourage your child to write too. Their writing may first look like scribble but it means something to them. They are learning how to communicate through print.

When your child brings home a sentence from school, ask them to tell you about the sentence. It doesn’t matter if the words aren’t exactly right. Sometimes they won’t remember what the sentence says, so ask them to tell you about the picture. Then you can respond.”That’s what it says, doesn’t it: “I am riding my bike.”

When you child brings home their first books, share the excitement with them. At first they will “read” by remembering the sentence patterns or looking at the pictures. This is a natural stage in learning to read. As they begin to understand more about reading, they will use print message more. The most important thing is that you encourage them to make sense of what they read. If what they say doesn’t make sense, repeat it and ask. ”Is that the way we say it? Or “Does that make sense?” If your child gets stuck on a word, don’t ask them to sound it out unless it is a simple phonetic word eg. dog, sun, cat etc. Ask them a question that will give them a clue to a difficult word such as “Where were they going?” or “What do you think they are doing?”

“A child learns to read through rhyme, rhythm and repetition.” Mem Fox author.

Try to:-

✓ Make reading time a pleasure, not a chore
✓ Let your child feel they are doing well
✓ Encourage their attempts with praise
✓ Give your child clues
PARENTS ASSISTING IN THE CLASSROOM

- Teachers highly value the assistance of parents who come into the classroom to listen to the students read and assist with computer skills.

- An information session will be held for those parents who wish to assist in the classroom.

- Our school will run a “Literacy Partnership” course for interested parents early in the year. This excellent program gives you an understanding of how children learn and shows you how you can help your own child to learn to read and write at home. Information about this will be sent home.
Thank you for joining our caring, multicultural school community of Clayton South Primary School. Enjoy your child’s primary educational journey in a proactive manner. The more you put into your child’s life the more you will get back.