

# Information for Kindergarten Parents 2019

School Motto: Proverbs 3:5

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and  
do not lean on your own understanding.”



**NAMOI VALLEY  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

**KINDERGARTEN  
HANDBOOK**

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**WELCOME TO NAMOI VALLEY**

The first year at Namoi Valley will be an exciting, wonderful, and, at times, a scary experience for your child. It will involve meeting new people; learning to be more independent and self-sufficient; discovering new areas of knowledge not yet explored; interacting with new authorities; becoming part of a new community and establishing his or her own position in the social fabric of the classroom and playground. Namoi Valley will offer opportunities for your child to grow in his or her understanding of God, and encouraging a desire to love and serve Jesus in all areas of life.

The Lord gives to parents the joy and responsibility of nurturing their children. Staff at Namoi Valley Christian School are privileged to be in partnership with parents, working together during the time their children are at school. We value greatly the participation of parents in the life of our school. We would encourage all parents to take every opportunity to be involved in their child's education at NVCS.

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## **KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL DATES 2019**

### **Term 1**

Monday February 11<sup>th</sup> to Friday April 12<sup>th</sup>

### **Term 2**

Monday April 29<sup>th</sup> to Friday June 28<sup>th</sup>

### **Term 3**

Monday July 22<sup>nd</sup> to Friday September 27<sup>th</sup>

### **Term 4**

Monday October 14<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup>

## **SCHOOL TIMES**

School begins	<b>9:00 am</b>
Recess	11:00am to 11:20am
Lunch - eating	12:50pm to 1:00pm
Lunch- playing	1:00pm to 1:30pm
School ends	<b>3:05pm</b>

During Term 1 our Years 1-6 students head to the pool on Wednesday afternoons. The Kindergarten students do not participate in swimming in Term 1, but they will during Term 4. During swimming time they will remain at school and be doing some gross motor/PE based activities.

## **FIRST DAYS OF SCHOOL**

### **8.30 – 8.55am** Arrive at school

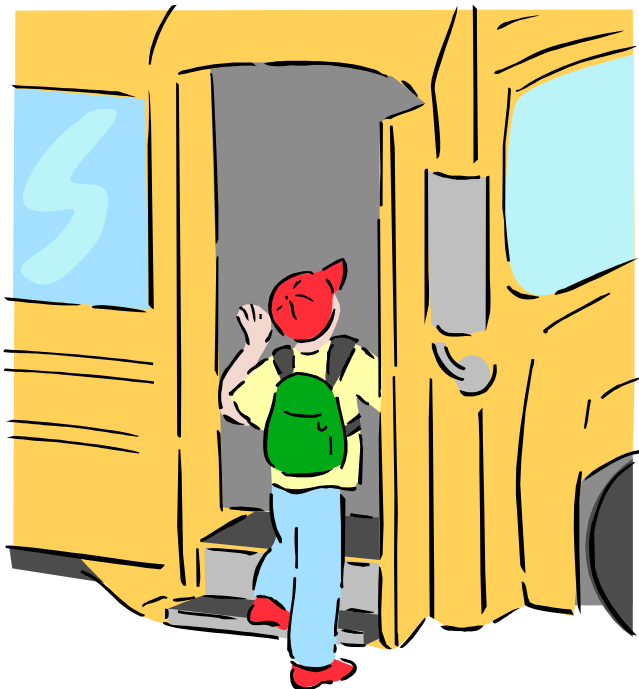
- Help your child find the bag shelf for his/her school bag. (Please ensure your child knows where their bag is.)
- A fridge is available for students to use and is located in the wet area between the Kindergarten classroom & Year 1/2 classroom. If your child needs to keep their lunch cool, please ensure they place their lunchbox in the fridge.
- Encourage your child to play on the equipment or with other students.

### **9.00am**

- A teacher/student will ring the school bell. At this time please say goodbye to your child. Please try to remember that you will not be assisting your child, or the teachers, if you stay in or around the classroom. If your child is upset, leave them in the hands of the staff and trust that they will be well looked after. Most children do not cry for more than a few minutes.

### **3:05pm**

If you are collecting your child at 3.05pm, please wait near the wooden benches at the top of the ramp. Please resist the temptation to peer into the classroom window or pack your child's bag for them. This can become disruptive for some students and cause distractions during the final minutes of class time.



## **DROP OFF / PICK UP**

### Drop-Off - Procedures for the first term.

When dropping your child off in the morning please:

- Walk them to the classroom; (or, if it is more appropriate, have another parent or a responsible sibling walk them).
  - Help your child find the shelf for his/her bag;
  - Encourage them to play on the equipment or with the other children.
- \* Please leave your child before or on the 9:00am bell.
  - \* If your child is teary and clinging to you, please leave them with a teacher. Children normally settle down after a few minutes.

### Pick-Up

**Please ensure your child knows how they are getting home each day.** If such plans change during the day, a message can be relayed to the student by a phone call to the office.

Children who travel by bus will be directed to wait near the gate on Charles Street.

- \* Please ensure that your child is confident with travel arrangements before they are expected to encounter these themselves.

## **BOOMERANG BOOKS**

Each student is given a small exercise book called a **Boomerang Book**. This book facilitates parent-teacher and teacher-parent communications. All notes from the teacher regarding individual progress or whole class notes will be sent home via the Boomerang Book. It is expected that these notes will return to the teacher with any parental response, hence the name, Boomerang Book.

School Newsletters will come home on Tuesday on a yellow piece of paper in the Boomerang Book. This note will contain important information about what is happening in your child's class.

It is essential that you sign any notes in this book as evidence of your perusal. Confidential communications and absence notes should not be placed in this book. Please write these on an individual piece of paper.

Your child's Boomerang Book is designed for 2-way communication. Please:

- Check the book every day.
- Return the book every day.
- Help your child to be responsible for this book.
- Write any questions and problems in the book. No question is too silly or basic; no problem too small.

## **WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL NEED**

- Your child is required to be in full school **uniform**. An explanatory note in the Boomerang book should accompany any temporary deviation.
- **Sport Uniform** is to be worn for the whole of your child's sport day (Wednesday).
- A suitable **school bag**, large enough to hold daily requirements including, if needed, a jumper or raincoat. Namoi Valley school bags are available at the Office. (They are a very good size.)  
Please make the school bag distinctive to your child eg. key ring, ribbon.
- A **school hat**. The wearing of hats outside is compulsory. If desired, a cancer council approved sunscreen is also a good idea.
- If your child needs a **bus pass**, applications are to be completed over the Internet - <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/#/applyNow>
- A paint shirt. Please provide an old shirt which your child can wear over the top of their uniform during painting activities. These will be kept at school and returned at the end of the school year.
- Spare clothes. Please place a spare pair of underpants and shorts/dress in a plastic bag in your child's backpack. Even if your child rarely has accidents, it can be helpful and reassuring to know it's there 'just in case'.

**Please clearly label all of your child's possessions.**

## **ABSENCES**

Please provide a **separate note to cover any absences** that your child may have. This note must include the reason for the absence; date/s of absence; date when the note was written; and your signature. An absent note can also be provided via the school App FlexiBuzz. It is helpful to let us know if your child is sick for a long period – we may provide some work to be done at home. It is also helpful to send a note in advance if you have prior knowledge of an absence.

Children who are late are also required to provide a note explaining this lateness. An absence note is legally required if the student is more than 30 minutes late.

## **FOOD**

Please show your child which food is to be eaten at recess and which at lunchtime. Practise this routine of 'little lunch' and 'big lunch' at home for a few days. Please provide a drink or encourage your child to drink water from the bubblers. We also ask that you provide your child with fruit. The school has a crunch (fruit) and sip (water) time during the morning session.

- Don't expect your child to eat much in the first few weeks.
- Try not to provide foods your child doesn't like.
- Students are encouraged to leave all uneaten food in their school bag.
- All children are given time to eat their lunch before the 'play bell' goes.

**PLEASE NOTE: NVCS is a NUT FREE school**

This means that all food containing nuts are not allowed at school. We teach the children about nut allergies and how to help themselves or their friends with the allergy. Products containing traces of nuts are permitted, however, products with nuts in the ingredients are not.

**LIBRARY**

Kindergarten students go to the Library each Thursday. On this day they will need to bring their Library bag with the book/s to return. If a student forgets to return a book, they need to wait until the next week to borrow.

**TOYS**

We ask that you don't allow your child to bring toys from home to school (unless specifically asked for a learning activity or news). There are plenty of activities and equipment for your child to use during playtime at school. Toys can often cause sharing difficulties in the playground or get broken.

**NEWS**

Children will be given the opportunity to share in news time within the classroom. Mrs Flower will send a note home at the beginning of the year in regards to the structure of news time for 2019.

**PARENT HELP IN THE CLASSROOM**

There are many ways you can help in your child's classroom. In the first few weeks of school, a letter will go home listing these areas. Please fill in this form and return it in your child's Boomerang Book. Parent help will be revised regularly.

Some possible areas for Parent help are: art and craft, painting, reading with individual students, pencil sharpening, literature activities, story writing.

**SPECIAL NEEDS**

Please inform your child's teacher if your child has any specific medical, dietary or behaviour needs. It is best to inform your teacher of these needs in writing. Specifics of these should also be detailed on your child's enrolment form.

**HOMEWORK/TAKE - HOME READERS**

Your child will be given some homework to complete during the week. This will include take home readers and sight words. We encourage you to spend time reading with your child each day. Homework and readers are to be returned on a weekly basis. Students will need to return the books they have before taking new ones home. This is in addition to books borrowed from the library. More information about the specific details of homework will be sent home at the beginning of the year.



## **HINTS FOR THE FIRST WEEKS OF SCHOOL**

**Be ready for school in plenty of time.**

Your child will react to your stress if you are running late. This might add to an already tense situation. Make sure they have a good breakfast.

**Familiarise yourself with the basic school routine** so that you can prepare your child for the things that will happen each day.

**Tell your child the arrangements you have made for his or her return home in the afternoon.**

Do not just assume that your child knows you'll be there! If you are sharing travel arrangements with other families, make sure that your child knows the other children involved and their parents. If you are unavoidably late, phone the school and let us know so that we can reassure your child.

**Tell your child to ask if he/she needs to go to the toilet.** Your child will be able to go to the toilet during class time, although it is encouraged that they go during break times.

**Find suitable ways to deal with your child's exhaustion at the end of the day.** Try not to plan any shopping expeditions etc. after school for the first few days. Your child might need more tender loving care than usual in the first few weeks.

**Don't expect too much from your child especially at first.** Children are quick to sense parents' reactions, so think carefully about the questions you ask so that your child does not feel that you are implying failure.

**Welcome your child home after school and listen to details of the day even if you are busy.** Praise all efforts and display the work somewhere.

**Check your child's bag each day.** Please ensure that you read all information and sign all notes.

**Have a snack available.** Children are often exhausted after a day at school especially if they haven't eaten all of their lunch.

**Prepare your child for:**

- The school bell, and what it means
- Drinking water from a bubbler
- Putting up their hand to ask a question

## **SPECIFIC READINESS SKILLS**

Teaching your child the following skills might make the first weeks at school easier. Teach your child how to:

- Say his or her full name, address, phone number.
- Cope with clothing - zippers, shirt buttons, shoe laces, jumpers, tucking in shirts.
- Do up shoes, especially tying shoelaces. Please make sure your child wears the new school shoes often, **before school starts**, to avoid the possibility of blistered feet.
- Cope with toilet needs. (including how to flush the toilet). If your child has a mishap, we will provide clean clothing. Please return the washed clothing as soon as possible.
- Use hankies and tissues and properly dispose of tissues.
- Recognise their own name and possessions. Clothes need to be clearly labelled in a way that is recognisable by your child. Lunch boxes and drink bottles should be labelled and perhaps a distinctive sticker could be put on for easy identification. Socks and shoes also need to have some form of identification. Please label the school bag distinctive to your child.
- Hold a pencil correctly - at least one centimetre from the tip of the pencil, between the tips of the thumb and forefinger and against the side of the second finger. (If unsure ask a teacher for a demonstration).
- Write his or her own name in Foundation script (a sample is provided).  
**Avoid capital letters** and **incorrect formations** as these are hard habits to break.
- Use scissors correctly.
- Care for other people and their belongings.
- Care for school property and tidy up when a task is completed.
- Speak correctly with proper pronunciations and grammar.
- Answer politely when spoken to, avoid interrupting and look at the person who is speaking.

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