



Oropi School

**Pre School Partnership
Programme**

**New Entrant Information
Booklet**

From the Principal

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet. As a school we believe in the importance of trying to help out wherever possible to make the transition from pre-school to school a smooth one for children about to turn 5.

As a staff, we believe that Oropi School is an ideal environment for children to start their schooling because we are a small rural school with six classrooms.

In this sort of environment each child is known by all the staff and children in the school. The way we operate our school means we often have our senior children and other classes interacting with the younger children, so there is a nurturing atmosphere in the school.

Your child's learning needs are quickly known and understood by both the class teacher and senior management (Principal, Deputy Principal and Assistant Principal) because we are a small school. This also means we can ensure support and communication with the home is established as soon as needs are identified.

If you are interested in enrolling your child at Oropi School, please do not hesitate to make a time to meet with the Principal and take a look around the school to find out more! There are a lot of exciting developments happening and future developments planned which we would love to tell you about.



What is A Pre School Partnership Programme?

This is a time for children aged 4 and above to come to Oropi school to participate in class and playground activities. This is done in two ways.

- Visits with the play group.

Twice a term there will be the opportunity for playgroup children who are starting school in the following term to visit Oropi School on a Tuesday and Thursday morning from 10 o'clock until 11 30.

Please contact the school for dates.

- Individual School visits

About four or five weeks before your child starts school please ring the school and arrange for your child to visit. These visits will be on a Wednesday or Thursday. They will be arranged through the office.

Visits to Play Group by Room 4

Once a term the Room 4 children will visit playgroup.

This enables them to:

Revisit in an environment that they have enjoyed.

Visit and explore an excellent hands on learning environment.

Meet children who will be starting school soon.

Have fun.

Why are school visits important?

School visits are important for the following reasons.

- They help to familiarise your child with the routines of the classroom and school.
- They help your child to become comfortable with the school environment.
- They help to make the transition to school positive experience.

Getting your child ready for school

On entry to a New Entrant class, it would be helpful if your child is able to:

Recognise their own name.

Hold a pencil correctly.

Write their own name e.g. Tommy (not all capitals)

Recognise some letter names and/or sounds.

Count and understand some simple maths concepts i.e. on, in, under, through, etc

Recognise shapes by name.

Recognise colours.

Pack their bags and take responsibility for their own clothing.

The First Day as a New Entrant.

This is an exciting day in a child's life. It only happens once. It is really important that all goes well and that your child has a happy and enjoyable day. It can be emotional day for parents. We understand this and want it to be a memorable day for all.

We recommend that parents bring their child into the classroom on the first day.

Feel free to take photos etc. Present going to school as something positive that your child should be excited about. Some children will bounce into school and be totally independent, while others may need support. Don't hang around any longer than necessary. New Entrant teachers are skilled cuddlers and consolers. We will contact you if your child is upset.



Supporting Your Child during their first year at school.

Room 4 is always open to parents. Feel free to meet informally with Pat when you are dropping off or picking up your child. Formal parent teacher interviews are held in the second term.

Talk and listen to your child. Oral language is very important as it is the foundation of all literacy. It is a good forum for children to share their learning and a way for them to be show how clever they are if reading and writing is taking a while.

Teach them independence.

- packing their own bag
- dressing themselves
- choosing own clothes
- coming into the classroom

Allow them to take risks when learning new things. They will get things wrong but that is just part of the learning journey.

Celebrate and enjoy their successes

Develop, encourage and celebrate their interests and strengths

Model respect and collaboration to your child

Stay positive and promote their self esteem



Reading

A child learning to read can cause many anxious moments for parents. It pays to remember that we are all different. Children learn to read at different speeds. Some have no trouble and speed along meeting all the learning milestones. Some take a little longer to get going. Reading is a combination of oral language, experiences and the mysterious workings of the brain. All we can do as parents and educators is facilitate the learning. At school this involves teaching strategies, exploring language, building comprehension and understanding, encouraging risk taking and providing daily opportunities for practise. At home it's about practise without stress. Your child will be keen to share their reading with you but it can turn into a battle if your child is tired or unwilling. On these occasions please just read to your child.

When reading with your child at home take the time to talk about the book first. Discuss the pictures and words that might be in the book. One of the first strategies children learn is to get their mouth ready for the initial letter of a word. So knowing the letter names and sounds is very important. Pictures provide important clues for beginning readers so please don't cover them up.

If your child gets stuck on a word try the following three steps:

- 1 Pause and wait to see if they work it out.
- 2 Prompt them e.g. look at the first letter? What is in the picture? Let's go back to the beginning of the sentence. Etc Tell them the word if they can't work it out.
- 3 Praise your child

Opportunities to read with your child are all around. Look at signs, read while doing the shopping, read cards, addresses on mail, labels etc.

Most of all make reading an enjoyable activity.

Reading to your child is an important way for your child to develop language and other literacy skills. It should be part of the daily routine.

Mathematics

Practise counting with your child. Count seeds to plant in the garden, pegs to hang out the washing, knives and forks to put on the table, dog biscuits to feed the dog etc.

Talk about and read numbers, on calendars, clocks, prices tags etc

Play board games like snakes and ladders

Play with money

Measure things. Cooking with your child provides a great opportunity for weighing and measuring.

Parent Guide for School Entrant Skills

Reading	Writing	Oral	Maths
Will happily sit and listen to a story	Can hold a writing tool securely	Speak in a sentence	Say the numbers from 1 to 10 in the correct order
Know we read from front to back of book and left to right of the page	Can write an approximation of their name with 5 letters correct	Recount a personal experience	Make sets to 5 using 1-1 matching
Know the sounds for 10 letters	Draw pictures about their experience	Listen and respond to two-part instructions	Recognise numerals to 5
Can retell a story using pictures	Attempts to form letters and shapes to convey a message	Able to answer a question with relevant sentence	Knows basic colours and shapes and can sort objects by colour, shape or size
Can suggest a rhyming word to complete the pattern E.g. "Jack and Jill Went up the ____"	Attempts to read back their writing	Able to ask for help when needed	Can use positional words correctly E.g. above, below, beside, under, in front, behind

General

Play games like eye spy this helps with alphabet knowledge.

Play memory games.

Learn nursery rhymes/ poems off by heart.

Talk lots.

Join a library.

All the best preparing your child for school. Have fun enjoy the journey.

Regards Pat Wheeldon

