



ASHFIELD

PUBLIC SCHOOL

Every child, every opportunity



Kindergarten Handbook 2025

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Ashfield Public School
is the sort of school
where everyone
is a someone.



Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Ashfield Public School believes that an outstanding beginning to school sets the tone for success. Our school creates an educational environment to nurture the positive enthusiasm that young children have for learning. Caring teachers are focused on ensuring that each Kindergarten child settles into the routines of school and that each child leaves each day feeling empowered, valued and with a smile.

The staff of Ashfield Public School extends a warm welcome to you and your child. Our school is focused on growth and performance within a caring and quality teaching environment. It celebrates the work and achievements of each child with praise and encouragement.

This publication is an overview of the essentials to get you started at Ashfield Public School. It is a guide to assist the transition from preschool to Kindergarten.

For more comprehensive information about the school please refer to the school handbook which is available for download from the school website.

Welcome to our beautiful school!

Damien Moran
Principal
Ashfield Public School

Contact information

Office Hours: 8:30am – 3:00pm
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Important dates

Term 2, 2024

Week 4 Wednesday 22nd May @ 5pm
Kindergarten 2025 Information Session

Term 3, 2024

Week 3 Thursday 8th August
3pm: Kindergarten
4pm: Years 1-6
Whole School Open Classrooms

Week 4 Wednesday 14th August @ 5pm
Kindergarten 2025 Information Session

Term 4, 2024

Week 2 Wednesday 23rd October @ 5pm
Kindergarten 2025 Information Session

Week 8 Monday 2nd December to Friday 6th December
Kindergarten 2025 Transition Week

Term 1, 2025

Week 2 Thursday 6th February
First Day for Kindergarten Students

School times

8:30am Teacher on duty

8:50am Morning lines

9:00am Morning session

11:00am Break 1

11:30am Middle session

1:25pm Break 2

2:10pm Afternoon session

3:00pm School Finishes

3:15pm Children remaining on school site are directed to the office and parents or carers contacted.



Every child, every opportunity

With its philosophy of “Every child, every opportunity” Ashfield Public School provides a differentiated curriculum to cater for gifted and talented students and students with learning needs. This includes smaller classes scheduled throughout the week for students to receive extension and enrichment or support in key learning areas.



Class parent

Every class at Ashfield Public School has a class parent. Throughout the year the class parent sends out regular emails to update parents about particular initiatives or events happening in the class or at the school.

If not choosing to opt out, email addresses and contact numbers will be given to the class parent to organise whole class communication.

Technology

Ashfield Public School uses digital technologies to support student learning. The school has a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative. This initiative enables students to access technology at any time throughout the school day, anywhere in the school. Examples include a student at a desk consulting an online dictionary or translator or a student taking photographs of 3D shapes in the school playground as part of a project on geometry.

As part of the BYOD initiative, students are taught how to effectively use technology to guide learning. This includes, for example, Ashfield Public School's emphasis on developing critical thinking, on being able to write for sustained and appropriate periods of time, on public speaking, physical activity and being able to concentrate whilst learning. Children who do not have access to a personal device are able to share the school's devices. All children have access to the PCs in the library and throughout the school. All students have access to printing facilities.



Transition from preschool to kindergarten

Starting school is a major life transition for children and their families. Ashfield Public School is focused on making this time of change a successful process that builds self-esteem and confidence in each child and connects parents with the school community.

In Term 4, Ashfield Public School offers a highly effective 'Week Long Transition Program' for preschool children who are commencing Kindergarten the following year, and their families.

The transition program is about engaging children and families with the school community to become familiar with routines, procedures, school facilities, teachers, special programs and the parent network. The program enables children to feel comfortable, relaxed and motivated to learn. It provides parents with a sense of belonging to their new school community.

During the transition week, children attend school from 9am to 10:30am each day.



First day at primary school

Ashfield Public School is focused on supporting Kindergarten children to quickly settle into the routines of school.

On the very first day of school, Kindergarten parents say farewell to their children and watch them join Years 1 to 6 for morning lines at 8:50am in the Hall. After morning lines, as a whole group, the Kindergarten children go to the Kindergarten classrooms.

As the children participate in activities on the first day, they are observed by the Kindergarten teachers who watch group dynamics and make decisions about forming classes. Classes are typically formed by the end of the week and parents are informed of their child's teacher. At the end of the day parents meet their children at a designated place in the playground (Refer to School Map).



Playground buddies

At Ashfield Public School, Year 6 students maintain a prominent role in the playground as Playground Buddies. Particularly for Kindergarten children who are feeling a little bit alone, as happens from time to time, the playground buddies are on hand with a smile.

Wearing their prominent yellow vests, the playground buddies will play with the younger children, cheer them up or find them a friend to play with. The playground buddies also take younger children and wait while they get a drink or go to the toilet.

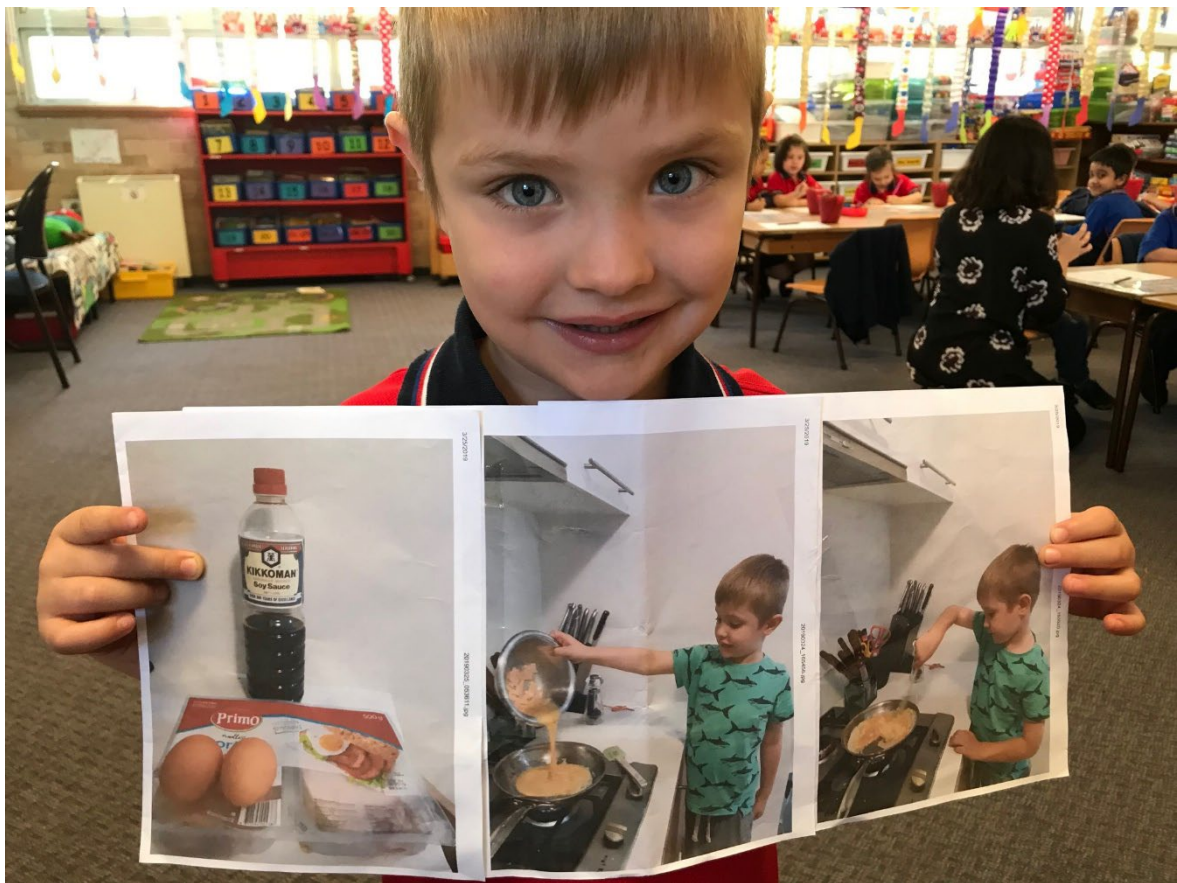
Playground buddies are in the playground to make it an even friendlier place to spend recess or lunch.



Home reading and homework

At Ashfield Public School, the School Home Reading Program consists of the students borrowing books from school, reading them to a parent or older adult and recording what they have read in a reading log. After each 50 nights of home reading, students are awarded a certificate.

Ashfield Public School encourages families to complete homework with their children. This includes activities that reinforce the literacy and numeracy learning occurring in the classroom. Remember that play is an important part of your child's learning.



Extra-Curricular Activities

Ashfield Public School has a number of extra-curricular activities, offered privately by paid tutors or taught by the teachers.

Extra-curricular activities include:

- Junior Choir, for all interested children from Kindergarten to Year 2.
- Private piano lessons taught by Inner West Music College
- Junior Recorder ensemble for all interested children from Kindergarten to Year 2
- Chess Club taught privately by the Sydney Academy of Chess.



Best Start Assessment

Ashfield Public School uses the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment. This assessment helps teachers identify the literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills that each child brings to school as they enter Kindergarten. The assessment informs the development of quality teaching and learning programs.

Every child will receive a letter with a time and date to be assessed during the first weeks of school.

The aspects of numeracy that are assessed with Best Start include counting (numeral recognition and forward number word sequences), counting as a problem-solving process and pattern recognition. The aspects of literacy that are assessed include reading text, writing, speaking, comprehension, concepts about print, phonics and phonemic awareness.

The Best Start assessments involve a teacher working with a single child. The assessments are conducted during Week 1 of the school year. Each child is allocated a specific time for the assessment which takes place at the school. Each test lasts for approximately half an hour. There is no school for Kindergarten at this time.

During the student interview, parents meet with a member of the school executive for an enrolment interview to discuss how to get the most from being a part of the Ashfield Public School community.



Getting to know other parents

Ashfield Public School has a friendly and very inclusive parent community. There are many opportunities to be involved at a social level with other parents.

Parents and friends are welcome to volunteer in many ways to assist Ashfield Public School deliver a quality education. The active Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) holds regular meetings and invites parents to run committees or be part of the P&C.

Parents are invited to apply to Service NSW for a Working With Children Check and spend time in the classroom assisting the classroom teacher with literacy and numeracy groups or other learning projects.

There is also the option to contribute to the school on Working Bees or be part of the numerous initiatives to raise money for the school.



Before and after school care

Before and after school care is available on site at Ashfield Public School. Known as Ashfield Kids Out of School Hours (AKOOSH), the service is operated by Kids@Weldon.

Phone: 9798 5611
Email: amcs@weldon.com.au

Hours of operation:	Before School Care	7am to 9 am
	After School Care Vacation Care	3pm to 6 pm 7am to 6pm



Meeting your child's teacher

Ashfield Public School prides itself on being very friendly and ensuring accurate and timely communication between parents and teachers.

It is requested that appointments are made to arrange a time that is mutually suitable.

Follow us on Enews

The school uses Enews which enables teachers to update parents on things happening in your child's class. Please download the 'School Enews' app on your phone to access the class enews.



Action Plans

Many children have medical conditions such as asthma or eczema that need to be managed by the staff here at school. Management includes making special provisions or administering medication.

If a child has an ongoing medical condition that needs to be managed by the staff it is essential that parents go to your local doctor for an individual health care plan. This plan needs to be given to the school.

Permission to photograph

Parental permission must be given for photographs and videos of your child to be created during school activities. Photographs and videos are used to engage students and meet curriculum outcomes. Upon occasion they are published in the school newsletter, or on the school website. They may also be used to promote the school, or promote public education.



Awards

The Student Awards system is about recognising and celebrating responsibility, being respectful, resilience, friendship, safety, inclusivity, learning and being fabulous. All children in the school are encouraged to earn a Certificate of Success for displaying these values in their work, through their effort and by their attitude.

Once a child has earned 10 Certificates of Success they receive a School Award at morning lines. Once a child has earned 5 School Awards they will be presented with a School Medal at morning lines. 5 school medals will earn the student a trophy. All of these achievements will be recognised in the Wangal News.



Occasional foods and birthdays

Occasional food for birthdays is to be purchased through the school canteen. No food from home is to be shared.

Parents are requested to inform the school if their child or children are not permitted to eat occasional foods or participate in birthday celebrations.



Sun safety

Ashfield Public School is sun smart. All children are required to wear a hat whenever they are outside.

Canteen

Our canteen 'Badalya', an Australian First Nation word for food, operates daily.

Healthy food options are available and all orders can be placed online via <https://user.flexischools.com.au/login?returnUrl=%2Fhome>

Set up an account today. Cut off for online orders is 8.30am each day.








Please order foods to share for your child's birthday from Badalya as it is not permitted to share food from home.



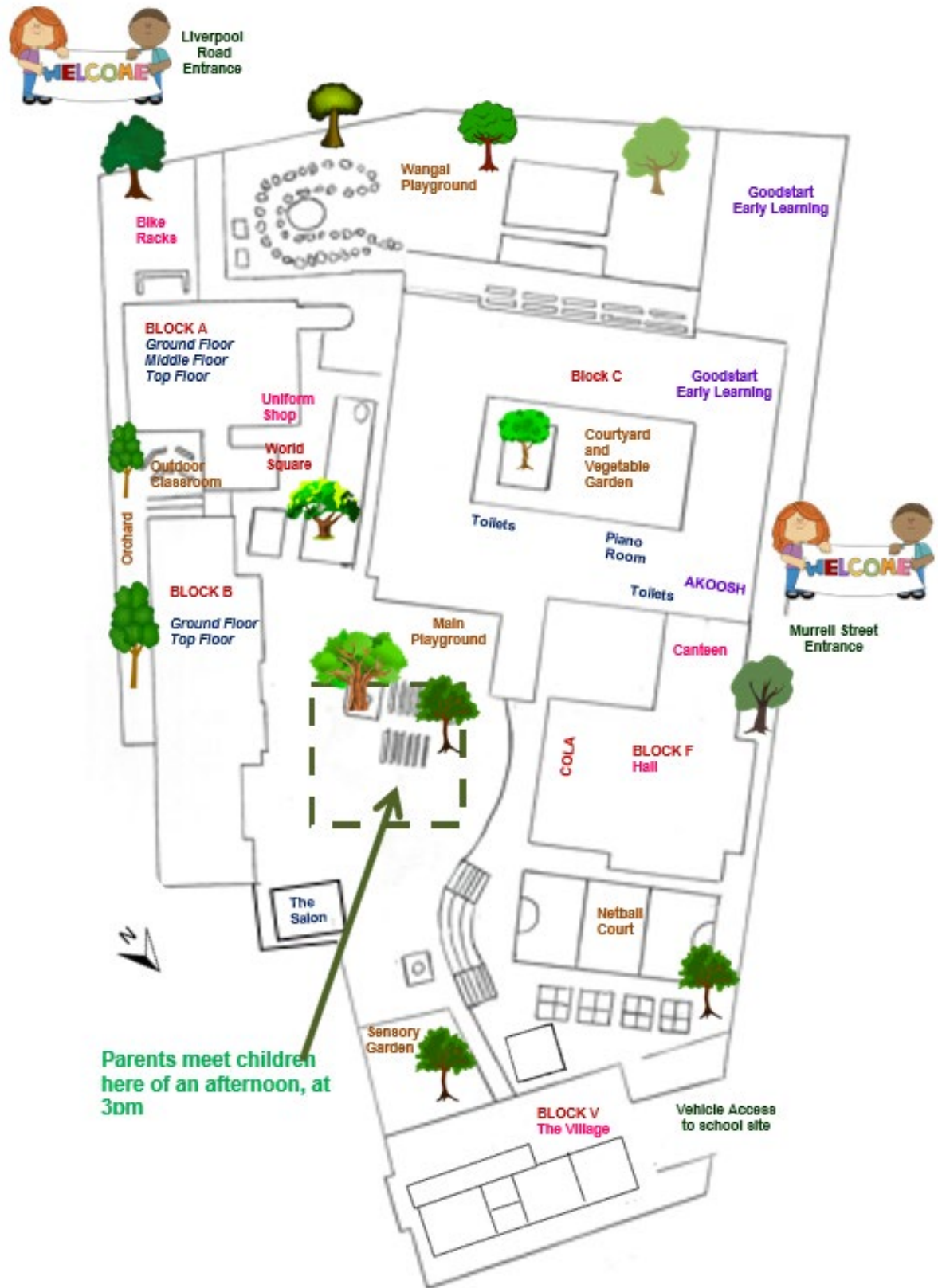
Tips for preparing your first day of school

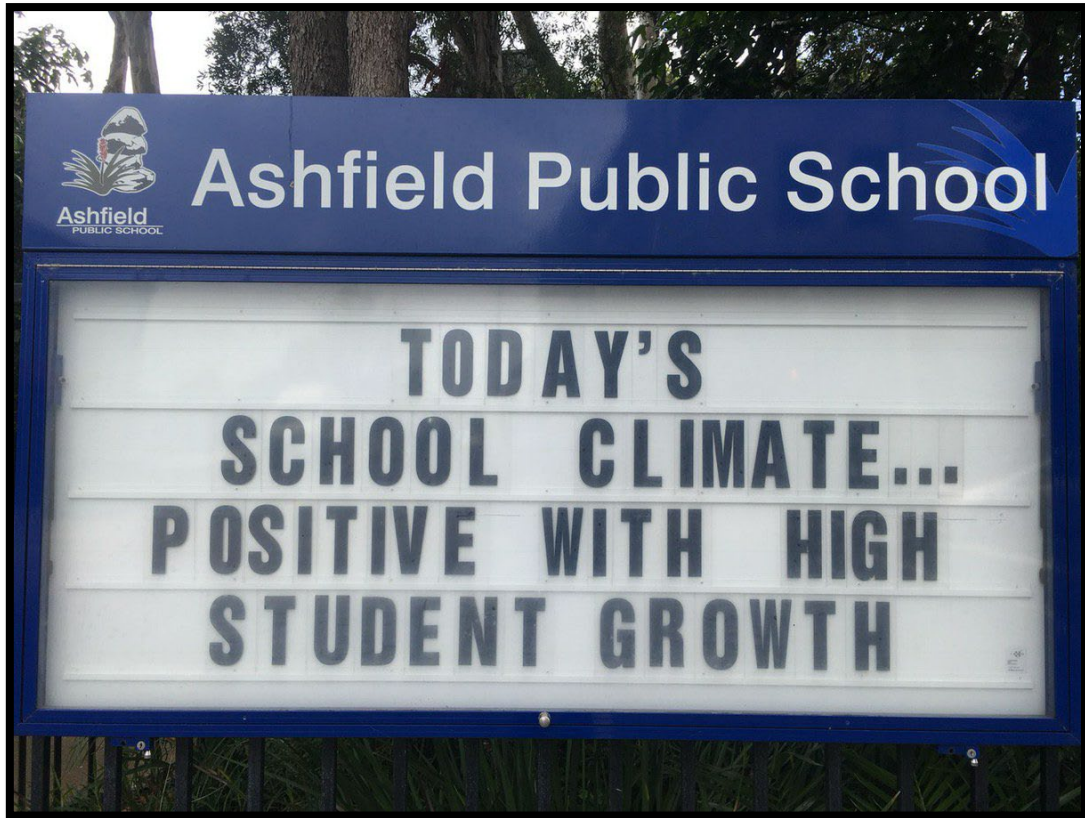
- Label all items, including lunchbox, drink bottle, school bag and jacket, with your child's name. Check regularly as labels fade or fall off.
- Help your child recognise their personal belongings.
- School bags need to be sturdy and large enough to accommodate a lunch box and library books.
- Pack your child's lunch box in such a way that they can identify which food is for recess, lunch and Crunch 'n Sip. Teaching your child how to unwrap their food (including the plastic wrap), push a straw into a drink and repack food with no leakages.
- When teaching your child to recognise and write their name, please use a capital letter for the first letter, with other letters written in lower case.
- Keep an extra pair of underpants and shorts in a plastic bag in your child's school bag. Toilet accidents sometimes happen.
- Please inform the school if you will be late for the daily 3pm pickup. A missing parent often causes much anxiety.
- Give your child time to unwind and relax at the end of the day.
- If your child is sick, it is highly beneficial to keep them at home. Not only is recovery speedier, but germs do not spread across the class.
- Be prepared to be anxious if this is your first child at school. It is only natural, but be assured that your child is in expert and caring hands.

This is what I need in my bag

<p>Crunch & Sip 10:00 - 10:15</p>	 
<p>Break 1 11:00 - 11:30</p>	 
<p>Break 2 1:25 - 2:10</p>	 
<p>Other</p>	

School map





Book a school tour: 9798 4400

Enrolling now for 2025

