



THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT HARKAWAY!

What to bring

On the first day of school for the year children should bring:

Book boxes – with their name clearly marked on the outside of the box, and all items within marked with their name too. *Can be purchased at the start of the year from the office*

A reader bag or folder for transporting their reading journal and books to/from school each day. *Reader bags can be purchased from the office*

Sunsmart Hat – required from start of September to end of April for outside play and activities. *Hats can be purchased from the office*

Lunch, snack and full water bottle

Spare underwear/clothing if required.

Note 1 : Book boxes include all educational requisites for the year, including books, pencils and other stationery and are ordered by school and paid for by parents before the school year begins.

Note 2: Classroom chair bags for each child are purchased by the school from the annual Parent Payments Arrangement charge.

School uniform

If you wish to buy new items of the Harkaway school uniform, these can be purchased from the 'Beleza' store in Hallam:

Beleza Hallam Shop 7, 151 - 159 Princes Hwy

Hallam VIC 3803

Phone: (03) 9702 3181

<http://www.beleza.com.au/primarypricelist.html>

We have a range of second hand uniform items available for purchase at the school.

If possible, please ensure that children wear shoes that they can undo and do up themselves. Until then, Velcro shoes are welcome. Closed shoes such as traditional school shoes or runners must be worn. No thongs or open toe footwear.

One to one literacy interviews

On Wednesdays during term one, when Preps are not at school, appointment times will be made available, via xuno, for a time to bring your child in to complete an Online Literacy Interview with their teacher. This assessment will be one-on-one with your child's teacher and takes about 45-60 minutes to complete. The assessment gives the teacher a useful understanding of your child's Literacy skills.

Communication

Currently the school uses two different apps for communication. Ensure these are downloaded.

Xuno app for absences, events permissions & payments, reminders and dates of interest. The school will email you an invite once the school year has commenced. Use this to set up your password



Class Dojo app which is more centred on classroom learning that your child is doing. This is a valuable tool for directly messaging your child's teacher, and vice versa. It is also used for reminders of goings on at the school, eg free dress days etc. Your child's classroom teacher will set this up again at the start of the school year.



The school website www.harkaway.ps@education.vic.gov.au is also a useful source of information for Harkaway families. In particular, the school calendar is regularly updated with

important upcoming events such as school sports, curriculum days and school council meetings. Slides from the weekly school assembly are also published to the website.

Families are reminded to please let school know if there are any changes to your contact details, such as a change of address, email address, mobile phone or land line number so that we have the most up to date contact details in the event we need to contact you during school.

Lunch and snack

As part of our Health program, an understanding of nutrition will be developed and support from home is invaluable. Please encourage your child's healthy eating habits. We also encourage you to pack your child's lunch in small reusable labelled containers to help reduce the amount of rubbish that comes to school. Each week students can be rewarded for bringing 'nude food' – unpackaged items such as apples or bananas or sliced carrots.

Our school has many children who have nut allergies. Although we do not ban 'nut' foods and we encourage the children to be involved in the management of their allergy, we do ask that you be aware of this situation and try to help make it manageable for those doing life with an allergy.

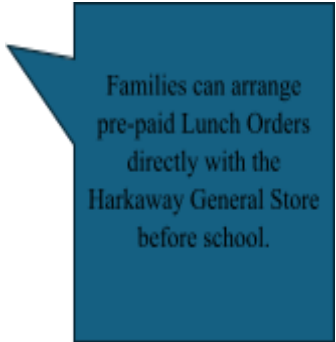
Hydration is vital to good health and learning, so children are encouraged to sip water at any time during the day. Their bottles can stay at their tables. The pop-up lid style bottle for water only, minimises spills on school work!

Please note that chewing gum is not allowed at school.

Canteen

There is no school canteen on site. Lunch orders can be placed directly with the Harkaway General Store which is a few doors down from school. Families can order and pay directly at the General Store before school.

Pre-paid lunch orders are delivered to the front office where children collect them at First Lunch. Visit the General Store for the current price list. Please note that cans/bottles of drink are not permitted at school.



Families can arrange
pre-paid Lunch Orders
directly with the
Harkaway General Store
before school.

Parking

Kiss n Go directly out the front of the school. Do not leave your car unattended in this area.

Please teach your child about road safety. Drop off and pick up times can be very busy at Harkaway. Please observe all traffic and parking restrictions and never turn into the school driveways. Turning into the school driveways requires the driver to reverse onto King Road, a practice which could result in a tragedy. Reversing when children can be nearby is dangerous. Once settled, we strongly encourage parents to park at the Harkaway Tennis Court or Harkaway Hall and walk up to school to collect your child.

Harkaway house teams

We have four House teams named after historical homesteads in the area: Chadwick (blue), Melrose (red), Wandeen (yellow) and Wickham (green). The House system forms the basis of united and friendly competition.

Students are randomly assigned to a House when they commence with Harkaway Primary School. Siblings will be grouped together into the same House.

Students participate in the school sports day each year in their House teams. Many other activities are conducted in House teams, such as Clean Up Harkaway Day.

House points are also awarded to students throughout the year. For example, good listeners at assembly will be awarded House points each week, which will go towards their House team's weekly total.

Assemblies

Whole school assemblies are generally held every Friday at 3pm. Families are welcome to attend.

Buddy Program

We have a buddy program which pairs every Prep child with a Grade 6 buddy. Prep's first get the opportunity to meet their buddy during their Prep transition sessions. There are many opportunities once school starts for Preps and their buddies to engage with each other.

The buddy program provides our Preps with the reassurance of an older child at the school that can show them around and help them out in the playground. It also gives our Grade 6 students the opportunity to be positive role models for a younger child. We find that the buddy program is both important and beneficial for our Preps and Grade 6's.

Before and after school care

Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) is available to all school families on a user-pays basis. Before School Care is provided in the GP Room from 7.00am until 8.45 and After School Care 3.30 until 6.00pm.

The program is reasonably priced and Centrelink funded places are available. It can be used on a regular basis or as a one-off emergency situation when you're running late or held up. Parent handbook and enrolment forms can be collected from the office