

# *WoW Start – A parent’s guide in supporting their child’s transition to Wollongong West Public School*



## Our School Vision Statement:

At Wollongong West Public School we aspire to be a community of learners with a culture of continuous improvement. We will empower students to engage in a meaningful curriculum as successful and resilient learners, creative and curious individuals and active and informed global citizens with dignity, purpose and options. Our school will be a place where diversity is our strength and every child is known, valued and cared for.

## Transition to School Sessions (WoW Start):

WoW Start is a time for us to get to know your child, and for your child to get to know us, and their future classmates. Our sessions typically start off with play-based learning. We then learn how to sit and listen to a story. Your child will have the opportunity to engage in different activities such as arts and craft, music and dance and different games. During this time teachers may take notes on things like, if a child is left or right-handed or if they can recognise or write their own name.

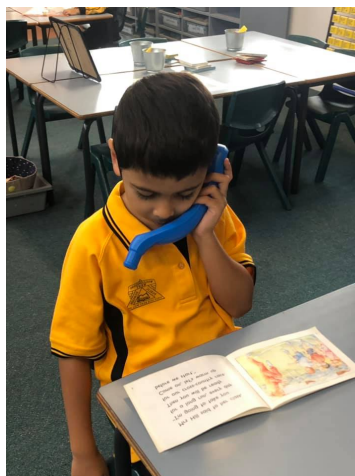
## Best Start Assessment:

Before your child starts full time school, they will complete the Best Start Assessment. The Best Start Assessment helps teachers identify the *literacy* and *numeracy* skills your child will bring with them at the beginning of Kindergarten. You will receive more information about the Best Start Assessment towards the end of the school year.

### **What is Literacy and Numeracy?**

*'Literacy is the capacity, confidence and disposition to use language in all its forms. Literacy incorporates a range of modes of communication including music, movement, dance, story telling, visual arts, media and drama, as well as talking, listening, viewing, reading and writing...'*

*'Numeracy is the capacity, confidence and disposition to use mathematics in daily life. Children bring new mathematical understandings through engaging with problem solving. Numeracy broadly includes understandings about numbers, patterns, measurement, spatial awareness and data as well as mathematical thinking, reasoning and counting.'* – The Early Years Framework



**Below are a few things that you can encourage your child to do at home to assist with your child's transition to school:**

- Go through the social story picture booklet about Wollongong West Public School in the weeks leading up to transition and school.
- Encourage recognition of your child's first name, do they know what letter their name starts with? Do they know how many letters are in their name?
- Encourage the use of their self-help skills such as: how to look after their possessions, how to dress themselves and how to put on their own shoes etc.
- Read to your child each day. Research has found huge benefits for children who are read to daily.
- Facilitate your child's learning through discussions, asking questions about what they may feel about starting school. What are they excited about? What makes them feel nervous about starting big school?
- Take turns in conversation, encouraging eye contact.
- Encourage personal hygiene such as when to use a tissue, cover mouth when coughing etc.

*Other helpful websites that can prepare you and your child for transition to school:*

- *Daisy's First Day Storybook:* [https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/media/documents/Daisys\\_First\\_Day\\_web.pdf](https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/media/documents/Daisys_First_Day_web.pdf)
- *Transition to School Storybook:* [https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/early-childhood-education/working-in-early-childhood-education/media/documents/Transition-to-School\\_Storybook.pdf](https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/early-childhood-education/working-in-early-childhood-education/media/documents/Transition-to-School_Storybook.pdf)
- *Getting Ready for Primary School:* <https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/media/documents/getting-ready-for-school.pdf>



## Is Your Child Ready for School?

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, and this is no cause for concern. Below is a brief overview of some expectations we have for children starting Kindergarten.

We hope that by the time a child starts Kindergarten they will be able to:

- Toilet independently.
- Open their bag and lunch box independently (including opening the contents of their lunchbox for example, chip packets etc).
- Put on and take off their own jacket/jumper.
- Tie or velcro their own shoes.
- Be responsible for their own belongings (remembering to put their hat away after play times).
- Be able to take turns and share with other children when appropriate.
- Recognise their own name.
- Hold book correctly and turn the pages themselves.

*Children can start Kindergarten at the beginning of the school year if they turn 5, on or before 31 July that year. By law, all children must be in compulsory schooling by their 6th birthday. When your child starts school is an individual decision. You may wish to discuss this with your child's preschool teacher, carer, doctor or your local primary school.*



## Children with Additional Needs

It is essential that families of children with additional needs (including children with medical conditions such as anaphylaxis) contact the school as early as possible to discuss the individual needs of your child and how these needs may be accommodated by our school.

If your child does have any additional needs, please contact our school on 4229 2096.