



Exford Primary School

'Where Children Count'



Handbook for Parents

**Enjoy the happy, safe family atmosphere of
your local rural school and our unique learning environment.**

Exford Primary School

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Welcome to Exford PS!

This handbook has been prepared to support your family's experience at our school. Most of the important information you will need can be found in this handbook. If by any chance you need other information or have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school at any time.

From May 2013, the Department of Education has placed an enrolment area around us. Siblings of currently enrolled children (who may not live in the enrolment area and for whom we are the not the closest neighbourhood school) are still able to attend at Exford PS.

Exford Primary School Where Children Count

Updated October 2018



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SCHOOL PROFILE



Exford Primary School was opened on July 1, 1902 under the name of Exford Estate School. We hope you like the historical photo, which is hanging proudly in our school Office.

Exford PS school is located on Exford Road, six kilometres from Melton South within the Shire of Melton boundaries, on a 1.2-hectare site surrounded by farming land. Our enrolment neighbourhood includes: Exford, Strathtulloh, Weir Views (including Exford Waters and Seventh Bend estates), Eynesbury and parts of Parwan, Mt Cottrell and the new Millstone estate (see our website for our enrolment neighbourhood map).

Exford Primary School is unique; it continues to offer a small school feel (even though we have grown a bit!) in a semi-rural school environment, whilst having the latest technology and a staff who are committed to supporting our students to be their best. We have the best of both worlds, a lovely rural setting where we get to visit our neighbour's shearing shed each year, whilst having great resources for our children in their classrooms. There is an election promise from the Deputy Premier for a \$6.25 million upgrade of our school - see media link: <http://www.starweekly.com.au/news/election-promise-for-exford-primary-school1/>



From May 2013, an enrolment boundary was placed around the school. Our students come from the local area, including Exford, Eynesbury, Mt Cottrell, Strathtulloh and the Weir Views estate, with the remainder of students (and their siblings) travelling from Melton and surrounding districts (who were already enrolled at the time of the enrolment neighbourhood's commencement).

We have a current enrolment of 440 students (October 2018), with 18 classes. We anticipate enrolment numbers of between 450-470 students across 20 classes for 2019.

At Exford, our children are at the centre of all of our thinking and decision making. Together, our Staff and our community form a protective circle around the children, working together to support our kids to be the best they can be.

At Exford, we have high expectations of the way we relate towards each other, with courteous and respectful behaviour being expected of children, our families and our staff. We encourage our children to be practising using their manners and behaving in a respectful and friendly manner at all times. Our adult community work together to provide great role models for our children.

Parents seek the high quality educational program offered by the school as evidenced by the:

- Personal and family oriented atmosphere
- Successful transition program with pre-schools and Secondary colleges
- Commitment of the students, staff and parents
- Effective and friendly communication within the school community
- Individual caring and support for all students

At Exford PS, our focus is on supporting the complete development of your child, not only in terms of their academic success. We provide enrichment programs that encourage the development of positive interpersonal and relationship skills, with a real emphasis on displaying manners and courtesies.



An administration building supports the new and well-resourced portable classrooms, which all have reverse-cycle air-conditioning, Apple TVs, laptops and iPads.

The generous playground and surrounds complement the country feel of the school. A modern covered adventure play area, synthetic oval surface, grass areas and all weather surfaces enhance the outdoor area.

Exford provides a comprehensive and rewarding curriculum that strives to meet the needs and interests of individual students. The rural outlook of the school provides a happy, safe, friendly and secure environment for its students, staff and parents.

Exford Primary School is committed to sharing achievements, planning for the future and caring for each child's development. Each student's progress is regularly communicated to parents through informal chats, information sessions, interviews and written reports. We also have a school app 'Seesaw', which has weekly updates on children's learning - this includes photos and video clips of the children at work and at play, assessment rubrics and communicating learning goals.

The school enjoys the strong support and respect of the parent and local Exford community, School Council and staff. Parental participation and involvement engenders pride, warmth, a sense of belonging and a strong partnership between home and school. Parents are encouraged to be involved in the Friday 'Sharing' Assemblies, as Classroom Helpers, at Sport/Interschool Sport, Canteen and special theme days. Parents are involved in School Council; our SC committees work within the SC meeting times and oversee our Fundraising group, Canteen, policy development and the development of facilities and resources. All parent volunteers must provide their Working With Children Check and also commit to following our school's Child Safe and confidentiality codes of conduct.

Our Strategic Plan, 2017 - 2020 begins with the following vision statement:

'At Exford PS, our focus is on supporting the complete development of our children: their academic success and the development of positive interpersonal and relationship skills, with a real emphasis on displaying manners and courtesies.'



Our Year 5 and 6 students elect Year 6 students to the important role of School and Vice Captains (pictured). The School Captains work with the Principal in presenting our Assemblies.

We have a selection process to elect Junior School Council Student Leaders in the areas of: School Values, Sustainability, Sports Leaders, Arts Leaders and STEAM Leaders. JSCs provide a student voice and work with a teacher regularly throughout the year. The JSCs also organise fundraising activities for identified charities.

At Exford, these qualities are really important:

Respect



Kindness



Personal Best



... and it's up to all of us to show them every day in every thing we say and every thing we do!

We have a strong emphasis on the wellbeing of our students and have strong pastoral care practices in place. We place great emphasis on exploring our school values and courtesies in our classrooms and along with our families, have high expectations about the way we treat each other, modelling this to students at all times. Our classrooms are calm learning environments which provide for children's learning on an individual basis.

We hold a 'Sharing' Assembly each week, which incorporates student leadership and public speaking, and presenting awards, such as Student of the Week awards, given out for one of our important Exford values. Photos of our Students of the Week are displayed on a special noticeboard outside the Office each week. We have special days throughout the year, whole school excursions and a Christmas concert at the end of the year which also celebrates the Graduation of our Year 6 students.

Monday morning Assembly at 8:50 am - includes Acknowledgement of Country, National Anthem and our welcome to the week.

Friday afternoon Assembly at 3:10 pm - includes our Students of the Week presentation.

Exford Primary School provides a balanced, comprehensive curriculum, which includes Integrated Studies and Specialist programs. The core purpose of Exford Primary School is to deliver high quality education to equip our students for the challenges of the 21st century.

We help each individual to:

- Learn and grow in self-confidence and esteem
- Develop interpersonal skills - the important manners and courtesies, as well as the confidence to deal with a range of social situations
- Become a self-motivated and responsible learner
- Achieve success in learning, particularly in Literacy, Numeracy and Technology
- Acquire and develop the skills for: decision making, problem solving, critical thinking and creativity

Our staff are caring, motivated and professional educators, who have high expectations of themselves, their colleagues and their students. The staff is responsible for the implementation and evaluation of the domains of English, Mathematics, Health & Physical Education, Technology, Science, Humanities, The Arts and LOTE (Languages Other Than English - Auslan: Australian Sign Language).

Exford Primary School actively plans for the future, keeping abreast of educational trends and ensuring that the learning environment is safe and attractive. Our classroom programs aim to engage students in their learning and through daily attendance and a feeling of enjoyment and success at school, we are able to support students to be connected to their school, their teachers and their classmates.

Classroom programs cater for the needs of every student.

Our commitment to small class sizes supports our teachers to thoroughly know and act upon each child's learning needs each and every day, providing support and extension for children who require it (as opposed to students having intervention or extension groups twice a week). As we grow as a school, we have focused on growing our curriculum and ensuring a consistency of curriculum and classroom program delivery across our classes.

Literacy and Mathematics are the main focus of our teaching and learning across our classrooms. A comprehensive assessment schedule ensures students are catered for across all areas of the key learning areas and our teaching teams explicitly plan for and teach children based on their identified learning areas.

We have a Leading Teacher, whose role is entirely focused on supporting the Teaching and Learning programs across our school, working with our Professional Learning Teams and their Leaders. We also have a Learning Specialist Teacher, who is classroom based, who influences teachers through classroom observations and demonstrating exemplary practice.

Our Specialist programs are:

- The Arts (including Visual and Performing Arts)
- Language Other than English - Australian Sign Language
- Physical Education
- eLearning (Information Communication Technology), Science and Library - embedded in the classroom programs and taken by the class teachers

Information Communication Technology (ICT) and eLearning

Our students have daily opportunities to use ICT as a regular part of their learning. Teachers are able to provide ICT experiences and equipment to enhance the learning and teaching opportunities for all students. The use of ICT in all domains aims to equip our students to be proficient in important technologies, so essential to their future studies and eventual employment.

Our Year 3-6 classrooms have networked laptops and iPads and our Prep-2 students have iPads in their classrooms. These are complemented by the provision of scanners, digital cameras, flip cameras, multi-media projectors, colour printers and Wi-Fi access throughout our school. We have installed Apple TVs in all our classrooms. Our teachers receive regular opportunities to improve their own technology skills.

Over the past few years, our Fundraising efforts have been used to provide additional funds for ICT for our classrooms, with the iPad leases being paid for by our fundraising dollars and the installation of our Gallery ICT facilities.

We are investigating a voluntary Managed Bring Your Own Device program to sit alongside our leased iPads - stay tuned.

The next section of this information book lays out, in alphabetical order, important information for our families.

ALLERGIES

We have a number of students who have serious ANAPHYLACTIC allergies. Each child is required to have an Anaphylaxis Plan and all staff are aware of their individual needs and management strategies.

APPS

Exford PS uses a range of apps to communicate with our families and these can be downloaded free from your App store.

We use:

- FlexiBuzz, Seesaw, QKR (online payment app) and we will introduce a new online Canteen ordering app in 2019

QKR

QKR is an online payment app for paying school costs, such as school excursions, Camps, Book Packs etc. We add the charge for the activity for the relevant student groups and parents are able to organise the payment by the due date. We ask that you include the payment reference code on the student permission sheet which needs to be returned to school by the due date.



SCHOOL APP - 'FLEXIBUZZ'

We use 'FlexiBuzz', our school app to communicate with our families and download instructions and which 'feeds' to select are available. Our newsletter is sent home this way and also any updates for our families. We ask that you download the app, select the 'whole school' feed, as well as the appropriate year level feeds.

SEESAW

We introduced Seesaw in 2017 and our use has evolved over our first two years of its implementation. Through Seesaw, parents can engage in their children's learning at school through viewing and commenting on their children's digital learning portfolio. You can invite other family members to have access - that is at your discretion. Teachers will add regular information about children's learning goals, achievements, activities and special moments. The students themselves will also post to their Seesaw portfolio.



ALLOWANCES & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Families holding a health care card can apply for the CSEF grant - Camps, school excursions Fund. This fund comes to the school to be used against these expenses for students.

ATTENDANCE & ABSENCES

Exford Primary School expects a high level of school attendance for all our students, although we do understand that occasionally a child is too ill to come to school. The classroom teachers have monitoring and encouragement practices in place, such as the sticker charts for children to mark their attendance, as well as marking the class roll daily. At the end of each semester, students reaching 95+ % attendance receive a special certificate.

If a student is absent through illness, the parent or guardian must explain this in writing - you can:

- Use our school app, FlexiBuzz (preferred option as we then have the required written advice from parents).
- Call the school prior to 8:45 am
- Use the FlexiBuzz contact tabs to send an email
- Write a letter/note when the student returns to school.

To help students maintain a high level of attendance, it is best to organise appointments (e.g. doctors) for outside school hours where at all possible.

EVERY DAY COUNTS

In primary school, some students miss on average **3 weeks** of school per year. That's **half a year** of school by the end of year 6.

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: education.vic.gov.au

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

AS A LEARNING COMMUNITY

Victoria

THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDENT ATTENDANCE

If your child has missed 5 days or less this semester

This will support your child to achieve their best at school - academically and personally.

If your child has missed more than 10 days this semester

The amount of time your child is missing will impact on their learning and their friendships.

If your child has missed more than 15 days this semester

Your child is missing so much time from school that it will be extremely difficult for them to keep up with their learning and their friendships.

Any planned absences are requested to be in writing in advance and a parent meeting needs to be held and an Absence Individual Learning Plan developed for the student's absence.

The classroom teachers will phone the parents on the second day of any period of absence. Any more than 5 days absence in a school year begins to impact on student learning and connectedness in a negative manner and children need to be at school every day that they are well.

See also Early Dismissals & Late Arrivals.

BANKING

Commonwealth Bank and their Dollarmite Savings accounts give all children the opportunity of banking with a coupon book system through the school. The school receives a commission from the bank for each deposit that a child makes. Application forms are distributed in Term 1 and are available through the office. **Bank Day is Monday** and Bank Books need to come to the Office. Little brothers and sisters are also able to lodge their Dollarmites accounts at our school.

BIRTHDAYS AT SCHOOL

We ask that the children come to school on their birthday, as part of our emphasis on children being at school every day - but never fear, we make a big fuss of students on their birthdays at school. Parents are encouraged to send along birthday cupcakes or some other treat for the children to share with their class and favourite adults. Their classes make a fuss and children are sent to the Office as well for a birthday song and sticker and photos of their special moments are posted to Seesaw for you to share in.



BOOKCLUB

Children have the opportunity to buy good quality books at discount prices from Scholastic Book Club. An order form is sent home for parents to purchase books, if they wish.



Twice yearly, the school also conducts a Book Fair where you and your child can view the books and then place on order for those you require. Commission from the Fairs assists our school Library.

BUS

Public Transport Victoria provide us with two buses which bring Eynesbury students to school and returns them in the afternoon. You need to complete a PTV bus form and then advise us of the days your child / children need the bus (minimum of 3 days return trips). FlexiBuzz needs to be used to advise us of your child's absence from the bus service before or on the day of travel.

Continued failure to let us know if your child **won't** be using the bus will result in your child losing their bus allocation. The first two bus runs **must** depart punctually so that the second bus runs can depart by 4 pm. Please keep the bus zone (shown by yellow parking markers) free during the morning and afternoon times.

CAMPS PROGRAM

We have a fabulous camps program which supports our students from Year Prep to 6. Camping programs offer children the chance to stay away from home in a supportive and carefully supervised environment, to be self-sufficient and to build stronger friendships with their classmates and peers.

- Our Prep and Year 1 students have a special activity which is usually held at the school.
- Our Year 2 students have a two day / one night program at a registered Camp
- Our Year 3-4 students have a three day / two night program at a registered Camp
- Our Year 5-6 students have a five day / four night program at a registered Camp



Our staff attend the Camps with the students, and wherever possible, the Principal and / or Assistant Principal also attends the activities for all or part of the time.

CANTEEN

The Canteen operates daily, with a daily 'Green' menu and an 'Amber' menu three days per week. All other lunch items need to be pre-ordered. A lunch order list is distributed at the start of each year and at other times when required.

To order your child's lunch, write the items required on a brown paper bag along with the child's name and grade, place the money inside the bag. The child needs to place the order in the lunch box in his/her room. If change is required it will be taped or stapled into the corner of the bag. Please remind your child not to throw out the bag without checking. Online ordering is also available.

CAR PARKING

Please note that the **entry** and **exit** to the school car parks are marked clearly and you need to enter the car parks slowly and carefully. We ask that you park carefully and that you don't stop in the middle of the car-park to drop children off as this causes congestion. As we are concerned for the safety of all of our children, we ask that you bring your child (Year 2 and younger) to the school gate and collect him/her from the gate at the end of the day. Given 100 % of children are driven, our two car parks are very busy places. We actively encourage you to arrive between 3:30 - 3:45 pm - to stagger the busy-ness of this space. Children remain under the supervision of staff at the end of the day, at the two pedestrian gates and on the playground.

CLASS TIMES

8.40 am	Staff on duty in the playground until 9 am
8.50 am	Teachers & Children into class
9.00 am - 11.00 am	Class teaching time
11.00 am - 11.30 am	Recess - Staff on duty in the playground
11.30 am - 1.30 pm	Class teaching time
1.30 pm - 2.30 pm	Lunch - Staff on duty in the playground and at lunch time clubs
2.30 pm - 3.30 pm	Class teaching time
3.30 pm	Dismissal - Staff on duty until 3:45 pm

Please let us know if you are running late or caught in traffic and we are happy to observe the children for you for a short period of time. As a matter of course, any students not yet collected are brought into the school building at the end of the afternoon Yard Duty.

COLLECTION OF MONIES

Money is collected at various times of the year for different reasons. When forwarding money the school requests that it be enclosed in an envelope with the child's name, class and purpose of payment clearly written on the front. It **MUST** be handed in at the Office where it is recorded in our Register) before 9.00 am. Pre-printed envelopes are available at all times from the Office. We also have QKR, which is an online parent payment app for school activities. We ask that the receipt number be included when the activity permission note is returned to school.



COMMUNICATION

We consider that communication between home and school is very important and an essential element of the home/school partnership, together we can enhance the learning outcomes for your child. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have a concern or a comment that you would like to contribute. Communication books may be used between the teacher and parents if required. You are also able to make an appointment to see the Principal / Assistant Principal at any time you feel that to be appropriate, to chat confidentially over a family issue or a concern for your child. We'd much prefer you come and see us than worry over something we can help you with!

Our philosophy is that *together we can provide a strong, caring and supportive network for each child in our care*. You can always send us an email through the Contact tabs in our FlexiBuzz app or through the school email address - exford.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au which is monitored by Ms Campo.

EARLY DISMISSAL / LATE ARRIVALS

If you need to collect your child earlier than 3.30 pm, you are required to go to the office and sign them out electronically indicating the dismissal date, time and reason.

Any late arrivals (e.g.: after 9.00 am) will need to go to the Office to sign in. The Office staff will then notify the classroom teacher. Continual late arrival will affect your child's learning time and also affects all their class mates with interruptions at the start of the school day. Please also see Attendances & Absences.

If any other person is to collect your children, we request a phone call from you or for you to let us know in person or by note **prior** to the adult arriving at school - this is part of our student safety practices.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION / STUDENT RECORDS



At the beginning of each school year, parents need to provide the school with up to date emergency information. If changes occur during the year, such as a new telephone number or change of emergency contact, please notify the school as soon as possible. We often need to contact parents for a variety of reasons.

We cannot emphasise enough the importance of updating student records. In an emergency we may need all the information available. Information such as emergency contact number, addresses and telephone numbers are kept for all students. Medical records are also recorded. This information is kept on our computer system. *Should parents change address or workplace, or if medical records need updating it is essential that the office be advised at once*. The school should also be notified immediately of any changes to a student medical record.

ENROLLING STUDENTS

When enrolling a student for the first time, the following are required.

1. Completed Schools' Enrolment Form
2. Proof of Date of Birth (Birth Certificate)
3. School Entry Immunisation Certificate (obtainable from the Childhood Immunisation Registry).

Children need to be 5 years of age by 30 April in the year that they commence school.

Children also need to live within Exford's enrolment area, you can clarify this with the school. Please feel free to contact the school to have a meeting with our Principal, Ms Campo, for a tour and a chat about your child.

FIRST AID / SICK BAY

We have a dedicated First Aid team who are all Level 2 First Aid trained and do the refresher training each year (CPR) component.

Please ensure we have accurate information regarding your child's health needs and also your contact information. **It is vital that medical records and emergency telephone numbers are kept up to date at all times.**

Children are encouraged to tell their class teacher or the teacher on Yard Duty if they are unwell. If necessary, they will be sent to the Sick Bay in the Administrative block. First Aid will be rendered to those requiring treatment. We are, however, unable to look after sick children at

school so parents should not send children who are already unwell; it is also not wise to send sick children as they can make other children unwell.

NOTIFYING PARENTS

Children who are injured or become unwell will be sent home after contact has been made with a parent or another adult (which you have listed as an emergency contact) who is able to care for them. A copy of the Sick Bay Report will be sent home with the child.

Please be aware that if your child receives a 'knock' to the head, the genitals or to the spine, you will receive a courtesy call to let you know, as what's ok now, may not be in several hours and we far prefer to inform parents directly, rather than rely on a note getting home.

MEDICATION

We are happy to help with medications, however, these need to be signed in at the Office with clear medication instructions. We need an up to date copy of Asthma, Epilepsy or Anaphylaxis Action Plans and relevant medications. We have a storage system for all Asthma, Hayfever and Epipens in our Sick Bay and Office.

TOILET ACCIDENTS

In the case of toilet accidents, children change themselves wherever possible, or with the assistance of two members of staff - we will advise you if this has needed to happen. We ask that Prep children have a spare set of clothes in their bags for the first two terms - accidents do happen! Please return loaned EPS clothing, as we don't have a large stock. When we run out of stock, parents will need to come to collect their children to change them and then return them to school.

FUNDRAISING

Exford Primary School has had great success through the Fundraising Committee which operates within our School Council sub-committees.



We organise Fundraising events throughout the year - Walkathon, Raffles, Cookie Dough orders, Tony's Pies orders, Mother's Day and Father's Day Stalls and our Christmas Concert BBQ and stalls event.

Meetings are advertised through our newsletter and noticeboards and all parents, guardians and grandparents are welcome to attend and assist. If you are unable to attend a meeting, please contact the office and the Fundraising Committee can contact you as to what transpired and perhaps where they need additional assistance.

During Term 3 2018, we re-surveyed our community regarding the use of our Fundraising dollars supporting part payment of the iPad leases and the majority of responses indicate support for our continued use of Fundraising dollars in this way. We provide 10 leased iPads per classroom, through our Fundraising efforts.

HEAD LICE

Information can be obtained about treatment for head lice from the school, Melton Shire or local chemist. Parents need to check their children's hair regularly for head lice as it is a common problem in schools. The school has a head lice policy for the better management of this tricky problem and we have trained head lice inspection staff who assist at a school level. ALL CHILDREN with live head lice need to be sent home, as per School Council policy. Children with eggs are entitled to remain at school. Please see our Head Lice Policy on our website.

Note - head lice don't 'jump', but they do transfer through students' hair coming within range of transfer - thus our request that shoulder length hair be tied back.

HOMEWORK

We expect the child's school and home to work together to allow him/her to reach their potential. All children will be given homework on a regular basis. Please ensure that it is completed. Children are also expected to read each night. The school has a Homework policy in place to guide us in the implementation of this process and it is available on our website. This policy is outlined at the start of each school year.

IMMUNISATION CERTIFICATE

In order to increase the level of immunisation against infectious diseases the Health Department of Victoria has introduced a scheme that applies to Preparatory Year enrolments in all schools since 1990 and progressively throughout the school population. IMMUNISATION Certificates are to be retained in the school in which the student is enrolled. In the case of an outbreak of a particular disease (Measles, Polio or Diphtheria) the Principal must notify the Municipal Health Officer and supply a list of students who have not been immunised against that particular disease. Directions will then be given that students who have not been immunised do not attend school for the period recommended in the exclusion table. (Refer to Infectious Diseases Chart).

The Immunisation Certificate must be presented at the time of enrolment. The Certificate is available from the Childhood Immunisation Registry.

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

The school has a large number of laptops, iPads, Apple TVs, digital cameras and scanners. Each classroom has a number of iPads and children are encouraged to use these on a daily basis. We have invested in a number of programs which support the students' learning and skill development. The school is also connected to the Internet, with students accessing the internet through DET filters and under teacher supervision. Children are subject to our Use of ICT / Cyber safety agreements, which outline safe use of the technology and behaving sensibly, safely and respectfully online.

APPLE TVs

The school has Apple TVs in all of our classrooms, including specialist spaces. This technology provides engaging activities for students, allowing them, along with their teacher, to create and change authentic pieces of work which are displayed on the Apple TVs from the iPads or MacBook Airls. We have been adding to the range of apps which we can use as both a teaching tool and for student activities.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS

Performing Arts Headquarters Bacchus Marsh provide instrumental music lessons (guitar, keyboard, drums, woodwind instruments, singing etc) for students within the school day. Parents enrol their students with PAHQ and their teachers come to us at Exford for the music lessons. Instrument hire can also be arranged.

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL / STUDENT LEADERS

The Junior School Council is a group of students selected to Student Leadership roles (such as School Values, School Sports Leaders, Sustainability, Arts Ambassadors and STEAM Leaders). The purpose of the Junior School Council Student Leader roles is to provide the students of the school with a forum in which they can be involved in leading elements of our school, with adult guidance. After discussion at a Junior School Council level, recommendations are passed on to the staff and the School Council for further action.

Our JSC decide on and organise the fundraising for charities each year, as part of their leadership training and community responsibility. Meetings are facilitated by a staff member and run by our School Captains.

Four Year 6 students are elected by their peers and staff to the roles of School Captains and Vice School Captains.

LIBRARY

The children visit the Library each week and can borrow books to bring home to share. Our Library always has some lovely literature displays for the children. This space is open to the students every day at lunchtime under teacher supervision. We encourage our students to purchase the school Library bag, which is made of water-proof material, to keep the borrowed books safe from leaky drink bottles.

LOST PROPERTY

All articles of clothing found at school are sent to the office and returned to their owner. If the items are not named, they are then put in a lost property box, which is kept in the Sick Bay. Clothing will be kept for one term and a final request for checking will occur in the last week of term before items are either sold to the school community for a nominal price or given away.

Please name all articles of clothing. All named clothing will be returned to your child/ child's teacher.

MAINTENANCE OF SCHOOL GROUNDS

Mr Bowden is our grounds person and he does a great job in maintaining the appearance of our school facilities. We have a work crew who visit once a fortnight to clean up our grounds and place mulch on the playgrounds when needed. We occasionally call for specialised support for maintenance needs and parent volunteers are welcome to assist whenever possible.

MEDICINES

If your child needs to take any medication during school hours, it **must** be handed to the office by an adult and the 'Medication Registry' completed and signed by the adult. It would be also appreciated if a measurement instrument also were included. After school the 'Medication Registry' must be signed again and the medication collected. Children must not have any medicine in their possession at any time.

If your child requires permanent medication (e.g. Asthma medication), special arrangements can be made. Inhalers for asthmatics are also kept in the Office and an Asthma Plan must be provided. For children who need an EpiPen at school, an Anaphylaxis Plan must be provided and an in-date EpiPen provided. Parents are asked to ensure that affected children have a full 'in date' puffer at the school office at all times.

OUT OF HOURS SCHOOL CARE - OSH CLUB

OSH Club run a Before and After school Care here at Exford. Please let us know if you need this service. OSH Club will be our provider and offers care between 6:45 am - 8:40 am and 3:30 - 6 pm. Our OSH Club contact number is **0419 207 638**.



PARENT HELPERS

Parents are welcome to assist in school in a variety of ways, including in the classroom. Your child's teacher will advise ways you can be involved early in the year. For our new Preps, we ask that you allow them time during first term to settle before assisting in the classroom before we invite Mum or Dad into help. Please note: whenever you visit the school for whatever reason, it is **vital** that you sign in through the Visitor's book in the front office. Parent support is always welcome and there are a range of projects for which we'd love your support.

- Parent Helpers are required to have a Working With Children's Check and need to sign an Exford PS Confidentiality document and Child Safe Code of Conduct.
- We ask that Parent Helpers do not go out into the playground at recess or lunch time.

PLANNING AND PLANNING DAYS

Each week, each of our teaching teams work together to plan for the teaching and learning in their classes. The teachers meet whilst their classes are having their specialist classes (AUSLAN, LOTE & The Arts). Our Leading Teacher and our Learning Specialist teacher work with our teams to ensure consistency across our classes and our school.

Towards the end of each term, we release our teaching teams to plan collaboratively for the upcoming term. We place all specialist classes for a teaching team on the same day so that our students have minimal disruption to their learning as possible, while providing teachers with this important planning and preparation time.

PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students who have diagnosed disabilities are supported through having a Student Support Group meeting each term, where their families and school staff meet together to discuss the child's Individual Learning Plan and how we are supporting their learning needs. A copy of the Individual Learning Plan and SSG notes will be sent home during the following week.

Some students will be eligible to apply for funding under the Department's Program for Students with Disabilities, where additional supports are provided for the children - e.g. the support of an Education Support Integration Aide, or access to other supports.

We implement school wide practices which support all students, but particularly those students with a disability or particular learning need. Please contact Ms Campo to discuss your child's learning needs and we would appreciate a copy (paper or electronic copy) of any reports for your child.

PSYCHOLOGY SUPPORT

We have engaged the services of a Psychologist, through North West Psychology in Melton. Liana Borg is the psychologist who comes to Exford PS and her support is accessed through asking your family doctor for a Mental Health Care Plan, with costs covered by Medicare. Once the MHCP has been received, please contact Ms Campo to have your child included in this support. There are permission forms from North West which will be passed along once they have been completed by the parents.

REPORTING TO PARENTS - including Seesaw and Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences

The school year is divided into four (4) terms. This school has adapted the following system:

- Term 1: Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences
- Term 2 : Written Report
- Term 3 : Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences
- Term 4 : Written Report

Parents are welcome to discuss their child's progress with the teachers at any time during the school year. We have introduced Seesaw, an online digital learning portfolio for every child and we use this to make the children's learning visible to their families.

Our formal Parent Teacher interviews to include the students: the Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences are held during Terms 1 and 3, and the students present their Learning Portfolio and discussing their own learning goals. A summative written report will be sent home in June and December.

Parents are encouraged to make contact with the school at any time if they have a concern or an issue to discuss. Please contact the school office to arrange a suitable time with your child's teacher.

We use the School Interviews website for our Parent Student Teacher Conference bookings held in our Term 1 and 3 - www.schoolinterviews.com.au

SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council consists of the Principal, parents and staff working and planning together for the benefit of all children.

School Council is the governing body of the school. It is responsible for:

- Formulating school policy and ensuring that the School Strategic Plan goals and priorities are implemented
- The maintenance of school buildings and grounds to achieve the best learning environment
- Overseeing program planning and budget
- Developing closer relationships between the school and the community
- Oversees the school spending and acts as financial overseer of general practice, as well as approving spending.
- Represents and advocates for the school, along with the Principal, at a community and government level

Our School Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month (unless by prior arrangement) and you are welcome to attend as a Visitor (by prior arrangement with the Principal).

STUDENT BOOK PACKS

Payment for school levies is required in Term 1 of each year. The cost of this may vary from year to year and from year level to year level. Opportunities are given for parents to pay in instalments; details are outlined in the first newsletter of the new school year. If any parent has any difficulties in meeting any payments, do not hesitate in contacting the Principal or Business Manager at any time. This charge covers the cost of consumable materials used by your child and is a compulsory levy. The cost of the teachers is what is deemed as 'free state education'.

As a school, we are able to purchase in bulk, also we are not subject to GST - thus not only are we able to pass on those savings to our families, it ensures that all students have the same supplies (e.g. size of books, the correct sized lines etc).

Students receive their stationery supplies on the first day of school. The school covers the cost of the supplies, giving our families a range of payment options to pay this compulsory cost.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



The school Newsletter will be emailed each Thursday fortnight - please download our school app 'FlexiBuzz'. Our Newsletter contains messages and important information about the running of the school, such as coming events, excursions and reports. Our Exford Newsletters are full of news about the students' achievements, with a class featured each fortnight and special activities also shared. Copies of any return notes (e.g. excursion notes) will be sent home with each child.

SCHOOL NURSE

During the year, the School Nurse will see every Prep child who has returned the Prep health questionnaire requesting a health check. The School Nurse will check your child's sight, speech, gross and fine motor skills. A hearing test will only be given upon request by the parent or teacher, or, if the child's health history indicates a need.

SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

Exford PS employs our own Speech Pathologist for one day a week and she oversees the language support programs across our classrooms and also provides some speech therapy. She supports the professional learning of our teachers and our Education Support staff.

There is a referral process in place at our school for access to Student Support Services support for students. This can include access students' having learning cognitive or language assessments to provide insights into the way children learn. Please contact your child's class teacher and / or Ms Campo if you have concerns about your child's learning needs.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Exford Primary School does have a uniform policy, stating that the wearing of school uniform is compulsory. The school uniform needs to be worn plainly, without fashion accessories or enhancements.

It is requested that **ALL** items of school uniform **MUST** be labelled clearly. Students should show pride in their uniform as a sign of self-respect and be aware that they represent the school in the community.

Jewellery: Jewellery is not to be worn at school, with the exception of a watch or medic alert bracelet for safety reasons (e.g. getting caught on play equipment or during play). The only earrings allowed are small studs or sleepers smaller than a 5 cent piece (for safety reasons).

Hair which is below shoulder length is to be tied back using elastic bands or other suitable hair ties.

The school uniform consists of:



Our **royal blue** school hat must be this size, colour and must have the white logo on the front.



The **sky-blue** or **navy-blue** polo shirt is available in both short and long sleeves. Long sleeved tops cannot be worn under the short sleeved polos.

The polo or tee shirts need a **navy blue** / white logo.



The **royal blue** windcheater has a white logo.



The **royal blue** hooded windcheater has a white logo.



The **navy blue** bomber jacket has a white logo.



Our school dress and **navy blue** pinafore - navy or white coloured stockings can be worn with the school dress or the pinafore, but leggings cannot be worn.



The **navy blue** track pants is also available in straight leg by order.



The **navy blue** boot-leg pants for girls.



The **navy blue** skorts are another option for the girls (not netball skirts).

Shorts, cargo shorts / pants can also be worn but must be **plain navy**, without any decals, stripes etc.

A reminder that only leather school shoes, ankle boots or runners can be worn to school. Sandals, mid-calf / long boots or slip on shoes are not safe or supportive footwear for active kids.

An **Art smock** is also a requirement for all Art classes. It is suggested that a garment that is either sewn-up the front with or without elastic around the neck but still easy to get on and off. An adult sized t-shirt is perfect for younger children. The art smock should be clearly named and left in your child's classroom at the start of each year.

Uniform order forms can be collected from the office at any time or orders made via email or phone call.

SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR



What is School Wide Positive Support (SWPBS)?

The aim of SWPBS at Exford Primary is to implement a consistent, evidence-based framework for preventing and responding to student behaviour. This is a whole school approach that will further strengthen our positive, calm and safe learning environment so that all students are able to maximise their academic and social growth.

What does SWPBS look like at Exford Primary?

➤ Exford Primary **VALUES**:

Kindness

- We listen. We encourage. We are helpful. We use manners. We are mindful.

Respect

- We are caring, thoughtful and friendly towards people and the environment.

Personal Best

- We show our personal best everywhere all the time. We have a positive attitude We strive to be better than yesterday
- Our students know our values and what they mean

➤ Exford Primary **TEACHES POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR**

- We explicitly teach positive behaviours
- We recognise that learning social skills and positive behaviours is a process that everyone moves through at a different pace
- Inappropriate behaviours are seen as social learning errors and learning opportunities are provided to help teach the expected behaviours

➤ Exford Primary is **POSITIVE**

- We acknowledge positive behaviour wherever we see it
- We use a variety of praise methods
- We aim for 6:1 positive : corrective interactions with students

➤ Exford Primary is **CONSISTENT**

- We have a clear set of behaviour expectations built around our values
- Expected behaviours are known and understood by all of the school community
- We have a common language
- We have a consistent message across the whole school

SMOKE FREE ENVIRONMENT



This school is declared a Smoke Free Zone. All Department of Education properties are smoke free. Please do not smoke anywhere in the car park where you are in sight of the children or within distance of the school entrances.

SCHOOL CONCERT / YEAR 6 GRADUATION

Each year the school holds a concert. This is always held at the end of Term 4, on the Wednesday of the last week of term. All children participate in this event and this concert celebrates the Year 6 students who are graduating from Exford PS. There are photo stories on our website showcasing our students' performances.



SPECIAL EXFORD DAYS / ACTIVITIES

Several times a year, we have special days where all the children come together for an activity or project. These days foster a sense of community and the students, our staff and our families thoroughly enjoy them. You will find photo stories about these special days on our website.

Some examples are: Easter Bonnet Parade, Year 3-6 and Year Prep-2 Sports Days, 50 and 100 Days of School for our Prep students, Book Week celebrations and dress-up Parade, Djerriwarrh Street Festival and our Walkathon.

SPORT AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Our students have many opportunities to play actively throughout the day; we have safe playground equipment and a range of sports equipment that the children can borrow to play with each day. We have a great range of play equipment to suit all ages and our new synthetic oval surface was installed during 2017. Our school uniform is comfortable, looks great and suits our active kids. On sunny days students are expected to provide themselves with sunscreen and their school hat.

Our Physical Education Program is an excellent one and caters for developing students' general fitness, co-ordination and muscle strength as well as supporting their sportsmanship and ability to be part of a team. All classes have a weekly Physical Education class with a specialist teacher. There is an Athletics Day for students in Years 3-6 and a Sports Day for students in Years Prep - 2.

SPORTS DAYS / COMPETITION

The school is regularly involved in competitive sports days with other schools from the Melton Primary Schools Sports Association (MPSSA). Our Year 5-6 students take part in the Melton Primary School Sports Association activities - such as Interschool Sports and its Lightning Premierships. Sporting events are held in Football, Netball, Basketball, Athletics, Cricket, Softball and Bat Tennis. There are weekly games for each of the Summer Sports Competition and the Winter Sports Competition. Our students also participate in the Athletics and Swimming Carnivals, Cross Country event and Basketball and Soccer Clinics and Competitions.



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND WELLBEING

The school provides assistance to students, parents and staff when needed. Our staff has the very strong belief that we are all responsible for all of our children (not just the children in a teacher's class).



Despite our growth in school size, we work hard to know our children well - knowing them personally as well as academically is important to us. We strive for the children to know each other and have Buddies at the Year Prep and Year 5-6 levels and our year level teams take part in activities to build connectedness.

We also provide a range of lunch time activities for the children, some within our Yard Duty timetable and some activities provided by teachers in their own time

- Arts Club, Games Club, Knitting Club, Lego Club and Yoga / Mindfulness Club.

Knitting Club

5000 Poppies Club



Trauma Teddies



Just starting out!



Lego Club



Yoga / Mindfulness Club



Arts Club



The school has a range of contacts that have the expertise to give the appropriate help. Please contact the school if there are any problems that are likely to upset your child's learning. These matters are treated confidentially. We have strong pastoral care practices in place at our school and together, staff and parents, we are all responsible for the wellbeing of our students. Please see our Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy, available on our website.

SUN PROTECTION

This school promotes active protection from the sun, this means that all children are required by our school's uniform policy to wear a school hat when outside between September to April each year. Children without a hat need to remain under the covered areas so they have protection from ultra-violet rays.

TAKE HOME READING PROGRAM

Children at school are given a book to read each night. Please ensure that the books are read, enjoyed and the Reading Diary is signed each day. These texts are selected from a range of texts that are supposed to be 'just right' rather than a challenging read; the purpose of home reading is for the children to practise their reading skills, to enjoy the reading experience and to feel confident as a reader. We encourage the children to read alone, read to a family member and we also encourage our families to read frequently to the children. Children receive certificates and lots of fuss when they reach milestone levels (e.g. 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 200 nights of reading)



WEBSITE

We are very proud of our website which is updated frequently. We include information about our school, our fortnightly newsletters and feature special days (past and to come).



Exford PS - 'Where Children Count.'



Exford Kids are kind and courteous ... and this is how they do it!

Being fabulous workers in class

Being respectful to others

- listening
- waiting your turn
giving personal
space
- no name calling/
insults
- make eye contact

Caring and sharing

Being helpful, friendly and welcoming (Say hello!)

Having a good sense of humour and knowing when to stop

Following the school rules

Being truthful and honest

Being well-behaved

They smile at others



Use your manners every chance you get

Taking responsibility for self

Being responsible

- Wear the school
uniform every
day
- Look after our
property

Being tolerant

Being a good sport

Be reliable (monitor / jobs)

Solving problems and helping friends the right way

Being trustworthy

Never hurting others (feelings or bodies)

Playing safely

Stay in touch with FlexiBuzz

**STEP
01**

Sign up for FlexiBuzz and then login



Search "FlexiBuzz" in your app store.



Go to web.flexibuzz.com and click "Sign Up".

**STEP
02**

Connect to us



Select the 'Search' icon and type in our name. Select us from the results.

**STEP
03**

Select your communication groups



Click the 'Add' icon beside the communication groups that apply to you.

**STEP
04**

Get started



Click the 'Home' icon to view our recent posts.

For further information or assistance please visit our website www.flexibuzz.com or email us via support@flexibuzz.com.



Using FlexiBuzz - Exford's school app!!

Please come and see us if you need help with setting your Tiq Biz up.

STEP 1 – Download FlexiBuzz app from the App Store

STEP 2 – Search for Exford Primary School

STEP 3 – Tap School logo on home page to bring up Diagram 1

Please note: To access Eynesbury bus, uniforms and interviews buttons, slide area (to left) under logo where Absence, Canteen and Contact are visible (next to Calendar).

STEP 4 – Tap dashes (top right corner) as shown in Diagram 1 to show boxes as Diagram 2.

(When you can see the word 'Add', you need to **add** your choices.)

STEP 5 – Select your child/ren's classes **and** Eynesbury if your child/ren catch the bus as shown in Diagram 3.

(When you can see the word 'Remove', you have **made** your choices.)

Diagram 1

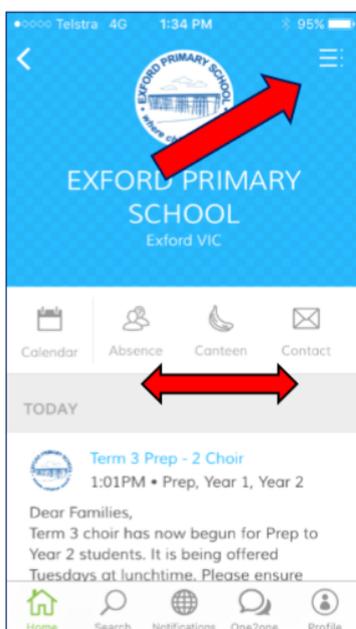


Diagram 2

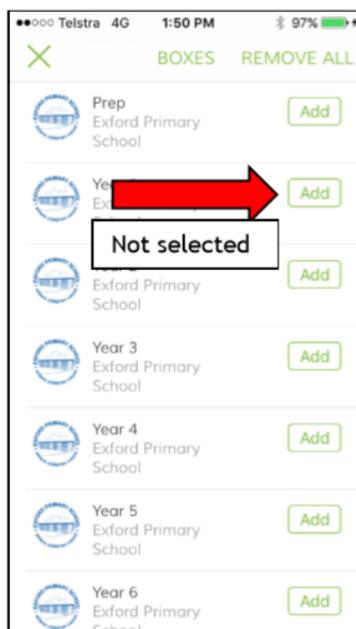
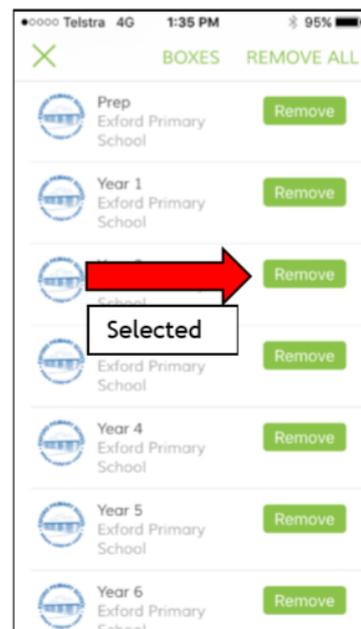


Diagram 3



Exford PS Gotcha Prize List

PRIZE	GOTCHAS			
Sticker	1			
Prize box	5			
Choose a book at story time	5			
Jump to the front of the Canteen queue	5			
Lunch with a friend	8			
Teacher's chair for a day	10			
Be the teacher for 10 mins	10			
Lunch with the Principal or your choice of teacher	15			
Free time (15 mins)	15			
Choose a class game	25			
Video game time (30 mins)	30			
30 minutes with Ms Campo or Mr Wilson) (reading, knitting, games, drawing etc)	40			
30 minutes - Lego Club with Mr Jenner	40			
30 minutes - making and flying kites with Mrs Talbot	40			
End of term movie and popcorn	50			
MEGA Gotcha Award - students can choose from a range of group experiences	150			
Seasonal Gotcha 'Auctions' - e.g. footy tickets etc that we are able to source, time with a visiting footy player etc	Auction			
Knitted bunny prize - the student can choose the wool and it will be knitted specially for them with progress 'show and tells' along the way!	150			
				
Knitted teddy/monkey/cat/dog prize - the student can choose the wool colour and it will be knitted specially for them with progress 'show and tells' along the way!	250			
Teddy	Cat	Dog	Cat	Monkey
				



For quicker, hassle-free school payments, try Qkr! today

Introducing Qkr! (pronounced 'quicker') by MasterCard, the secure and easy way to order and pay for school items from your phone at a time and place that suits you.

With Qkr you can:

- Pay for school fees, uniforms, excursions and more;
- See your receipts on the app and get them sent by email if required.



Getting started is easy - try it yourself today

Step 1 Download Qkr!

on your Android phone or iPhone. iPad users can download iPhone app



Step 2 Register

Select your Country of Residence as 'Australia' and follow the steps to register

Step 3 Find our school

Our school will appear in 'Nearby Locations' if you're within 10km's of the school, or search for our school by name.

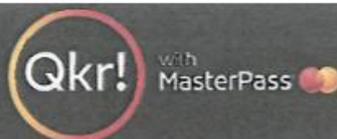
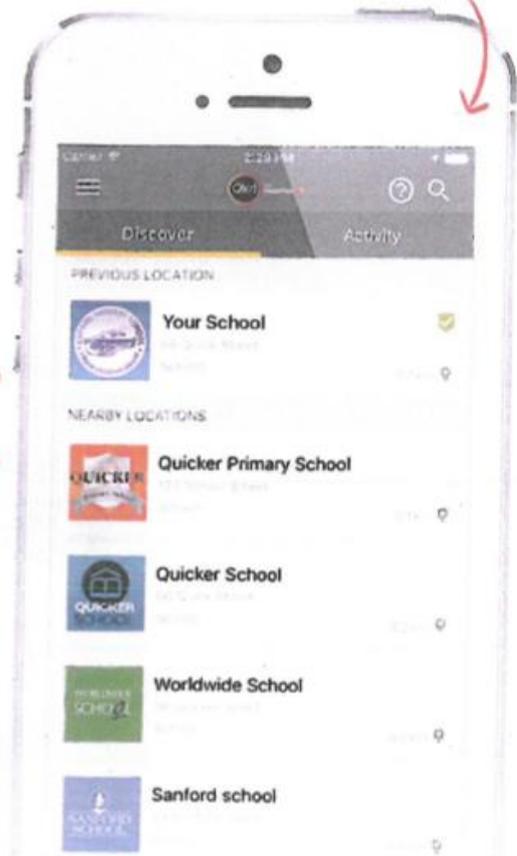
Step 4 Register your children

When first accessing our school you will be prompted to add a student profile for your child. This allows you to make orders and payments for them.

Search for our school name

If you have made a purchase you can select our school from 'Previous Location'

If you're within 10 kms of the school, you can select our school from 'Nearby Locations'



Add your children's details in Student Profiles

Select 'Add student profile'



Add each child's details



Manage each child's details in Student Profiles



Purchase school items

Select a menu from our school



Select child you are ordering for



Select your items



Tap 'Checkout' then confirm and pay

Making payments

Add up to 5 cards to your wallet



At checkout select which card to pay with.

Pay with any cards accepted by the school.

Once your payment is approved you can continue to the home page, or view your receipt.

Welcome to Exford PS!



