

Starting School

Kindergarten 2021

Balgowlah North Public School

We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians on whose land our school rests. Their footsteps and whispers blow in the wind, drift on the clouds, remain deep in the sandstone and float on the waterways of this place. Their memories and Dreaming stories will continue to connect us to the land and guide future generations of our school community.

Country is alive if you take the time to look, listen and learn.



Our school leadership team

Principal: Mrs Brooke Keevers

Acting Deputy: Principal: Belinda Norrie

Assistant Principal: Rachel Ridley

Relieving Assistant Principal: Alice Pond

Relieving Assistant Principal: Sascha Carroll

Relieving Assistant Principal: Patricia Vitale/ Susie Stock

Communicating with the school

Contact	Concern/Question/Information
School Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Health issues – more serious e.g. ongoing medication· Administering of medication at school – short term e.g. antibiotics· Custody/Court Orders· Absent notes via the school app· Change of address or emergency contact details· Enrolment forms· Application for exemption (leave longer than 15 days needs approval)· Child leaving the school· School policy or process· Excursion/Incursion<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Permission Note○ Payments
Classroom Teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Academic progress of child· Welfare of own child· Health issues - minor· Behaviour or actions of a student (in class/playground)· Parent-Teacher Interviews· Student Login details



Communicating with the school

Clear, open and effective communication between parents and teachers is vital to ensuring our students are supported and meet their full potential.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's learning, development or well-being it is important you contact your child's teacher to schedule a time for an interview.

Our communication to you:

- ★ School App/Website/Newsletter
- ★ Parent-Teacher Interviews
- ★ Student Reports
- ★ Emails (Assistant Principals and/or the Deputy Principal may be copied into an email to a parent/caregiver)
- ★ Phone Calls (in some instances a phone call to a parent/caregiver will be the preferable mode of contact)
- ★ P&C Meetings
- ★ Notes

SchoolZine



Please ensure you download the Schoolzine app for all communication in 2021.

Diverse Learner's Team

Our Diverse Learner's Team supports any students with additional needs. These may be academic, social, emotional or behavioural needs.

If your child's class teacher is concerned about your child they will discuss these concerns with you. If it is deemed necessary for these issues to be referred to the Diverse Learner's Team, your consent will be obtained.

The Diverse Learner's Team will develop a plan to support your child and you will be updated on how program modifications and adjustments are progressing.

Our Diverse Learner's Team is comprised of our Principal, Deputy Principal, School Counsellor, Learning and Support Teacher and the Assistant Principal and Class Teacher of identified students.

Attendance

Establishing positive attendance practices for your child is an essential part of their first year of school.

Partial absences must be recorded at the school office when the child enters the school late or leaves early for any reason.

Appointments should occur outside of school hours wherever possible.

If your child is participating in a support service with an external provider, this should not interrupt the school day. If you wish for your child to seek external support during school hours on an ongoing basis, a submission for approval must be made to the Diverse Learner's Team.

Uniforms

Uniforms can be purchased through Pickles or the Clothing Pool.

Clothing Pool uniforms must be ordered by **November 10th.**

All Pickles uniform orders must be received by the **end of the 2020 school year.**

Canteen

We have a wonderful, healthy canteen that provides breakfast, morning tea and lunch for our students.

Orders can be placed through the flexischools app.

You will be provided with a 2021 menu in your information packs next year.



Orientation

- Builds confidence.
- Develops familiarity with the structures and behaviour expectations of the classroom.
- Supports students in feeling safe and familiar with their new environment.
- Enables students to begin to form new friendships.



Our two orientation sessions

We commence our orientation sessions with open playstations that are structured similarly to an early childhood learning space. This gives us a chance to settle our new students in a familiar environment and for them to begin interacting with students with similar interests.

Once students are settled, we conduct some circle activities that will involve music, games and shared stories.



Our two orientation sessions

Students will have the opportunity to participate in a structured literacy or numeracy activity.

In our second orientation session, we will take students for a walk around the school so they can become familiar with their new environment.

There will be the opportunity for students to ask questions about what 'big school' is going to be like.

Getting Ready for School

Routines

- ★ Start to build routines now that will support positive days at school. For example, early bedtimes, morning getting ready process.
- ★ Visual timetables can be a great tool for building consistent routines.
- ★ Over the summer holidays, get your child used to eating a snack and lunch at the same time as our school schedule.



Getting Ready for School

Independence

★ Foster independence in everyday activities:



- Getting dressed and undressed
- Opening and closing lunch boxes and drink bottles
- Packing their own pencil case and school bag etc.
- Putting on their school shoes (please only buy lace up shoes if your child can manage laces independently).

Getting Ready for School

Drop Offs

- ★ Develop positive drop off routines that you can transfer to school.
- ★ Focus on independence.
- ★ Make the drop off quick and efficient.
- ★ Keep every drop off consistent and calm.
- ★ If your child finds separating from you in the morning difficult, please discuss this with your early childhood teachers so they can work on these skills prior to starting school.



Getting Ready for School

Building Literacy Skills



























- ★ Spend time reading to your child and sharing stories every day.
- ★ Ask questions about the stories you read- discuss characters and the ways the child can relate the events of the story to their own life.
- ★ Ask your child to recount their experiences using dialogue and drawings.
- ★ Ensure you show your child what their name looks like in writing so they can recognise their name when they come to school. If they can write their name that is a bonus!



Getting Ready for School

Building Literacy Skills

- ★ Correct your child if they need support articulating their letter sounds or speaking in full sentences. Similarly, role-model the correct use of pronouns and tense if they still confuse these in their oral language.
- ★ If your child is interested in letters, encourage them to recognise them in their everyday environment.
- ★ Ensure your child is using the correct pencil grip every time they draw or write.
- ★ Recite nursery rhymes and sing songs that rhyme- rhyming is an essential phonological skill that a child must develop before they can learn to read and write.

												
Around Up Down	Down Up Around	Around	Around Up Down	Around Around	Around Down LIFT Cross	Around Up Down Around	Down Up Around Down	Down LIFT Dot	Down Around LIFT Dot	Down Up Around Down	Down	Down Up Around Down Up Around Down
												
Down Up Around Down	Around	Down Up Around	Around Up Down Around	Down Up Around	Around Around	Down LIFT Cross	Down Around Up Down	Down Up	Down Around Up Down Around Up	Down LIFT Down	Down Around Up Down Around	Cross Down Cross

Getting Ready for School

Building Numeracy Skills

- ★ Discuss numbers in your everyday environment (on food packaging, letter boxes, at the supermarket, number plates etc).
- ★ Encourage your child to count everyday items using one to one correspondence.
- ★ Discuss shapes, colours and patterns you can see around your house.
- ★ Explore puzzles, play dice games or with playing cards.



Getting Ready for School

Building Fine Motor Skills

- ★ Playdough
- ★ Puzzles
- ★ Beading
- ★ Craft
- ★ Cutting and pasting
- ★ Buttons, laces, zips
- ★ Lego
- ★ Colouring In books
- ★ Playing with kitchen tongs, tweezers and pegs



Getting Ready for School

Emotional wellbeing and resilience

- ★ Encourage your child to verbalise their feelings and discuss strategies for managing those feelings. Encourage and positively reinforce resilience and self-regulation.
- ★ Encourage your child to ask for assistance if they need it- encourage the mentality that mistakes are a part of learning and everyone needs help sometimes.
- ★ Engage in social interactions that allow them to consolidate social skills of sharing, taking turns, engaging in reciprocal conversation.



Best Start

Best Start Kindergarten Assessment is a state-wide assessment that helps teachers identify the literacy and numeracy skills of each student at the beginning of Kindergarten.



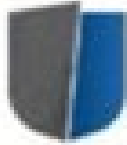
Best Start

Your child will have a one-on-one interview time with a teacher at the beginning of the school year.

- The interview will go for approximately 30 minutes.
- Interview times will be made via the Schoolzine website.
- Bookings will open on Monday 30th November
- Bookings will close on Friday 11th December

You will be sent an email with further details of the Best Start group your child has been allocated. You can also access a booking guide for Schoolzine at:

<https://www.schoolzine.com/sk-booking-guide>



Demo School

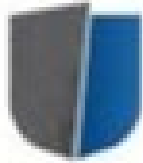


Please enter your email

Email

Example@gmail.com

Login



Demo School



Password Setup Required

Click **Send** to receive an email and setup your password.

Back

Send

If you are booking for a student you will see your linked children.

You can also add children if they are not already in the system.


To do this you will need to click the **Add Student** button, enter in your child's **First Name** and **Last Name** then click **Save**.



Search Staff


Select Filter

Select all Staff




Master Yoda
4B/ Maths

✓ Selected



Clark Kent
5K/Science Teacher

55 Available Times



Bruce Wayne
3B/Arts

60 Available Times



1 SELECTED STAFF

Master Yoda (4B/ Maths)

viewing 1 - 3 of 3

Next

 Master Yoda
4B/ Maths

 24 Sep 2018  

25m 08:00 AM	25m 09:10 AM	25m 09:45 AM	25m 10:20 AM	25m 10:55 AM	25m 11:30 AM
25m 12:05 PM	25m 12:40 PM	25m 01:15 PM	25m 01:50 PM	25m 02:25 PM	25m 03:00 PM
25m 03:35 PM	25m 04:10 PM				

1 SELECTED TIMES

 Master Yoda (4B/ Maths) 

 Monday, 24 Sep 2018

 03:35 PM (25 Mins)

Back

Next



Staff



Select Times



Review Times



Success

Your booking is complete!



Master Yoda
4B/ Maths



Approved




Monday, 24 Sep 2018



3:35 PM (25 mins)



I might be running a few minutes late. - Penny

 My Bookings

Dates

Best Start Interviews

- Friday 29th January
- Monday 1st February
- Tuesday 2nd February

First Day of School

- Wednesday 3rd February

****Kindergarten students will finish at 2.45pm for the first two weeks of school. Koolkuna will pick them up early during this period.***



Starting School

First day of school will be **Wednesday 3rd February**

Your child will meet their class teacher for the year on their first day of school.

Kindergarten students will finish their school day at 2:45pm for the first 2 weeks of school.

Starting School

Our school day:

8:30am: Playground supervision commences

8:57am: Get ready for school bell

9:00am: Morning learning session

11:00am: Morning Tea

11:20am: Middle learning session

12:40pm: Eating Time

12:50pm: Lunch time play

1:40pm: Afternoon learning session

3:00pm: End of the school day

For the first couple of weeks Kindergarten students are given extended eating time at morning tea and lunchtime.

We ask that our students bring a snack for **Crunch and Sip** each morning.

We also schedule additional bathroom visits for the first few days of school. Children are encouraged to visit the bathroom at break times from their first day of school.

Starting School

Some helpful tips:

- ★ Remember starting school is a transition for the whole family- students will pick up on what mum and dad are feeling.
- ★ Keep language positive in the lead up to starting school but try not to make 'starting big school' an enormous build up as this can be very overwhelming for our students.
- ★ Ask one or two questions at the end of the day to engage with your child. Try not to focus too much on who they played with and what new friends they made.

Starting School

- ★ Did you read a story today?
- ★ Tell who was kind to you today?
- ★ Did you play on the play equipment at lunchtime?
- ★ What was your favourite part of the day?
- ★ Did anyone do something funny today?
- ★ How many out of 10 would you score today?
- ★ Did you like your lunch?
- ★ Did you do something nice for someone today?
- ★ Did anything make you feel unhappy today?
- ★ Tell me how you were brave today?
- ★ Was there something you found challenging?
- ★ Who did you sit next to on the floor/at your tables today?

Starting School

Some helpful tips (continued):

- ★ It is normal for them to be VERY tired in Term One- even if they have been at long daycare 5 days a week.
- ★ Prioritise rest and unstructured play after school.
- ★ Some students will experience behavioural changes at home as they go through this transition. Remember some of this is very normal and will pass as they adapt to school. If you are concerned about anything at all, it is important you schedule a time to speak with your child's teacher.
- ★ Please ensure your child always has a spare change of clothes in their bag- you will be notified of all toileting accidents.

Further Information

You will be provided with an information pack with relevant school information and procedures when your child comes in for their Best Start assessment in 2021.

We also ask that you complete our online transition to school survey via Google Forms:

<https://forms.gle/6kNLZX2SRhCh8Xxm9>

This survey includes your consent for us to communicate with your child's preschool or Long Day Care Provider.

Thank you

