



Footscray City Primary School

PARENT HANDBOOK 2022/2023



10 Hyde St Footscray 3011
(03) 9687 2826
www.fcps.vic.edu.au
footscray.city.ps@education.vic.gov.au

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we are on and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people's spirit, imagination and rich history of storytelling that is an inspiration for all Australians.

Mission, Vision & Values

Our Mission at FCPS

We are future making for every child so that they are learning to **learn**, learning to **thrive** and learning to **contribute**.

Our Vision at FCPS

Our students will possess the **skills, knowledge** and ways of **thinking** that enable them to **embrace learning, respond to challenges** and thrive as **active members** of the community.

Our Values at FCPS

At Footscray City Primary School we are a diverse and inclusive **COMMUNITY** who value

- Taking **RESPONSIBILITY** for our learning and our impact on our selves, others and our environment.
- Thinking and acting with **KINDNESS** which means we are friendly toward others and considerate of their feelings.
- Demonstrating **RESILIENCE** by persisting and being courageous when faced with challenges in our learning and relationships.

Principal's Message

Welcome to Footscray City Primary School, we are so pleased to have you join our community and to be sharing this journey as you embark on an exciting new chapter for your family.

At Footscray City Primary School we take great pride in our **strong connections as a community** and in the **quality learning experiences** that are available to our students. We are motivated by the belief that **every child can experience success** in their learning and wellbeing if they are provided with the right support and the time they need to thrive. This approach to teaching and learning is characterised by **trusting relationships** where students are seen and understood as individuals, and **collaborative partnerships** are fostered with our families.

For their Foundation year and for the years that follow, your child will have their own **personalised learning goals** in the core areas of English, Mathematics and Personal/Social Capabilities. These will be developed based on our **knowledge of your child** - their strengths, skills, interests and learning dispositions. Learning goals will be developed in partnership with your child and your family, enabling **student voice** in the learning that promotes high levels of **motivation and engagement**. It is our objective that every child makes **growth from their starting point** and **experiences success** in their learning and relationships. We know that our students are best able to be **happy, healthy and thriving** if learning programs are **innovative and responsive** to their needs and passions. This drives our work as educators and spurs us to continually **learn and improve**.

We value **rich and rigorous learning programs** that incorporate a range of curriculum areas and provide students with diverse experiences. Our **Specialist Programs** are highly valued by our students and community and include Visual Art, Performing Art - Music, Physical Education (PE) and LOTE (Mandarin). These programs are each offered once per week for every year level and our educators are passionate about their curriculum area. Additional learning opportunities are available through Lunchtime Clubs, whole-school events such as Sports Carnivals, the bi-annual Art Show and Music Showcase and community-based events and competitions. These specialist subjects also make explicit links to other curriculum areas such as Science, Mathematics, Technology, Design, History and Geography.

Our **Instrumental Music Program** is a unique offering at FCPS, with a range of instruments from brass, woodwind, strings, percussion and vocals available for private or small group tuition. Implemented on a user-pays model, all our instrumental music teachers are private operators who are both musicians as well as music educators. Bringing high level skills, extensive performance experience and passion to their teaching, we are incredibly fortunate to have this learning program available with a range of ensemble performances scheduled throughout the year.

We benefit from a **highly engaged and active parent/carer community**, with these relationships first and foremost being established with your classroom teachers and leadership team and then extending to staff across the school. Parents/carers are welcome as classroom helpers supporting students with their learning goals and are also invited to attend excursions and camps. We run a number of sub-committees of the School Council, with membership of these being a great opportunity to contribute to the school and to learn about our operations.

We welcome your enrolment in our school and thank you for trusting us with your precious little person. We look forward to getting to know one another and to building positive relationships with your child and family.



Jessie Hand - Principal

Introduction

Beginning school is a very exciting time for the whole family and we look forward to making it a positive experience for you and your child. We understand that you may have a lot of questions about how the school operates and what your role is as a parent and member of the school community.

This handbook aims to provide you with the information your family will need to feel prepared to join Footscray City Primary School. It will cover some of the basic questions you and your child may have about getting started at school such as how the day is structured, what to wear and what to bring each day. It also covers the administrative aspects of school – how to communicate with us, what to do when your child is absent, etc.

We hope this guide will serve as a reference throughout your time with us.

If you do not find the information you require here, please contact our office staff or your classroom teacher.

School Organisation



Principal
Jessie Hand



Assistant Principal
Grace Speight
Currently on Maternity Leave



Assistant Principal
Years F-2
Eliza Kerin



Assistant Principal
Years 3-6
Anthony Curnow

Administration Team

Business Manager- Jo Diaco
Office Manager - Sue Southern
Administration Manager - Michelle Cox

Wellbeing Team

Mental Health & Wellbeing Officer- Jenine O'Brien
Engagement & Wellbeing Officer- Emma Boyd

School Contact Information

School Address: 10 Hyde St, Footscray 3011

Telephone: (03) 9687 2826

Email: footscray.city.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Website: www.fcps.vic.edu.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/FootscrayCityPrimarySchool

Office Hours - The school office hours are 8:45am to 4:00pm Monday to Friday.

School Hours

The school yard is supervised from 8:45am. At 8:55am, children make their way to their classroom to be organised for the day. Children are expected to be punctual and to be ready to start the day at 9:00am when the bell rings. Music is played over the PA system a few minutes prior to the bell ringing before school and at each lunch break.

8:55am	Music plays and students make their way to their classroom.
9:00 – 9:50am	Session 1 (Fruit Break during this time)
9:50 – 10:40am	Session 2
10:40 – 11:30am	Session 3
11:30 – 11:40am	1st Lunch Eating time inside
11:40 – 12:20pm	1st Lunch play
12:20pm – 1:10pm	Session 4
1:10 – 2:00pm	Session 5
2:00 – 2:10pm	2nd Lunch Eating time inside
2:10 – 2:40pm	2nd Lunch play
2:40 – 3:30pm	Session 6
3:30pm	School dismissal

Foundation students must be collected from the front of the Peppercorn Building. Early dismissal times on the last day of each term are communicated via Compass.

Absences & Attendance

The Department of Education and Training requires primary schools to record attendance, including whole day absences, late arrivals and early departures.

Footscray City Primary School uses our school administration system, Compass, to record the attendance of each student.

If your child is absent from school you should use *Add Attendance Note/Approval* in Compass to record the dates and reason of your child's absence. Parents are asked to contact the school if an absence is expected to be for more than a few days. We also appreciate contact with families in the situation where students are away due to an illness that is infectious. This enables us to offer support for the family and where appropriate, communicate with the school community so as to minimise the impact on others.

If you do not enter an approval for your child's absence in Compass and your child is marked Not Present, you will receive a text via Compass to inform you of the absence. Please use this reminder to update Compass with the reason for the absence.

Late Arrival

We recommend that students arrive at school by 8:45am so they can be settled into their class ready for learning at 9am. The roll is marked at 9am, immediately after the bell. If your child is not in class when the roll is marked they will be marked as Not Present. We request that all students who are not in their classroom when the bell goes report to the office to have their attendance registered and to collect an office pass. Office staff will record the time of the student's arrival in Compass. If the student arrives without their parent or carer, the late arrival will appear in Compass as an absence requiring approval. When the student arrives to class they should give the office pass to their teacher.

If your child has an appointment that means they will not arrive at school until after 10am, please log the absence in Compass.

Early Leaving

Parents wishing to collect children during the school day are asked to complete an Early Leaver's Pass from the school office. This note, signed by the parent/guardian, provides an indication of the reason for the early release and outlines when the child will return to school. Office staff will record the time of the student's departure in Compass. Students will not be released to people other than their parents or carers without express permission from their parents. If your child is being collected early by someone other than you as a parent, please email the school at footscray.city.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au confirming who is collecting your child and at what time.

Please see the section on Compass for more information on recording absences in Compass.

Accidents or Illness or First Aid

Students requiring minor first-aid treatment will be cared for at school and returned to class when appropriate. You will receive a Compass notification with details of both ailment and treatment if your child has a visit to First Aid. If you receive such a notification you are not required to contact the school.

If your child sustains a minor knock to the face or head you will also receive a courtesy call.

If your child is involved in a more serious accident or becomes ill at school you will be contacted as soon as possible by telephone. If we are unable to contact you or any of your emergency contacts, the Principal or delegate will make a decision if your child needs to be taken to the doctor or hospital.

In an emergency situation the school will call an ambulance. We recommend that families become members of Ambulance Victoria.

Please do not send your child to school if they have:

- a fever
- are vomiting or have diarrhoea
- a heavy cough, cold or influenza
- any other infectious illnesses such as conjunctivitis, hand foot and mouth, chicken pox, measles ,impetigo, etc
- head lice

Not only will their recovery be delayed but they have a miserable day and possibly infect other children.

In an effort to stop the spread of infection at school, please teach your children good hand hygiene and cough etiquette.

Assembly

Our assembly is held on Friday afternoon from 3.10pm in the gymnasium. At this assembly there will be celebrations of learning in different forms i.e. musical performances and class presentations. Student of the week awards will also be presented. Community members are invited to join us at our assembly.

Buddy Program

All Foundation children will have a buddy from our senior grades and this is a vital component in supporting their transition to the primary school setting. We believe there are great benefits from these multi-age partnerships - the sense of security, connectedness and positive role modelling that the foundation children experience, alongside the development of leadership and emotional intelligence capabilities we see in our Year 5 and 6 students.

The buddies will assist your child with transition into the playground as they become familiar with the physical spaces and play options. There will also be regular classroom visits as the buddies engage in activities relating to the learning programs. For example, the children tell us that it is a highlight of their week when they return to school on a Monday morning and share their weekend experiences with their buddy or have their buddy read one of their favourite books to them. We have also seen buddy grades supporting each other with learning projects and preparation for school events such as Celebrations of Learning.

Canteen - The Lunch Box

Our school canteen - The Lunch Box - operates on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday out of the school kitchen. The menu is extensive, including freshly made hot meals, sandwiches and wraps, healthy sweet options and a range of drinks. We share a commitment to providing healthy and affordable food options. Orders can be placed online using the Munch Monitor webpage – www.munchmonitor.com.au. To create your online account register with the username **FCPS** and password **munch3011**.

Please note that 'snacks' ordered with a lunch order will not be delivered to the classroom until lunch time. When your child is having a lunch order they will still need to bring some fruit and a recess snack.

Change of Clothing

It is not unusual for Foundation children to need a change of clothes throughout the school day, particularly in the early days of the school year. We encourage you to include a change of clothes in your child's school bag as a way of being prepared for such situations.

We prioritise getting to know each child and understanding their context. If there are details you would like us to be aware of in relation to your child and managing these situations, please speak with your child's classroom teacher and/or a member of the leadership team.

Communications Between Parents and School

Compass- This is an online platform that facilitates communication between home and school. Compass enables us to streamline our provision of permission notes and payments for events such as excursions, camps and sporting events, as well as provide regular updates relating to classroom and specialist programs. Refer to the Compass section for further information.

Principal's Messages/ Bulletin - Our Principal writes a newsletter towards the end of each term that is designed to keep the school community informed about student learning activities, events and achievements. This newsletter is distributed via Compass or can be downloaded from our website.

Our Website- www.fcps.vic.edu.au – is primarily a source of information for people interested in joining the school. As a parent of a child attending the school you may like to refer to the website for our school policies, upcoming events and a gallery of photos.

SeeSaw & Google Classroom - Each Foundation child is set up with a digital portfolio on SeeSaw at the beginning of each school year. Families will be provided with an individualised log in, which will enable them to access their child's portfolio.

It is a way to make learning visible to students, parents and teachers, involves students in their goal setting, celebrate the success and growth of each child and track the learning journey of each child.

Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/FootscrayCityPrimarySchool> - is a regular form of communication with our school community. 'LIKE' our Facebook page to keep you updated with school events and photos.

Compass

We use a school administration system called Compass. Compass is a web-based application that provides access to information and streamlines many of our school operations such as attendance, day-to-day communication (via newsfeed), event management, family payments and access to student reports.

Each family will be provided with individual login details. You can download the Compass School Manager app from the Apple or Android app store or access Compass via the website address <https://fcps-vic.compass.education>.

You will be able to use Compass to:

- Access information regarding upcoming events
- Access your child's semester reports
- Approve past and upcoming events
- Receive class and school newsletters
- Email your child's teacher
- Consent and pay for excursions/incursions/camps
- Agree to the school's IT policy and provide photo and walking excursion consent

Please refer to the online Knowledge Base for help with using Compass. If you require further assistance please contact the office staff on 9687 2826.

Excursions/Incursions

Excursions and Incursions can provide a valuable educational experience for our students which are complementary to their learning, as they provide access to resources, environments and expertise that may not be available in the classroom. Information will be provided each term regarding any excursions or incursions that are coming up. Parents may be contacted to be a parent helper to come along to the excursion. Working with Childrens Check will need to be provided.

Eating - Meal times, Fruit Break

The school day operates on a 3-2-1 model. That is, a 2½ hour learning block from 9am-11:30am, a 1 hour and 40 minute learning block from 12:20pm-2:00pm and a 50 minute learning block from 2:40pm-3:30pm. Children will have fruit/vegetable break times at 10am and 12:30pm. You may consider packing items such as bananas, apples, celery, grapes, carrot sticks or dried fruit. The preference for these eating times is for food that is easy to eat while continuing with learning activities and conversations.

Prior to the morning and lunchtime breaks, the children have a supervised eating period of 10-15 minutes. It is recommended that a substantial snack or mini lunch is supplied for recess and again for lunch. We encourage parents to consider healthy options when packing their child's lunch and that no glass be sent to school.

When packing your child's food we request that you keep in mind that we have children who are anaphylactic. These are life-threatening allergies to particular foods and to protect the safety of these children, we operate as a nut and egg free zone. We ask that parents do not pack nuts or nut products in their children's lunch. We appreciate your cooperation with this and your

contribution to the wellbeing of children with allergies.

Children are expected to bring a water bottle to school and this remains available to them throughout the school day.

Our school canteen operates on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Please refer to the Canteen section for further information.

Homework

The Agreed Purpose of Homework at FCPS Homework will be designed to ensure students are:

- Preparing for new learning
- Practising and revising classroom learning
- Extending on the learning from the classroom program
- Engaging in tasks that are personal, flexible and have real-life context.
- Engaging in tasks that are linked to learning goals and that allow for student input. For example, homework may be negotiated to focus on a particular area (such as spelling) for a period of time while the student works to make gains in relation to their learning goal. This would see more time being spent on spelling than on other areas.
- Engaging in tasks that contribute to the building of their confidence, engagement, self-regulation and wellbeing.

	DEECD Guidelines	FCPS Policy
Foundation	That homework will not exceed 30 minutes per day	10 - 15 minutes per day

The following information outlines the homework tasks that can be selected for Foundation. Students will be provided with a satchel at the beginning of the school year. This will also be used at school everyday.

The satchel will include:

- Take home books that are at their level to encourage good reading habits such as holding the book the right way, turning pages, pointing to words and also allows the opportunity to spend time reading the books with your child. Students having easy access to books they are familiar with will help them to develop their reading skills and independence in reading lessons.
- Alphabet Placemat
- Common Word flashcards (high frequency words words. Which connects with our word and sentence of the week we are exploring in SMART spelling.



Your child's homework tasks may include:

- Reading of 'Just Right' books
- Being 'read to' by an older reader
- SMART Spelling program
- Learning activities reflecting the Integrated Curriculum Unit

Please note - *this is a guide and not a checklist where all tasks must be completed.*

All students have access to the following online resources as part of their classroom and homework program:
Mathletics and Epic!

Please note that it is the responsibility of the classroom teacher to ensure communication between home and school about which homework tasks need to be prioritised. There is to be flexibility in allowing different homework schedules for individual children.

Instrumental Music Program

Footscray City Primary School provides individual instrumental tuition in voice and a large range of instruments. We are very proud of our instrumental staff who are all accomplished performers in their own right and/or have tertiary qualifications in music performance and/or education.

Lessons can be conducted for individual students or, via arrangement, for small groups and are held during the school day. Please visit the Instrumental Music page (under Programs) on the school website to see details of all instruments currently on offer and to complete an expression of interest in joining the program. Foundations students are invited to commence in term three after they have had an opportunity to settle into school life.

Instruments (when available) can be loaned or hired from the school and we can provide a list of providers for others. Instrumental students have many opportunities to perform within the school year including on our series of lunchtime recitals. In addition to lessons, the school offers a range of ensembles: choirs, string ensembles, concert band, percussion ensemble, guitar ensemble and occasionally special focus groups.

All ensembles except choir are paid participation. Ensembles have numerous performance opportunities throughout the school year both at school and in the wider community.

Medical Conditions/Medication

If your child has a medical condition with the potential to affect their health and wellbeing at school, please let us know. We want to ensure we have the knowledge to minimise risk to your child and to provide appropriate care for your child during their time at school.

Parents of children who have illnesses such as asthma, allergies, anaphylaxis, and diabetes are to submit an Action Plan written by their doctor to the school in addition to medication your child may require throughout the day.

If children require short term medication such as cold/flu medication, antibiotics or pain management medication, parents are required to supply the medication to the office. Parents will be asked to complete and sign a form giving exact details of dosages and times to administer the medication.

All medications are stored in the First Aid room and will be administered by a First Aid Officer. Children must not keep medications in their bags or administer their own medication.

Out of School Hours Care / School Holiday Program

The Out of School Hours Care Program is operated by Team Kids inside the gymnasium. Parents are required to register their child for the program at teamkids.com.au or by calling 1300 035 000. The Before School Care Program runs from 7:00am to 8:45am and the After School Program runs from 3:30pm to 6:00pm.

Foundation students who attend before school care will be escorted to the classroom by a member of the Team Kids team. At the end of the day, students will be collected by a Team Kids team member and taken to the gymnasium.

Team Kids also offer Curriculum Day and Holiday program. Please contact Team Kids for further details.

Parent Helper Program

To enhance our learning programs, we are continuing to offer our Parent Helpers Program. Parents, grandparents and caregivers are welcome to volunteer their time as classroom helpers.

You may offer to help within the classroom, externally or at other specialist classes within the school. Helping your child's class can take many forms and we are more than happy to work with your preferences if possible. This may mean helping students face-to-face, changing take-home-books, laminating, printing, assisting small groups or assisting individuals. Please be assured that you do not require any specialised skills other than those discussed during the induction.

To participate as a Parent Helper, you must attend a FCPS Parent Helpers Induction Session or have attended one in the past. These will run once a term. This session will cover the structure of the Reading, Writing and the Mathematics hours, and your role as a parent helper within that.

Parents and helpers will need to have a current Working With Childrens Check before the commencement of helping within the classroom. A copy of this must be given to the office. Please note; If you have completed the Induction in previous years, you do not need to re-attend.

Personal Belongings

Children enjoy bringing favourite items to school to show and share with their teachers and friends. If such an object is valuable and/or precious, we encourage students to ask their teacher for a safe place in the classroom for it to be kept. While every care will be taken, the school is not able to take responsibility for the loss or damage of belongings. If parents/children are not comfortable with this level of risk, we suggest that item stays at home or is shared via special arrangement with the classroom teacher (such as Show and Tell).

Riding Bikes or Scooters

Children are most welcome to ride a bike or scooter to school. Bikes and scooters may be stored in the bike cage on the Hyde Street fence line behind the Peppercorn building or in the bike racks near the Bristow Street entrance. It is strongly recommended children lock their bike or scooter with a chain and padlock. While children riding a bike must wear a helmet to comply with laws, the school expects children riding a scooter will also wear a helmet for their safety.

Children are not permitted to ride their bike or scooter in the school grounds for the safety of all community members.

School Crossings

Supervised school crossings are located on Hyde Street and Bristow Street, directly outside the school.

All children crossing Hyde Street to get to school are required to use the crossing for their own safety. We ask that parents also use the crossings and demonstrate road safety. There are also supervised school crossings in Albert Street and Pilgrim Street by Victoria University.

Crossing Supervisors are also located on Napier St between the Police Station and Town Hall. This extra crossing was introduced after significant lobbying by our School Council and community to the Maribyrnong City Council.

School Uniform

The wearing of the school uniform is compulsory for all children and fosters a sense of belonging to the Footscray City Primary School community. The uniform is designed to be practical and comfortable for the range of activities undertaken at school.

Our uniform provider is PSW. They have a store located in Deer Park at Unit 2, 51-53 Westwood Drive, Ravenhall and an online store at www.psw.com.au.

Items of uniform available include a range of jumpers, t-shirts and tops, summer and winter dresses, hats, skirts and shorts. Many parents choose to purchase navy tracksuit pants and shorts from outlets such as Target.

Hats and bags are available for purchase from the school office.

Please label your child's clothing, especially jackets, windcheaters and hats. Labelling hats with a fabric marker on the outside with your child's name is an effective way to assist your child to keep track of their hat. When found, labelled clothing will be returned to the child. Unlabelled clothing will be placed in lost property. The lost property area is located in the main building and parents are welcome to look for lost items. At the end of each term, unclaimed clothing is donated to the second-hand uniform shop.

Your child must wear a hat during terms one and four and there is a choice of either the slouch or bucket hat.

School Hand Uniform Shop

Our second hand uniform shop is run most Friday afternoons at the Market stall.

Most items are \$5 with the exception of winter dresses, school jumpers and coats which sell for \$10.

All money raised goes into the Student Engagement and Wellbeing fund.

You can donate your used uniforms at the office. Please wash all items before donating them.

Footwear

Most students wear runners or black school shoes which are generally safe and allow students to be involved in a number of activities such as games and recesses. If students do wear sandals, toes need to be enclosed to ensure the chance of injury to toes during play is minimised. Thongs, open-toed sandals and slip-on shoes are not permitted.

For further information please refer to the Uniform Policy published on the school website.

Sun Smart Policy

It is important that all students conform to our Sun Smart policy and have their face, neck and ears adequately protected from the sun.

Hats are compulsory for all students during Terms 1 and 4. We have a “No Hat, No Play” policy during these times. Whilst on yard duty, staff will also wear hats for their own protection. Students without hats will be asked to play inside. Parents are requested to encourage their children to wear a hat when travelling to and from school and when playing outside before and after school.

Children are encouraged to bring sunscreen and apply it themselves. Classes also contain sunscreen pump packs for students to use.

For further information please refer to the SunSmart Policy published on the school website.

School Visitors

All visitors to the school are required to report to the office to sign in. Those visitors who are staying on site for a period of time such as parent helpers or contractors are required to wear a visitor pass for the duration of their stay. Parents dropping children off after the bell or picking them up early are required to report to the office.

Separated Families

In situations where families have separated and the parents prefer to have separate communications/payments we can help you. One of the parents will need to complete an Alternate Family Enrolment form to indicate the different address and contact details. We will be able to provide each parent with their own Compass login details, enabling us to send individual communications, copies of reports, etc.

We are also able to assist families with the management of payments to the school. If you have a financial arrangement that differs from the main family covering all of the costs associated with school, please let us know and we can bill each parent accordingly. You may wish to split all costs 50/50 or have one parent paying fees and the other paying for excursions. Please contact our office staff to have a confidential discussion about your requirements.

If there are restrictions relating to Family Court orders or Intervention orders please bring them to the attention of office staff or the leadership team. We can ensure relevant staff members are informed and that procedures are in place to protect your child during their time at school.

Specialist Programs

Alongside their classroom learning program, your child will participate in the following specialist programs.

Art

The Visual Arts Program at Footscray City Primary School sees students in the junior years explore art materials and processes and become familiar with the Elements and Principles of Art. The program encourages the exploration of themes inspired by their integrated studies, books, famous artists and the world around us. As students move into the middle years they are given more voice and agency in their work and are introduced to the Studio Habits of Mind to guide their arts practice while being introduced to new techniques and processes. By the Senior years students are

envisioning their own works, selecting the materials they wish to work with and developing independent and collaborative 2D and 3D art practices that are filled with self-expression and meaning. The school has a kiln so offers a full creative program of ceramics, painting, sculpture, printmaking, drawing and a biannual whole school Art show.

Language Other Than English (LOTE) - Chinese

The LOTE (Chinese) program uses both Language Features and Culture Inquiry streams of learning across Foundation to Year 6. In the junior years, students are provided opportunities to learn about basic greetings, and to establish a repertoire of Chinese vocabulary that is closely connected to different concepts of everyday life – for example, colours, numbers, body parts, weather and animals. It allows students to participate in simple exchanges to obtain and convey basic information and experiences relating to their personal world.

In the middle years, students start to explore the use of Pinyin, and speech patterns in Chinese, through teacher modelled expressions. They learn about how to express feelings and preferences, and give introductions about familiar subjects. They also start to develop the ability to describe features of the Chinese language. They engage in a series of art and craft based activities to explore and expand their understanding of Chinese culture.

In the senior years, students continue to expand their learning of Chinese language in speaking, listening, writing and handwriting through a more systematic exploration of Chinese language conventions. They engage in student-led inquiry projects and create short informative bilingual texts (e.g. posters and recipes) about specific aspects of Chinese culture.

Music

The Music Program at Footscray City Primary provides a comprehensive curriculum that ensures interested students have the foundations to continue with their musical studies to Year 12.

In the early years we present the program through a mixture of Orff and Kodaly methodologies introducing music through song and movement. This progresses through the introduction of invented and conventional notation, composition, performance, improvisation and ensemble music making and, by Grades 5 and 6, ICT as a music composition and performance medium. The curriculum introduces students to music from cultures around the world and from all periods of history, with strong links to indigenous music and performance and supports the term foci for the concept curriculum of the school.

Physical Education

The Physical Education Program at Footscray City Primary School begins in the junior years by creating the building blocks for fundamental motor skills to develop through a range of fun engaging games and activities. The program allows students to work independently, in small groups or teams. In the middle years students begin to look at the technical aspects of Physical Education and how to maintain a healthy active lifestyle. In the senior years these skills are consolidated and students begin to explore different movement concepts and implementing strategy. We have strong relationships with a number of local sporting groups that run clinics at our school. We are also part of the Westgate Schools Sport District where students in Grades 3 to 6 have the opportunity to participate in Interschool competitions such as Swimming, Cross country, Athletics and team sports for Years 5 and 6.

Settling into Class

We understand that morning transitions can be a challenging time for foundation children and their families as they move from the home environment to their classroom. This is a very typical experience and we are committed to supporting all involved. We encourage parents to think about their child, the things that reassure them and the

strategies that help them to feel safe and secure. If these are communicated with your classroom teacher and the leadership team, we can take a shared approach to nurturing your child through this stage of their school life.

School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

School-wide positive behaviour support (SWPBS) is a framework that brings together school communities to develop positive, safe, supportive learning cultures. SWPBS assists schools to improve social, emotional, behavioural and academic outcomes for children and young people. Through the implementation of SWPBS we have developed a common language through the school with a focus on our mission, vision and school values.

Term Dates - 2023

The term dates for 2023 are:

Term 1: Monday, 30th January 2023 to Thursday, 6th April 2023

In Week 1 Monday 30th January - Friday 3rd February 2023 Foundation students finish at 1pm.

Foundation students do not attend school for the first 4 Wednesdays of the year. Each Foundation student will be required to book in one conference session with their teacher throughout the four weeks, where their teacher will conduct an English and Maths assessment. More information will be provided regarding this closer to the time.

Please see the dates below:

- Wednesday 1st February
- Wednesday 8th February
- Wednesday 15th February
- Wednesday 22nd February

Term 2: Monday, 24 April 2023 to Friday, 23 June 2023

Term 3: Monday, 10 July 2023 to Friday, 15 September 2023

Term 4: Monday, 2 October 2023 to Wednesday, 20 December 2023

There will be 4 Curriculum Days scheduled during the year. Once these are set they will be communicated via Compass.

Website

Our website www.fcps.vic.edu.au is a source of information for parents, including information such as policy and procedure documents, term dates, upcoming events.

We endeavour to keep our website up to date, though your main source of information will be Compass. If you have any suggestions for content please contact the office staff.