
Welcome to

Bangalow Public School



School Information Booklet



We extend a very warm welcome to you and your family. We trust that the time your children spend at this school will be full of enjoyable, happy and lasting educational experiences.

The staff, students and parents of our school are committed to the creation of a caring environment where the worth and potential of each child is recognised and developed. Our purpose is to provide a quality education that generates a happy, effective and productive school environment. The school has a long tradition of education in the region, and is seen as a leader in a variety of programs and practices.

Bangalow Public School has a student enrolment of approximately 200 children. We have a dedicated and highly professional staff of nine Teachers, a Teacher-Librarian, Support Teachers and Learning Support Officers, a School Administrative Manager and School Administrative Officer, two cleaners and a general assistant who all help to ensure the efficient running of the school. In addition we have many interested parents and community members who give up their time to help out in the classroom, in the canteen, and with many other valuable contributions to school life.

We are fortunate to have the support of a strong Parents & Citizens Association and our vibrant local community. Our Parents & Citizens Association meets monthly to discuss important matters and to identify ways of improving and supporting the school. Parents are encouraged to visit the school on a regular basis to get to know the staff and participate in your child's learning. If you have any concerns please feel free to make an appointment to speak with your child's teacher or with the principal.

The school buildings include the heritage listed original building (pictured), three other permanent classroom blocks, a brand new library, new multipurpose hall, administration block, music room (also used for Out of School Hours Care) and a canteen, as well as a covered outdoor learning area, various storerooms and preparation spaces. The grounds are spacious and attractive, with the children having plenty of room for sport and play.

In the following pages we have endeavoured to give an outline of how Bangalow Public School operates, what it offers your child, its rules and procedures and its organisational structure. Please keep this booklet handy in your home for future reference. Be sure to look out for our school newsletter which comes home each Thursday and is our main form of communication. Our school website is also full of information, permission notes, photos and school news. www.bangalow-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

School Information

School:	Bangalow Public School
Address:	45-71 Byron Street, Bangalow
Telephone:	02 6687 1434
Fax:	02 6687 2036
Email:	bangalow-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Web:	www.bangalow-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
Region:	North Coast – Southern Cross Network
School Education Director:	Mr Daryl Jacobs
School hours:	9.15am to 3.15pm
Lunch:	11.20am to 12pm
Afternoon Recess:	1.30pm to 2pm
Principal:	Mrs Susie Boyle
Assistant Principals:	Mr Ross McKinnon (relieving) Mrs Diane Jones
Administrative Manager:	Juliette Sizer
Administrative Officer:	Sonya King

A Brief History of Our School

Bangalow Public School was founded in 1884 and was originally known as Byron Creek Provisional School. The site of the original school was approximately where the Bangalow Medical Centre is now situated. Our present site was occupied around 1891 and the school was renamed Bangalow Public School in 1907. The heritage brick building was completed in 1925 and the central multipurpose building was completed for use as a library in 1986.

We celebrated our school centenary in October 1984. Guests included the Minister for Education, Local State Member of Parliament, Regional Director of Education and the District Inspector of Schools and many more dignitaries and past pupils.

In 2010 the school hall was built, under the auspices of the Federal Government's "Building the Education Revolution" program, and in 2011, we received a modern stand-alone library.

BANGALOW PUBLIC SCHOOL – SCHOOL ROUTINES AND TRADITIONS

School Terms 2012 all dates inclusive

Term 1	Friday 27 January to Thursday 5 April 2011. (Friday 27 January is a <u>pupil free</u> day, for Staff Development) (Monday 30 January – Years 1-6 return to school) (Monday 30 January to Wednesday 1 February – Kindergarten Assessments by appointment) (Thursday 2 February – Kindergarten students commence)
Term 2	Monday 23 April to Friday 29 June 2011. (Monday 23 April is a <u>pupil free</u> day, for Staff Development)
Term 3	Monday 16 July to Friday 21 September 2011. (Monday 16 July is a <u>pupil free</u> day, for Staff Development)
Term 4	Monday 8 October Friday 21 December 2011. (Thursday 20 & Friday 21 December are <u>pupil free</u>, for Staff Development)
School Newsletters	Sent home on Thursdays.
Assemblies	Usually weekly on a Friday – Whole School Assembly.
Library	Visit and borrow once a week with Mr McKinnon.
Book Club	Twice a term ordered through Administration Office.
School Photos	Individual, class and family groups available once a year.
P&C	Meetings held second Tuesday of the month.
Canteen	Held on Fridays. Parent run, volunteers are always needed.
Parent/Teacher Information	Information sessions are held in Term 1. Parent/Teacher discussions are held in conjunction with Reports (Terms 2 & 4)
Assessments	Reports distributed June and November. Assessment tasks are tailored to the level and age of the children. All assessments are ongoing throughout the year.
Swimming Carnival	Term 1 (Years 3 to 6)
Athletics Carnival	Term 3
Sport	Fridays
Scripture	Tuesdays
ANZAC Day	Service at School. Children may also participate in the town's street march.
School Banking	Every Wednesday. Account opening kits available from school.
Education Week	Includes an Open Day, display of work and activities during Term 2.

Parents and Citizens Association

This school has a strong P&C. Your membership or assistance is very beneficial to the general welfare of the school. Whilst its main aim is to raise money for teaching resources, there are many other areas in which the P&C is involved. Membership of the P&C Association costs only \$2 per person. Voting rights are given to current financial members. The membership list is updated after each general meeting. To be eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting membership must be taken out at or before the meeting prior to the AGM.

P&C meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 7.00pm. The School Canteen and Uniform Shop are functions of the P&C. Volunteer helpers are always welcome.

Voluntary School Contribution

An annual voluntary school contribution has been set by the P & C at \$35.00 per child or \$70.00 per family where there are two or more children from the family attending. To assist with budgeting, the ideal situation is for the fee to be paid at the beginning of the year. This voluntary school contribution goes directly into our Library Fund, and is used for the purchase of library books and teaching resources. Your support of our school library is much appreciated.

In addition to this, we have a Building Fund, to which parents and community members may voluntarily contribute. Your donations to this fund allow our school to improve facilities and maintain our buildings and school grounds.

As our school is an endorsed gift recipient by the ATO, **all voluntary contributions are tax deductible.**



Approach of the School Curriculum

Our school offers a well-balanced curriculum in the following areas:

English

This involves learning to read widely with understanding and enjoyment, spell accurately, write grammatically in a variety of forms, listen and communicate in a variety of situations, experience and critically assess good literature and aspects of mass media.

Mathematics

This involves learning the basics of number, space, measurement and working mathematically necessary to cope effectively in society. Such skills must also provide a sound foundation for future studies in maths.

COGs

Connected Outcome Groups incorporate the remaining four Key Learning Areas of:

➤ Science and Technology

This involves learning skills of enquiry, investigation and problem solving; gaining knowledge and understanding about the natural, physical and living environment and people's interaction with them; understanding the interaction of modern technology and society.

➤ Human Society and Its Environment

This involves learning about the history of Australia, its geography, social institutions and place in the world; exploring and reinforcing religious and moral beliefs and values; learning about other cultures and languages.

➤ Creative and Practical Arts

This involves learning appreciation, self-expression, technical competence and creativity in the visual and practical arts.

➤ Health/Physical Education/Personal Development

This involves learning to develop an active, healthy lifestyle; developing skills in interpersonal relationships, positive values, attitudes and beliefs; participating in regular activity such a sport and dance.

The community is regularly kept informed regarding changes to the curriculum.

Sport and P.E.

All children participate in a skills development program that encompasses many sports played in the community.

A set period is allocated for sport each week:

★ Terms 1 & 4 Fridays 9:40am to 10:40am

★ Terms 2 & 3 Fridays 12:00md to 1:00pm

Students are also provided with opportunities to participate in a variety of inter-school sports, and specialised programs are offered at school.

Excursions

These are regular features of our school life as we feel that a child can gain much from an excursion, which reinforces the work of the classroom. Minor and major excursions and sports outside Bangalow are subject to separate permission notes. Primary classes participate in graded excursions ranging from single day excursions to major excursions lasting several days. We encourage all students to participate in our excursion program.

People to Help You and Your Child

School Counsellor

The School Counsellor is based at Byron Bay High School and visits our school for half a day per week. The Counsellor is available for parent appointments on that day if appointments have been made beforehand. The School Counsellor can assess the needs and abilities of individual students; counsels children who may have behavioural or emotional problems; helps staff understand learning problems that a child may have; and seeks further support for children who may need support beyond that which the school can provide.

Support Teacher Learning

The Support Teacher Learning is a part-time position in the school for two days each week. The Support Teacher's role is to assist those children who have been identified as having specific learning needs whether in English, Maths etc. Children may be programmed for one lesson, a series of lessons or long term depending on individual needs. The Support Teacher works cooperatively with the classroom teacher or with small groups of children withdrawn from their normal classroom.

Home School Liaison Officer

The Home School Liaison Officer visits the school regularly for a brief review of any attendance problems and will investigate any patterns of poor attendance, which may be emerging. The Home School Liaison Officer may visit homes and discuss with parents any unexplained absences, which are recorded in the class rolls.

School Administrative and Support Staff

The **Administrative Manager** and School **Administrative Officer** help with the day to day administration of the school. They can assist you with your queries about enrolment, school functions, events and excursions, fees, etc. When you wish to make an appointment to see the Principal or Class Teacher, the office staff will arrange this for you.

Students with special needs are supported in the classroom by the **School Learning Support Officer**.

A **General Assistant** supports school maintenance and upkeep of the school grounds.

Attendance at School

Children are expected to attend school on each day that instruction is provided.

Children arriving at school late are required to report to the front office for a yellow late slip – a parent should accompany them and sign the slip, or provide a note explaining the reason for lateness. If parents need to collect children early from school, they are to report first to the front office for a yellow departure slip, which is to be given to the class teacher when picking up the child.

The Education and Public Instruction Act 1987 requires a written explanation for children's absences from school. Please send a note, or phone the school as soon as possible when your child is absent.

An "A" for absent will be recorded when reasons for absence are considered unacceptable. Patterns of poor attendance will be brought to the attention of the Senior Home School Liaison Officer.

If your child is going to be absent for a period of time, greater than 15 days e.g., family holiday, the DET requires an "application for certificate of exemption from attendance at school" form. This can be obtained from the school and needs to be completed and returned to the school prior to the commencement of the absence.

School Uniform

The wearing of school uniform promotes pride in the school. The maintenance of a uniform is far cheaper than furnishing miscellaneous items of clothing.

Uniforms are sold in the canteen area each Monday from 8:30 – 9:30am.

The Bangalow Public School uniforms are neat, attractive and functional, and a strong emphasis is placed on students wearing full school uniform. The same uniform is used for ordinary use and sports days. It consists of:

- ★ a printed yellow shirt with sleeve and collar or a plain yellow shirt
- ★ a bottle green sweat shirt and/or jacket
- ★ bottle green shorts for boys, bottle green skirt, shorts or culottes for girls
- ★ students may wear bottle green track suit pants in winter
- ★ suitable footwear (NO thongs or bare feet)
- ★ bottle green broad brimmed hat
- ★ bottle green and yellow checked dress



Playground Supervision

Parents are advised that our playground is not supervised before 8:50am or after 3:25pm. Children who live locally and do not travel by bus should not arrive at school before 8:50am, as there is no direct supervision available. Prior to 8:50am any children arriving are required to remain seated in the Assembly area until the Teacher commences supervision duty.

Unless permission has been obtained for the use of facilities after school, persons present could be considered as trespassers. Primarily for safety reasons, children are discouraged from playing in the school grounds at weekends.

Groups wishing to use school facilities must obtain formal permission from the Principal. They may be required to take out an insurance policy to cover the school against liability for accidents. Permission to use school facilities may be withdrawn at any time without notice.

Buses & Other Transport

Our School Bus is a charter bus service. Children in Kindergarten, Years 1 and 2 are entitled to free transport. Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 must be more than 1.6 kilometres (in a direct line) from the school. Application forms for bus transport are available from the office.

Children travelling by bus are expected to behave themselves and obey the directions of the driver. Continued misbehaviour could result in the driver refusing to carry the child. The child's behaviour on the School Bus is the parents' responsibility.

Students who do not live on a bus route may be eligible for the Private Vehicle Conveyance subsidy for all or part of their journey. Please see the office staff for further details.

Enrolment of Students

All students enrolling at Bangalow Public School have to submit an Application for Enrolment form, completed and signed by a parent or guardian. Students transferring from another public school in NSW will have their enrolment information transferred electronically, however the Application for Enrolment form will need to be updated and signed, ID documents sighted and the enrolment approved by the principal.

Children who reach the age of 5 years prior to 1st August can be enrolled in Kindergarten of a Public School in that year. Birth Certificate or proof of date of birth, proof of residential address, immunisation history statement and copies of any family law or other relevant court orders if applicable, must be sighted before the child is accepted at school.

Orientation Days for prospective Kindergarten pupils will be held during Term 4 in the year preceding enrolment. These days introduce the students and parents to the classroom routines and activities associated with Kindergarten. Parents will be notified through newsletters, local media and the Preschool about these days.

Enrolment of students who do not reside within the Bangalow school zone is subject to a separate application for non-local enrolment, and places being available in that particular year level.

Reporting to Parents

Parent/Teacher discussions will be conducted twice a year with written reports being issued in Terms 2 and 4.

The Principal and Class Teacher are always willing to discuss your child's progress with you but please arrange an appointment time by calling at the office.

Please remember that the teachers are very busy with the children and do not have time for lengthy discussions at classroom doors or whilst on playground duty.

When problems arise.....

At home:

If there is change in your child's life which affects his/her emotional well being, please let us know. A child's behaviour and ability to work at school will be affected by disturbances in his/her life.

At school:

If a problem arises, please contact the Principal so that the matter can be investigated. Please, never confront a teacher in the presence of your child. For his/her well being and continued adjustment to school, it is essential that he/she sees co-operation between teachers and parents.

Weekly Newsletters

Parents are notified of past, current and future events occurring throughout the school by means of the weekly newsletter. This is distributed, usually on Thursdays, to the eldest child in the family attending our school. Alternatively, it can be emailed to you. The newsletter is also available on our school's website. Please contact the school office if you wish to change the method of delivery for your weekly newsletter. The newsletter is the main means of communication between school and parents.

Welfare of Pupils

At Bangalow Public School all pupils are encourage to develop self-discipline. We encourage and promote positive values. Our rules are Respect, Responsibility and Personal Best.

Parents are advised that we have a formal policy on Student Welfare and Fair Discipline Code. Copies are available from the office.

While we attempt to focus on positive reinforcements, there are times certain sanctions are imposed when children fail to maintain self-discipline.

These include;

1. Class detentions – children may be kept in during lunch under teacher supervision to complete schoolwork or for misbehaviour.
2. Responsible Thinking Room – provides counselling for inappropriate behaviours. The School Executive is responsible for this. Parents are informed promptly in writing should this sanction be enforced. Should student’s behaviour remain inappropriate, they may be excluded from play, sport, classroom and/or excursions. Parents will be telephoned and interviews held to discuss these consequences.
3. Suspensions – suspension means not being allowed to attend school for a period of time. It is imposed by the Principal for serious misbehaviour, including gross insolence, persistent disobedience, physical or verbal violence and consistent disruptive behaviour. Written confirmation of suspensions is sent to parents, School Counsellor and the School Education Director.

It is important that the home and school work together to eliminate unacceptable behaviour at school. Parents will be informed of behaviour issues that arise and may be called to the school to collect their child if the behaviour warrants this intervention.

Child Protection

In 1998 parliament enacted two pieces of legislation to help protect children and young people, they were the Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998 and Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998. Under these Acts it is an offence for a prohibited person to apply for, undertake or remain in child-related employment.

People are required to complete a Prohibited Employment Declaration if they are volunteers who will be performing work in schools, if the work primarily involves direct contact with children, where that contact is not directly supervised.

This includes, but is not limited, to people who help in classrooms, with reading or sport activities, people who take children on excursions (including sports activities), etc.

Prohibited Declaration forms are available from the Administration Office. All information provided is confidential and filed in secure storage.

Parent Helpers

Opportunities exist throughout the school for parents to assist in such areas as reading, story writing, creative arts and sport. If you are able to help at any time, please contact your child’s teacher. Parent helpers are requested to report to the administration office to sign in and receive their parent helper’s badge.

Student Representative Council

Throughout the year the Student Representative Council will organise various activities such as sausage sizzles, pedlars day, etc, with the object of raising money to support various charities, as well as for worthwhile school improvements determined by the students. Through these activities we hope to develop such worthwhile traits as compassion, leadership and citizenship.

Children's Activities

From time to time children have various activities at school, for example Easter activities, ANZAC Day Commemoration Service, Book Week, Concerts and Christmas related activities. If any of these activities give rise to religious objections, the family has the right to ask that the child not participate. Between the school and the family we will endeavour to make alternative arrangements.

Families should note, however, that the school will not cease to hold such activities due to the objections of a very small minority.

Homework

Home study is valuable part of a child's education. Homework provides the parents with the opportunity to be involved in the child's education. It helps prepare children with habits for everyday living, such as commitment and planning their time, so necessary in their future years.

School Performances

Visiting performers of various types are engaged to visit the school during the year, as they provide cultural and educational experiences that the children might not otherwise experience. Performances are selected to ensure maximum benefit for the children with costs being kept to a reasonable level.

Band

Our students have the opportunity to receive instrumental tuition from visiting instructors. Band instruction is provided by the Conservatorium, Lismore. This tuition is paid for by individual parents. Tuition occurs once per week for students in Years 1 to 6.

School Development Days

These are pupil free days, which may be held three times a year for professional development of staff or for the planning of school policies for implementation of new curricula. The School Development Days are usually on the first day of Terms 1, 2 and 3, and on the last two days of Term 4.

Lost Property

Currently, lost property is kept in the Sick Bay area. Please contact the Administrative Officer if any of your child's belongings are mislaid. Nametags on all property will allow us to return lost property promptly. Any unclaimed articles of clothing will find their way to the second hand clothing pool or be dispatched to the Op Shop.

School Banking

The Commonwealth Bank conducts a school banking service. Banking takes place on Wednesday morning. Children wishing to take advantage of the service should bring their bankbook to the Administration Office. Account opening kits are available from the office.

Special Religious Education

Clergy and lay-teachers provide religious instruction on Tuesday mornings. We have the following Scripture groups at our school: Uniting/Assemblies of God/Presbyterian, Catholic, Anglican, Buddhist and Baha'i. Stage 3 students who do not attend Scripture have the option to attend a Primary Ethics class.



Money at School

Generally money is collected in class and passed on to the office. Children should hand in money immediately on arrival at school. Please ensure any money is sent to school in a sealed envelope, clearly labelled with the reason for payment.

Money envelopes are also available at the front office for parents making direct payments at the school. The school has an EFTPOS facility for parents wishing to pay by card.

Receipts will be issued to students via the classroom teacher. Remember, your Voluntary Contributions are tax deductible, and Book Pack receipts may be used to claim the Educational Tax Refund. Duplicate receipts cannot be issued, so please keep your receipts in a safe place.

No money can be accepted after 12 noon because, for security reasons, no money is kept on school premises overnight. Parents are advised that children do not need to carry large amounts of money.

Visiting our School

ALL visitors to our school are required to report to the administration office, where they are to sign in and out of our Visitors' Book, stating the reason for their visit.



Illness

We ask that if children are not well they be kept at home. If a child develops a sickness at school we will endeavour to contact the parent or guardian. It is the parent's responsibility to collect the child from the school. In the case of serious accident, we will obtain medical assistance and make every endeavour to contact the family.

Some illnesses and diseases require that the child be kept at home for a period of time. Readmission before the due time can be by a medical certificate. The following schedule indicates departmental regulations with regard to exclusion from school:

- ★ Chicken Pox – 5 days from appearance of rash and when all blisters have scabbed over;
- ★ German Measles – 4 days from appearance of rash and until fully recovered;
- ★ Measles – 4 days from appearance of rash;
- ★ Mumps – 9 days from the onset of swelling and until fully recovered;
- ★ Whooping Cough – 3 weeks from onset of cough “whoop” or 5 days if antibiotic treatment is given;
- ★ Ringworm – 1 day after appropriate fungal treatment has begun;
- ★ Impetigo – Excluded if on exposed surface such as face, hands or legs and not able to be covered.
- ★ Infectious hepatitis – Until recovered, 2 weeks after first symptoms or 1 week from onset of jaundice.
- ★ Conjunctivitis – Exclude until discharge from eyes has stopped.

If in doubt about exclusion please contact the office and we will endeavour to get the correct information to you.

It is recommended that all children commencing in Kindergarten be immunised against measles, mumps, rubella, polio, whooping cough, diphtheria and tetanus. Parents are asked to provide an immunisation certificate upon enrolment. All children who have not shown a completed immunisation certificate will be excluded from the school, if there is an outbreak of the above preventable diseases in the school.

Head Lice are a frequent occurrence at school. Students are not required to be excluded from school when they have lice or nits (eggs), however parents are requested to check and treat their child's hair and be vigilant in this regard to prevent further spreading of this annoying condition among classmates. If it is obvious that your child has untreated head lice, you will be contacted and asked to treat their hair.



THE KINDERGARTEN YEAR

This is a year of great adjustment for the child. Becoming a member of a large group, rather than being one of two or three at home can present difficulties to some children. They need to learn to cope with the necessary rules for living in the classroom, and in the playground.

All children need the help and support of their parents to make this adjustment. Your role is vital – provide your child with praise, encouragements, patience, to help them easily make their first transition into the outside world.

Remember, each individual child comes to school at varying stages of readiness for learning. While some are ready for formal learning during the Kindergarten year, others may still not be ready until Year 1. Each child must be given time to mature, socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually. Forcing a child to attempt formal work before the Readiness stage is reached can do irreparable damage.

In the following pages, some Kindergarten areas are outlined for your reference, *Writing*, *Mathematics* and *Reading*. This I hope will give you some insight into the Kindergarten Year.

WRITING

Children are not ready for formal writing lessons until they have had much practice in controlling the movements of crayons, brushes and thick pencils. They need to develop control of their hands and finger movements.

THE WRITING PROGRAM

Practice in eye-hand coordination includes:

- ★ paper skills – crumpling, tearing, folding, fringing and cutting
- ★ finger painting, plasticine modelling, tracing with their fingers, threading beads, doing jigsaw puzzles, tying laces and doing up buttons
- ★ scribble patterns and pictures using large crayons and thick sheets of paper, then progressing to thin crayons and thick pencils, with small pieces of paper
- ★ colouring in, staying within the lines, tracing lines and shapes, moving across a page from left to right, correct pencil grip and letter formation.

READING

THE READING PROGRAM

1. Helps the child develop a good attitude towards themselves as a person.
2. Develops confidence in their ability to participate in classroom and school activities.
3. Develops skills in the area of:
 - Talking** - providing experiences, which will inspire talk with other children and adults.
 - Listening** - hearing differences and similarities. Remembering what has been seen.
 - Thinking** - sorting things by size, shape, colour, etc., discussing cause and effects of events. Developing awareness of spatial relations.
 - Touching** - telling about things touched, not seen. Tracing with fingers. Using crayons, brushes, pencils.
 - Moving** - using fingers and hands – developing hand-eye coordination. Using arms, legs and whole body.
4. Helps develop an interest in words and books through activities such as –
 - ★ name recognition
 - ★ labels around the room
 - ★ many colourful and interesting books with pictures and a few words
 - ★ drawing and painting, with captions spoken by child and written by teacher or child
 - ★ news written by teacher as the child tells it
 - ★ making up class stories on a topic of interest

WHEN WILL MY CHILD START TO READ?

Each child is not ready to read at the same time. In Term 1, Kindergarten children enter Language/Reading groups so that their different stages of development can be properly catered for.

Some children will begin to read at this time and others later in the year. There will be some children who will not be ready to begin reading until they enter Year 1.

During Parent/Teacher discussions your child's teacher will be able to tell you the stage of development your child has reached and advise you of specific activities which you can do at home to help them.

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD WITH READING?

1. Talk to your child and more importantly, let your child talk to you – after a picnic, on a day at the beach, let them tell you what they enjoyed the most, etc.
2. Listen to whatever your children have to say.
3. Read to your children, so that they can experience the flow of the language, and the enjoyment of books.
4. Help them when they first read – if they have tried to work out a word and still not been successful, help your child either by reading the sentence so they get the meaning through the context, or by simply telling them the word. Make it enjoyable, not a task.
5. Teach your children how to care for books.
6. Take your children on excursions and give them plenty of experience on which to look back upon, talk about and learn from.
7. Build a positive atmosphere to reading in the home. Let your children see that you enjoy reading, show them the adventures and pleasures that are before them through reading.
8. Join the library – make it a family excursion weekly or fortnightly.
9. Provide appropriate games and puzzles, e.g., Scrabble.
10. Make games, e.g., jigsaws from magazines.
11. Presents – include books in birthday and Christmas presents.
12. Praise every step forward; don't become impatient if your children read slowly or haltingly. Help by reading with them so that they hear the flow of the language.
13. Make sure your children are healthy and well nourished.
14. Ensure that they attend school at all times unless illness or family situations really prevents it.
15. Be aware of progress through report cards, parent/teacher discussions.
16. Set aside a regular time for your children.
17. Accept your children. Never compare one child with another.



MATHEMATICS

Children cannot suddenly be exposed to number facts. They need time to understand and use mathematical language and handle mathematical materials.

Throughout Kindergarten, a Number Program is followed. In this program, the children have opportunities to play and make discoveries for themselves. The emphasis is on “doing” so that they can learn through first-hand experience.

The children will be involved in activities encompassing the areas of Working Mathematically, Number, Space and Geometry, Measurement, Data, Patterns & Algebra.

The Mathematics Program

1. Developing knowledge and use of mathematical language related to size, shape, time, colour, mass, capacity, money and position.
2. Learning rhymes, hearing stories and playing games related to mathematics.
3. Sorting objects according to size, shape, etc. Finding groups with more/less, as many as a given group.
4. Counting 1-10, then 1-20, then 1-30
5. Recognising the value of numerals 1-30 and writing them.

WHAT ELSE WILL WE DO IN KINDERGARTEN?

Language Development (This is a major part of the Reading Program).

Discussions about objects, experiences, interests, pictures

Mime and drama

Listening to and learning poems

Listening to stories

Speech exercises and rhymes

Using language correctly

Physical Education

Games that involve the whole class

Dance

Gross Motor Skills (using whole body and limbs)

Activities such as walking, running, jumping, skipping, hopping, galloping, crawling, rolling, rocking, kicking and balancing in different ways

Music and Singing

Listening	}	Opportunities to talk, listen, share and co-operate with classmates
Moving		Opportunities for experiences and discoveries
Playing		

Art and Craft

Painting and drawing. Using paper skills, pasting, cutting.

Science and Technology

Learning about plants, animals, the weather and the world around us.

Investigating and designing.

Human Society and Its Environment

Learning about people in their world – how they live and their roles in helping us.

IS YOUR CHILD READY FOR SCHOOL?

Experts say that if the answer for nearly all of these 25 questions is ‘yes’, then your child should fit into Lower Primary “very well indeed” and should make rapid progress with reading fairly soon after they start.

1. Is your child usually happy?
2. Can your child perform normal daily routine tasks without a parent being constantly present?
3. Can your child join in a conversation without being too “pushy”?
4. Can your child accept criticism without getting upset?
5. Can your child work with others without distractions?
6. Can your child hold a book firmly and turn the pages alone?
7. Can your child use scissors to cut large simple outlines? e.g., straight or curved
8. Can your child remember simple instructions?
9. Can your child retell a simple story in the order it was told?
10. Can your child express simple ideas clearly?
11. Can your child make up rhymes to simple words?
12. Can your child use his/her imagination to tell the story in a picture and to extract simple inferences?
13. Can your child hold a large thick pencil or crayon correctly and draw in bold, confident lines? Can they copy a circle, a square, a cross and a rectangle?
14. Does your child mix well with other children?
15. Does your child share most of their things and take turns when required?
16. Does your child show the beginnings of organization and method in the way they tackle simple tasks? (tidying room, putting away toys, playing games).
17. Does your child pronounce words clearly?
18. Does your child know left hand/right hand? Does your child know that print starts on the left hand side and progresses to the right hand?
19. Does your child enjoy looking at books? Does your child show real interest in the printed word?
20. Is your child persistent – i.e., does your child finish what he/she starts?
21. Is your child well acquainted with the immediate environment and can your child talk about it?
22. Is your child’s visual discrimination good (i.e., can your child, for example, see the difference in two similar things?)
23. Has your child finished with baby talk?
24. Has your child a fairly wide vocabulary?
25. Has your child good auditory discrimination (i.e., can he/she distinguish between words that sound nearly the same?)

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR SCHOOL

1. Talk to your child about school and how exciting it will be.
2. Buy clothing that is easy to handle.
3. Label clearly all articles that will be brought to school.
4. Teach your child to:
 - ★ remove and replace outer clothing
 - ★ tie shoe laces and undo buttons
 - ★ recognise and care for own belongings
 - ★ use and flush the toilet without assistance
 - ★ wash hands after using the toilet
 - ★ notice when hands and face are dirty and wash them
 - ★ use a handkerchief and put it away when not in use
 - ★ cover mouth when coughing or sneezing
 - ★ repeat name and address
 - ★ share and take turns
 - ★ care for toys and books
 - ★ listen attentively and sit still when being spoken to or read to
 - ★ carry out simple instructions

WHAT WILL YOUR CHILD NEED FOR SCHOOL?

- ★ A school case or bag
- ★ A lunchbox (with a healthy lunch) and a plastic drink bottle
- ★ A raincoat and a hat
- ★ A handkerchief/tissues
- ★ A cardigan, jumper or jacket
- ★ An old shirt or smock to protect the uniform when painting
- ★ A library bag
- ★ A sun hat

ALL CLEARLY MARKED WITH CHILD'S NAME

ON THE FIRST DAY

Please keep your appointed time so that your child will not be upset by having to wait for a long period of time.

If you have not presented proof of date of birth and immunisation certificate, please make sure you bring them with you. No child can be enrolled without proof of date of birth being produced.

Be positive and encouraging. Show enthusiasm about school and ensure your child that you will be waiting at the end of the day to hear all about the first day's activities.

Be prepared to "let go" when your child is taken to their classroom. If you are upset, don't let your child see this or sense tension in your voice. They will only become upset also. Meet the teacher; look briefly around the room and leave. If your child cries, or clings to you, leave immediately. Most children settle readily when the day's routine begins. Be on time to collect your child in the afternoon, to avoid feelings of anxiety and abandonment.

HELP THEM ADJUST

Your role in helping your child take the big step to school life is vital. It is important that they feel confident and relaxed on their first day at school – this will help your child adjust to their new way of life. Starting school should be an exciting event, free from stress.

You can help by:

- ★ Talking to your child about school, emphasising pleasant experiences.
- ★ Having a special time, just for them, when they get home. This is especially important if you have a younger child who spends all day with you.
- ★ Let them play with children who attend school with them.

Remember, the child needs:

- ★ No special demands made on them – i.e., to read, write name, count, memorise facts etc.
- ★ Praise to develop self confidence.
- ★ Your constant support and encouragement to face new situations.
- ★ Opportunities to do things independently – such as special jobs at home to help develop independence and a sense of responsibility.

HOME AND SCHOOL

Children spend more time out of school than in it and so **parents are their first and most important teachers.** Learning begins with their earliest experiences.

Listening and talking are vital parts of all learning and are the foundations for reading and writing. Your child's attitude to learning, school and other people will be formed in your home – what is valued by you will also be valued by them.

There is a strong relationship between home encouragement and school achievement, especially in reading.

The cooperation of home and school working together will be of benefit to the child.

ACTIVITIES YOU COULD ENCOURAGE AT HOME

- ★ Outdoor play – skipping, dancing, rolling, climbing, catching, throwing, jumping, hopping etc.
- ★ Play with water and sand using different sized and shaped containers.
- ★ Modelling with plasticine or play dough.
- ★ Play with dress up clothes, boxes, odds and ends – encourage them to use their imagination.
- ★ Drawing and painting with large crayons and brushes on large pieces of paper.
- ★ Cutting out and pasting.

HEALTH

A child who is not healthy cannot concentrate on schoolwork. If your child is unwell, please keep them at home until completely well. See p.13 for some information on common childhood diseases that will keep them at home.

Please contact your doctor concerning immunisation. Children enrolling in Kindergarten are required to produce an immunisation certificate. If this is not produced the child will be excluded from school if an outbreak of these preventable diseases occurs at this school.

IMMUNISATION CLINIC

The Immunisation Clinic at the Byron Bay and Brunswick Heads Community Health Centres is available. For more details phone 66 856254 or see information in the Kindy Health Pack.

BEFORE SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

This screening program will be offered by the North Coast Area Health Service and is available at both Byron Bay and Mullumbimby Community Health Centres. For more information phone 66 856254.

HEARING CLINIC

A Hearing Clinic is available on referral from a doctor or from school and is provided through the Byron Shire Community Health. For more information phone 66 870012.

SAFETY

Make sure your children know how to keep themselves safe. Teach them to:

- ★ walk on the footpath and cross the road carefully
- ★ never run onto the road or step out between vehicles
- ★ take care when getting off a bus
- ★ play in safe places
- ★ go straight home, without loitering, or visiting friends
- ★ never speak to, or go with, strangers

After school each day a teacher is on duty to ensure that children board the buses safely.