

# MENTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## SCHOOL READINESS

While some children know the alphabet, can count to 20 and recognise colour, these are not the only skills for making a smooth start to school. Every aspect of your child's holistic development is important and will go towards supporting their transition and learning within the school environment. Some skills and attitudes that may assist children in their entry to school are:

### SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- They are positive about attending school
- They separate from parents/carers cheerfully
- They cope with a variety of new situations
- Try even when tasks are difficult
- Can work independently for reasonable periods of time
- The ability to share, take turns and co-operate with peers
- Want to be with others and play in a friendly way

### LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

- Can express needs and wants
- Joins in and retells songs, rhymes and chants
- Can remember and talk about things that they have seen and done
- Respond to 3 step instructions (e.g. "Go and get a piece of paper and a pencil please")

### PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- They have the stamina to last a full day/week at school
- Have reasonable hand eye co-ordination
- Have reasonable body control in order for them to join in playground games and to sit for long periods.

### INDEPENDENCE DEVELOPMENT

- Able to cope with opening/closing bags, lunchboxes and drink bottles
- Independence in skills such as toileting and nose wiping
- Recognise and be responsible for their belongings

### COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

- Ask questions, approaches learning with enthusiasm, curiosity and persistence in completing tasks
- Understand concepts (e.g. up, down, front, behind)
- Understands and follows rules

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Familiarise your child with the school playground, toilets, classrooms, travel arrangements prior to school starting
- Teach your child how to look after their own belongings
- Make sure they have a good breakfast
- Read to your child daily
- Involve your child in the world around them.
- Ensure that your child/ren have some regular contact with other children before they start school.
- Children have to be exposed to other children in order to learn how to play and make friends

### CONCLUSION

These are just some general guidelines as we appreciate and acknowledge school readiness is a process that children move through at their own pace. We endeavour to cater for and meet the needs of the wide range of differences and needs that each individual brings to school.