



WESTPORT PUBLIC SCHOOL

56 Widderson Street
PO Box 5722
PORT MACQUARIE NSW 2444

Principal: Tony Johnston
Phone: 6583 2944
Fax: 6583 4809

30th November, 2023

Starting Kindergarten 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As previously discussed, to begin the year Kindergartens transition to school is a little different to the rest of the school.

Best Start- We hold interviews called Best Start. The Best Start Interviews will be held during the first and second week of school. They will commence on Thursday 1st February until Tuesday 5th February in the Kindergarten rooms. Please don't forget to make your booking via the School Interviews website.

During the Best Start Interview period, ALL kindergarten teachers will be conducting the assessments, so you will need to arrange care for your child during this time until school commences for Kindergarten.

Please note- All Kindergarten students start on Wednesday 7th February at 9:05am.

First Day- Please arrive at school from 9:00am to allow the teacher's time to complete morning duties. Your child's name will be displayed on multiple copies of the Kindergarten class lists which will indicate the classroom and the teacher. Our Kindergarten classes are called K Jacaranda and K Flame.

Please take your child to their new room and wait outside. Your child can choose somewhere to hang their bag. Please take the time to familiarise your child with their bag prior to starting school and show them where you have placed it. Once the teacher is ready your child will come into the room and join in some activities very similar to those they completed at transition.

Afternoon departures- We will meet you at school gates at the end of each day at **2:45pm between 7th February – 16th February** just like we have practised during transition. This is a little earlier than the rest of the school to initially support exiting the school safely. After this date, we will leave the same time as the rest of the school at 3:05pm.

Morning arrival- After the first day, your child will be dropped off in the mornings to the Top Quad (space near the Kindergarten rooms) to play. We do recommend that drop off is as close to 9:05am as possible to assist with a smooth transition into the classroom. There is no supervision at school until 8:35am.

Requirements- Each day your child will need a lunch box and a water bottle. Please ensure these are very clearly labelled so that we can assist in looking after your child's items. It can be a good idea to have a lunch box and a recess box. At Westport we eat our lunch during our first break and our snack at recess time later in the day. Drink bottles that contain water are welcome to be placed inside your child's classroom.

Uniform orders- These can be placed online via Flexischools and can be collected from the front office or when you attend your Best Start interview. Please contact the front office for further information. Our P&C kindly donate a library bag which your child will receive at their very first library lesson. We also provide one school hat that will stay at school.

Further information- Please contact Mrs Fraser via the front office if you have any questions. This is a very exciting time for you, your family and especially your child. We look forward to all the fun learning adventures we will have and getting to know your child throughout 2024.

From the Kindergarten Teachers, 2024.



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22nd November, 2023

Kindergarten Best Start Interviews

Dear Parents and Carers,



To begin the year Kindertartens transition to school is a little different to the rest of the school. We hold interviews called Best Start. The Best Start Interviews will be held during the first and second week of school. They will commence on **Thursday 1st February until Monday 5th February in the Kindergarten rooms.**

Bookings can be made via schoolinterviews.com. When making your booking, please consider that an hour should be allowed for each assessment to take place. Your child will work with the teachers in the classroom but please understand that a parent or carer must remain onsite for the duration of the assessment.

What is the Best Start Assessment?

The Best Start Kindergarten Assessment is a state-wide assessment that helps show teachers the literacy and numeracy skills of each student at the beginning of Kindergarten. This helps teachers to plan lessons to best support the learning needs of every child.

Children come to school with a range of experiences, skills and abilities. Some are familiar with books, can recognise letters of the alphabet or even write their name or count to ten, while others have not yet learned these skills.

The Best Start Kindergarten Assessment provides teachers with the opportunity to sit with a child one on one, focusing on what that child can do. The assessment is not a test but provides teachers with useful information to help support your child's learning at school.

If you wish to withdraw your child from participating in the assessment, please contact the school. Please contact the school if you have any questions regarding the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment.

How to make a booking

To book an interview follow these simple instructions.

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au
Enter the school event code and follow the 3 simple steps.

- 1 Enter your details
- 2 Choose teachers
- 3 Choose times

When you click **finish**, your interview time will be emailed to you.

Check your junk mail folder if you do not receive your email immediately.

Please note- **During this time, ALL kindergarten teachers will be conducting the assessments, so you will need to arrange care for your child during this time.**

All Kindergarten students start on Wednesday 7th February at 9:05am. We can't wait to see you all.

Thank you for your cooperation, Kindergarten teachers 2024.