



INFORMATION BOOKLET 2020

RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY RESILIENCE

WELCOME

Welcome to the Montagu Bay Primary School Community. At our school we work together with families from birth through to the end of Grade 6 to fulfil our Vision of providing a safe and happy learning environment that enables achievement for all. At Montagu Bay Primary School we provide educational programs that enable students to become active and valued citizens as well as life-long learners. Our programs are designed to:

- Enable all learners to reach their full potential;
- Develop 21st century skills and capabilities including collaborative and cooperative social skills; and
- Promote valuing diversity and compassion for others.

We believe our mission is to raise the bar and close the gap for all learners and we look forward to a long and happy association with you and your children. We hope you find this information useful, please note that all policy documents referred to are available on our web site.

Respectful Schools

We actively promote a respectful, happy, caring and safe environment. Please see the policy document for more information.

Enrolment

Over the past ten years student numbers have grown from 145 to the present enrolment of around 350. In 2019 we will have 2 kindergarten classes and 12 classes from Prep to Grade 6. Our Enrolment Policy provides us with guidelines to ensure we maintain a manageable student population.

Our Facilities

The school has two main buildings which house classrooms, offices, staff facilities, a hall, canteen, library and storerooms. The grounds are well presented and maintained with a range of child friendly play equipment, shade areas, oval and gardens. We expect to start designing and building new facilities this year, with a Capital works grant of \$1.7 million. The school's hall and outdoor facilities are available for use by community members. Anyone wishing to hire facilities should contact the School Office.

Our Staff

In addition to the Principal, our school has about 25 teachers including class teachers, specialist teachers in Music, Physical Education, Information and Communication Technologies, Japanese and Student Support.

Teacher Assistants provide classroom support for the learning program. A School Business Manager and an Administration Clerk manage school administration. Three Education Facility Attendants maintain the school buildings and grounds. The school has access to a School Psychologist, Social Worker and Speech Pathologist through Learning Services (South).

School Times

Office: 8:30am- 3:15pm

Kindergarten Yellow & Blue: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9am – 2:45pm

Prep – Year 6 School buildings open and Duty of Care commences: 8:30am

Lessons commence 9:00am

Recess 10:30am – 10:50am

Lunch 12:35pm – 1:20pm

Classes dismissed 2:45pm

School Levies

A School Levy is charged for each child to assist in the purchase of books, classroom materials, excursions and cultural experiences. All stationery, book hire, art and craft and miscellaneous learning aids are provided to students as required during the year. Parents and Carers are requested to pay the annual levy in full or make arrangements to pay in instalments by completing an “Agreement to pay levies by instalment” form.

In 2020 the Kindergarten levy is \$230 and the levy for Prep to Year 6 students is \$315. In cases of financial hardship the Department of Education will pay levies for students approved through the Student Assistance Scheme. This assistance covers stationery, text books, travel, including day excursions and cultural experiences. Application forms, which are treated in the strictest confidence, are available at the school and application is normally made in October for the next school year.

Uniform

It is expected that students dress in school uniform. We discourage the wearing of excessive jewellery and hair dye. Uniform sales are conducted at the school on a Thursday mornings 8:30-9:00am (along from the Principal’s Office). Items of clothing are available, as well as school emblem cloth badges, sport socks and school logo car stickers. Order forms are available from the School Office for parents and carers unable to come to the Uniform Shop during opening times to leave at the office. Payments can be made by EFTPOS or cash.

Sun Safety: During daylight savings students are required to wear a school bucket hat when outdoors for longer than 15 minutes. We are an approved “Sunsmart” school. Students are issued with a hat when they start with us.

Sunscreen is available in all classrooms and it is advisable to apply sunscreen to your child on arrival at kindergarten or before leaving home. Teaching your child to apply this themselves is a great idea if you wish them to re-apply for the day. If your child has known allergies to some sunscreens then please supply the one you would like used in your child’s bag.

Attendance

Every day at school counts, unless your child is unwell please send them to school. However if your child is unable to attend then please notify the school as soon as you are aware of this by

Phone: (03) 6244 1897 (answering machine is available out of office hours) or

E-mail: Montagu.Bay.Primary@education.tas.gov.au

Schoolzine: Absentee Form Tab

The Department of Education keeps records and regularly monitors school attendance of all students. A medical certificate is required if a student is absent for 5 or more consecutive days.

A written note or telephone call from a parent is required before a child will be given permission to leave the school grounds at any time during the day. Parents are requested to sign their child in and out at the school office if they leave school early or if their child arrives at school after 9:00am.

The school maintains a list of emergency contacts for each student. **If a change occurs in the names, address or telephone numbers, or if you wish to alter any instructions, please advise the school office immediately.** At the beginning of each year validation forms are issued to confirm student’s details. These forms should be returned to school as soon as possible.

Parking

The lower car park near the Early Childhood building is used by school staff as well as being available for visitors to the school including parents. Parents can also park in the car park at the rear of the school, in the parking area in the Montagu Bay reserve, under the bridge and in adjacent streets. **The front car park** is for senior staff, disability parking, deliveries and emergency vehicles only. Parents are reminded to take extreme care when parking and driving near our school. All our children are precious. Please help us to keep them safe and comply with parking signs and speed limits.

Bikes, scooters and skateboards are not to be ridden in the school grounds during

the school day or at out of hours school events. Scooters should be folded and carried.

Medication and Illness

If your child requires regular medical or health care that must be carried out during school hours, a medical action plan must be completed. Parents/carers should be aware that the Department requires a signed authority from parents/carers and in some cases the prescribing doctor, for school staff to administer medications. Forms are available from the school office.

If your child is unwell or sustains an injury though the day they will be assessed by one of our First Aid officers and you will be notified if necessary. In the case of a medical emergency, children may be taken to a medical centre or public hospital. We will do everything in our power to keep your children safe. Public schools in Tasmania do not insure against the cost of medical treatment for injuries sustained at school. Parents/carers may do so if they wish. The cost for any medical treatment remains with parents/carers.

Allergies

As we have children with severe nut and other food allergies in the school parents are encouraged to avoid sending any nut products to school in lunch boxes. This includes, for example:-

Peanuts, cashews, walnuts, hazelnuts, Peanut butter sandwiches, Nutella and peanut oil in margarines. At the start of the school year parents will be advised of any other allergies in each child's class, so that children can be aware of any issues.

Personal Property

The school cannot accept responsibility for lost or damaged property. Lost property which is found is placed in the "Lost Property" containers near the library. It is kept for two weeks and then donated to our Second Hand Uniform Shop or to a charity. Parents and carers are requested to ensure that all items of students' clothing, lunch and drink containers and other property are clearly marked with the student's name. Other personal property at school is addressed in our policy document.

Excursions

All parents can sign a general permission form for students to attend educational excursions of less than one day duration. This permission is included on the enrolment form and updated annually in the student's validation form. Parents will be notified of any upcoming activities in the school newsletter or by a note sent home.

Communication

A fortnightly Newsletter is produced and forwarded to each family through email or an APP called Schoolzine. This will be issued on Thursdays. Please read the newsletters carefully, as they contain important information. Items for possible inclusion in the Newsletter should reach the school office before 4pm on Monday. The school newsletter is available also on the school website <http://education.tas.edu.au/montagubayprimary/> Check our Facebook page for updates too: <https://www.facebook.com/montagubayprimaryschool>

Reporting to Parents

Processes for reporting to parents are set out in the policy published by the Department of Education. Montagu Bay Primary reporting processes are based on this policy including a brief progress report in Term 1, a comprehensive report mid-year with a parent/teacher meeting and a summary report at the end of the year. Appointments are available with your child's teacher throughout the year at mutually convenient times.

Kindergarten reporting timeline is different. Parent teacher is in June and a summative report at the end of the year.

Parent Involvement

Parents/carers may like to be involved in school life through a parent help system, whereby parents or carers, relatives and friends come to assist students and teachers as required. Each child takes pride when his or her parent, relative or friend is on the roster. Involvement can include-

- Helping in the school Canteen
- Taking part in class activities or excursions
- Helping with library maintenance
- Being a Member of the School Association
- Attending school functions, such as sporting events, assemblies, meetings, etc.
- Undertaking fundraising activities
- Participating in working bees
- Coaching sports teams
- Joining the Parents & Friends Group

Parents wanting to help out in the classroom must apply for a Working with Vulnerable Children Card. We need to see the actual card at the office when you sign in. The school may receive a hefty fine if we have not checked. We give the volunteer a lanyard or clip for you to wear whilst in class.

The process for registration is found at the [Department of Justice Working with Children Registration page](#).

You can submit the registration form online (conditions apply), but to complete the process you will need to **attend in person a Service Tasmania shop** to:

- Verify your identity
- Have your photo taken
- Pay the application fee shown on your “Application Receipt”

School Association

The Montagu Bay Primary School Association is an elected body consisting of parents, teachers, community members and the Principal. The Association meets regularly during the year.

Parents and Friends

The P&F Committee (a separate group to the School Association). If you would like to become involved in your child's education in an informal manner, this is the committee for you! We are a very small, relaxed group of parents who catch up infrequently and randomly to initiate and organise fundraising events for the school. Our school relies heavily on fundraising events and thanks the community for its constant support. If you have any fundraising ideas or would like to become involved please do not hesitate to contact a committee member, leave your details at the office or attend a meeting! All meeting dates are published in the newsletter or you can check out our Facebook page.

Launching Into Learning (LiL)

In 2020 the school will continue to provide a Launching into Learning Program for birth to 4 year olds. The program will commence early in Term 1 for families who are in our zoned area.

Pre Kinder Sessions

A Pre-Kinder session is available weekly for children who are old enough to attend Kindergarten in the following year, and commences in 3rd Term. This is only for students who will attend our school.

Library

The school's well equipped library lends books to students and parents, as well as providing a research and reference centre. Parents and carers are requested to ensure students return all books lent to them. As well as student and teacher resources, our Library also contains a substantial Parent Collection with books on a variety of parenting topics.

Health, Physical Education and Sport

Each class has regular physical education and health lessons. Students are encouraged to wear suitable clothing, i.e. track pants/shorts and joggers on P E days. The students participate in school athletic, swimming and cross country carnivals. The school sends teams to represent the school at inter-school carnivals.

Our senior students lead all classes for fitness twice a week.

Each year students in Years 3 to 5 take part in a Swimming and Water Safety Program over a two week period. This is partly funded by Government and the levy contribution. Health Education and Personal Relationships are included, as appropriate, to each grade level. Body Talk provide a program entitled “Growing Up” for all students.

We are a Move Well, Eat Well School and encourage healthy lunch boxes and water in drink bottles. Classes have a “snack attack” during the morning of fruit or vegetables. We try to have a “Walk to School” day each term.

Music and the Arts

Music is a major part of the school’s program. Apart from general class lessons, provision is made for extension and performance of skills in the playing of instruments such as recorder, guitar, flute, clarinet, saxophone and choirs. Throughout the year several visiting artists, performers and presenters provide a wide range of cultural experiences.

Banking

On Tuesday of each week, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia provides a banking service for students. Bank books are collected at 9 am. Application forms for Dollarmite accounts are available from the School Office.

Canteen

Information relating to the operation of the Canteen and Canteen menus are provided on a regular basis. The Canteen is open on, Thursdays and Fridays. Volunteer assistance is needed from the school community to ensure this service continues.

Scholastic Book Club

Every 6 weeks or so, Scholastic supply age-specific book catalogues that are distributed to classes. Children can take these catalogues home and then any order forms are returned to school. The books are very good quality and cover

a wide range of abilities and interests. Montagu Bay Primary receives 20% of all sales, as a commission, and this money is put towards supporting the literacy needs of all students in the school.

Before/After School Hours Duty of Care

Bookings are made through the Outside School Hours Care staff on 0438 325 885 or by direct contact with the Clarence City Council on 6217 9610 for booking in your children before 8:30am and after 3:00pm.

This service is available from 7:30-8:30am and 2:45-6:00pm.

Montagu Bay Primary school hours are from 8:30am through to 2:45pm.

It is important that parents do not bring children to school before school hours because there is no supervision of students at that time. Similarly, it is important parents either collect their children at the end of the school day or arrange for them to catch the bus home/make other collection arrangements so that students are not left unsupervised at the end of the school day.

Unsupervised students may engage in dangerous play or put themselves in dangerous locations such as car parks being used by buses and cars during school drop off/pick up. **Parents** are responsible for their child outside school hours unless they have accessed school based child care during these times.

HOW PARENTS MAY HELP

Many parents/carers look for ways to help their children do well at school. Here are a few hints:

- Help children feel good about themselves and their learning. Encourage every effort. Praise rather than criticise.
- Talk regularly to your child's teacher. We also want what is best for your children and we know that if we work together outcomes will be maximised.
- Read to them from the earliest age. There is no better way to create a love of books and desire to read.
- Give presents of well-written and illustrated books on a whole range of topics – both fiction and non-fiction.
- Encourage the students to write regularly in a variety of ways – letters, diaries, factual accounts, imaginative stories, etc.
- With younger children especially, try to cultivate a sense of number, size, length, height, width, volume, area, weight and time in everyday life. Join with them in estimating, counting, calculating and so on.
- Encourage children to be physically active.
- Take time to discuss everyday happenings. Encourage questions and show how answers can be found.
- Regularly give your children one of the most precious gifts you can – your **TIME**.

SCHOOLZINE APP – Newsletter