Welcome to Bannockburn Primary School. We are aiming to make your child’s transition to school as smooth as possible for your child and yourself. We believe children learn best when they feel secure and familiar with their surroundings. The aim of our transition policy is to provide optimal opportunities for children commencing school to build on previous learning experiences in a welcoming and nurturing environment.

**Important Dates**

Wednesday 12th August: Walk through and overview of Transition Program for parents

Transition sessions for children

Session 1: **Wednesday 2nd September**

Session 2: **Wednesday 28th October**

Session 3: **Wednesday 4th November**

Session 4: **Wednesday 2nd December**

Session 5: **Tuesday 8th December**

Prep Information Night: **Tuesday 8th December**

Details of times on each of these days will be sent to Bannockburn Kindergarten and Bannockburn Long Day Care and will be available from the school office.

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**Is My Child Ready For School?**

To make a decision about school readiness you may want to consider:

**Language skills:** Your child needs to be able to follow instructions and understand what others are saying as well as being able to communicate with others.

**Co-ordination skills:** Your child needs co-ordination skills to allow them to participate in activities that require hand-eye co-ordination.

**Concentration:** They need to be able to focus on tasks.

**Emotional Adjustment:** Your child needs to be able to separate from parents or care-givers.

**Independence:** Your child needs a range of skills so they can look after themselves and their belongings.

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**What is the right age?**

Age is usually the first consideration for parents when making a decision on school readiness, however you may have some concerns about whether your child is ready to start school even if they are the “right” age. There are a number of education professionals who can offer guidance about your child’s specific needs. You are encouraged to speak to your child’s pre-school or day care teacher, the school principal or the Prep coordinator at Bannockburn.

Children develop at different rates and learn skills in different ways. It is the school’s task to respond to the needs, learning styles and rates of progress of individual students. Schools also plan learning experiences based on the skills children bring to school.

In Victoria, children must be five years of age or older by 30th April of the year they start school.

Children between the age of 6 and 16 years must attend school.
Important Skills to Assist in the Transition to School

Being able to:

- Use the toilet independently
- Follow verbal instructions/directions
- Dress and undress themselves
- Identify own name in print
- Look after own belongings
- Share with peers
- Express/indicate needs and wants
- Hold a pencil to make marks on paper
- Keep still for short periods of time and listen
- Separate from parents
- Take turns
- Identify own belongings
- Open lunchbox and packaging

How to Enrol Your Child:

To enrol your child, we need the following:

- Evidence of your child’s date of birth (Birth certificate)
- Immunisation Status Certificate
- Completed enrolment forms are available from Bannockburn Kindergarten, Bannockburn Long day Care or at the office at Bannockburn Primary School.

If you wish to see the school in operation, please ring the school on 52811755 to attend a walk through the school and an overview of our Transition Program on Thursday August 6th at 9am. A night time session will be available that evening between 5 and 5.30pm. The Prep coordinator will be available during these times to answer any questions you may have.

Bookings are essential. For those who wish to visit the school prior to enrolment and cannot make these dates, please contact the school for alternate arrangements.

If you require further information or advice about school readiness or transition please contact: Tracey Rowe (Prep Co-ordinator) on 52811755.