2011

Exeter Primary School Handbook
Welcome to the Exeter Primary School community!

The West Tamar community is a great place to live, and Exeter Primary School has established an excellent reputation.

Public education in Tasmania is very strong, with our Department of Education guaranteeing a modern and inclusive curriculum, well-trained and professional teaching staff, dedicated and capable support and ancillary staff, and modern and well-maintained facilities.

We have close links with the Exeter Child Care Centre and our associated High School, Exeter High School.

As you commence your active association with your local school, we aim to be communicative, responsive, and committed partners in your child(ren)’s education.

This handbook gives a brief idea of all that will be experienced.

Feel free to seek answers to any questions that you may have.
Email address:  exeter.primary@education.tas.gov.au

Phone:   63944700
Fax: 63944677

School Hours

9.00-11:00 am   Morning learning block
11.00—11:30 am Recess
11.30—12.50 pm Middle learning block
12.50–1:40 pm Lunch
1:40–3.05 pm Afternoon learning block
(Both recess and lunch include 10 minutes supervised eating time)

Term dates 2011:

School Terms for students in 2011:

Term 1:  Tuesday 15th February to Friday 3rd June
         (Easter break Friday 22nd April to 1st May)

Term 2:  Monday 20th June to Friday 2nd September

Term 3:  Monday 19th September to Wednesday 21st December

16th May (Moderation Day for all State Schools)
Our School Community

OUR BELIEFS

At Exeter Primary School we take a broad approach to education and work on the premise that there is no best way to educate all children. We are guided by this set of core values:

- connectedness
- resilience
- achievement
- creativity
- integrity
- responsibility
- equity

Learning can be exciting, particularly if the learner is aware of improved competence and insight gained from the learning. We aim at all times for teachers and learners to work successfully together.

Staff, parents and children share responsibility for enabling our school to achieve its purposes, which include the following:

- to relate, participate and care for each other
- to act ethically
- to live full, healthy lives
- to create purposeful futures and contribute to the development of a better world
- to think, know and understand

As a school we are keen to do the best we can for children in our care. If you have a concern that is mainly about your child it is usually best to discuss it first with your child's teacher. Broader issues can be dealt with through the Principal and/or the Exeter Primary School Association and the Parents and Friends Association.

LOCATION

Exeter Primary School is located 24 kilometres north of Launceston and services the educational needs of a large rural area. Children attend Exeter Primary School from Legana to the South, Rowella to the North and Frankford to the West.

Exeter Primary School has classes from Kindergarten through to Grade 6. There are many composite classes as well as single grade classes.
HISTORY

Exeter's long and fascinating history began when a school was first opened in 1909 on land that was once an orchard. In 1939 schools from Legana, West Glengarry, Swan Point, Winkleigh and Sidmouth were relocated to the Exeter site. The main brick building was built then and opened by the Hon. E.J. Ogilvie in 1940. The newer brick section including the hall was opened in 1954. The school population grew with the addition of two grades 3 and 4 blocks, two kindergartens and 17 terrapin temporary buildings. The District High School reached a maximum population of approximately 960 students before the secondary classes moved to the new Exeter High School site in 1985. Major redevelopment was undertaken in 1992-1994 and more is being undertaken now.

FACILITIES

Exeter Primary School is proud of its purpose-built classrooms. These are enhanced by such facilities as an up-to-date library, school gymnasium/hall, indoor in-ground solar-heated swimming pool and specialist learning areas for Music and LOTE. Students have access to computers in all classrooms as well as in two computer labs. The new school hall due for completion in early 2011 will provide a state-of-the-art performing arts and meeting space.

Our Heritage building offers learning spaces for a range of activities: focussed learning groups, music therapy classes, learning support groups, literacy support, a modern kitchen space and meeting spaces.

Our Grounds Committee continues to develop our gardens and playground areas.
Curriculum

At Exeter we pride ourselves on the rigorous academic programs we offer. We are acknowledged as a centre of educational excellence in the wider educational community.

As in all Tasmanian schools, our Curriculum is currently guided by the Tasmanian Curriculum and will be influenced by the in-coming National Curriculum. The Tasmanian Curriculum is based on a statement of values and purposes, a description of learning and a set of principles to guide practice.

Our work is guided by six curriculum areas.

- English/Literacy
- Mathematics/ Numeracy
- Arts
- Society and History
- Science and Technology
- Health and wellbeing/personal development

LIBRARY
Exeter has an outstanding library from which children and parents may borrow. Parents are most welcome to use the library with their children. To help care for books, library bags are required.

LOTE:
Our Language Other Than English is Indonesian. Indonesian is offered to students across various grades.

MUSIC:
All children from Prep to Grade Six attend one music lesson per week where they explore the elements of music, its notation, its links to other subject areas and its importance in society. They also discover their own inherent musicianship through listening to, performing and creating music. Choir is offered as an optional musical experience for Grade 3 to 6 students. Our choirs perform at the Devonport Eisteddfod and at community events. Instrumental tuition, band and ensemble is provided on a ‘user-pay’ system through the Esk Band Program (flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, saxophone, percussion). Vocal, piano, keyboard, guitar and drums tuition is offered through private providers.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION:
All children have PE once a week with a physical education specialist teacher. (There is also Daily Fitness.) See more under Sport in General Information.

VISITING PERFORMANCES:
Each year students are offered a range of performances. From time to time students are also given the opportunity to participate in workshops and community performances.

VISUAL ARTS:
Visual Arts is an integral part of our children’s education. Varied experiences are offered in the Visual Arts curriculum. Children in all grades participate in printing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, textiles and drawing. Our school Art Gallery proudly exhibits much of this work.

LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAMS:
Learning Support is offered at our school and provides a program for children with additional needs. We offer a variety of alternative programs including play-therapy, life-skills, music therapy, gardening group, fine and gross motor support, and community access.
General Information

ABSENCES and ATTENDANCE
Student attendance is important. We are required to keep accurate records and to contact families in cases of unexplained student absence. Please help us by notifying the school by phone (63944700) or in writing if your child is absent. A note in your child’s Communication Book is most appropriate. Children who arrive at school after 9.00, or who are required to leave school earlier than the normal dismissal times must be collected by parents/carers. All children are required to be signed in (if arriving late) and out (if leaving early) by the parent/carer at the main school office. If known in advance, the student’s teacher should be notified. Attendance for the year will be detailed in your child’s mid-year and end of year report.

ACCIDENTS and ILLNESS
In the case of minor accidents the child is given first aid by a qualified person. Sometimes it is necessary to take the child to the local doctor. Parents are notified either before or after this occurs, depending upon the degree of urgency and the availability of parents. Sometimes it may be appropriate with sickness or injury for parents to take their child home. In urgent cases the local ambulance service is called. We do urge that unwell children remain at home as schools are not appropriate places for the care of sick or injured children.

ALLERGIES/ANAPHYLAXIS
Our school is a “nut aware” environment. We strongly encourage children to not bring nuts to school. As a number of students have life threatening allergies it is important to minimise the chance that these children may be exposed to nuts and/or nut products.

ASSEMBLIES
These are held in the hall fortnightly for grades 3-6 and Prep-2. Parents are very welcome to attend these celebration times. See “Focus”, our weekly newsletter for further details.

BANKING
A school banking service is available to children from Kindergarten to Grade 6. Bank day is Wednesday. The service is supported by parent volunteers who are rostered approximately 2 or 3 days a term between the hours of 9.00 and 10.30 a.m. If you would like to be involved please advise the school office. Your help would be greatly appreciated.
Canteen

The school operates a canteen and employs a Manager who is assisted by volunteer helpers. Orders for lunch are taken in the classroom before school. The canteen is open at recess between 11.00 to 11.20 and at lunch time from 1.00 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. The Canteen offers a wide variety of healthy food at reasonable prices. Volunteers assist in the canteen mostly between the hours of 10.00 am to 1.30 p.m., and are rostered approximately 2 or 3 days a term. Please contact the Manager to volunteer.

Christian Education

Christian Education is an opt-in program (parental permission required) which focuses on two important events of the Christian calendar, Easter and Christmas. Lay people from local churches facilitate these lessons for students in Grades 1 - 6.

Dental Service

Dental services can be obtained from the dental van located at the school phone 63944757.

Early Learning Experiences

At this stage, we hope to be able to offer the following:

**Pre-Kinder**
We offer pre-Kinder for families of children attending Kinder the next year. Pre-Kinder helps provide a smooth transition to school. We intend to offer Pre-Kinder fortnightly.

**ABC Magic and Books and Bubs**
Is for children from birth-four years of age. It is held in our library and provides opportunities for books, rhymes and singing on a Wednesday morning.

**B4 School**
Is held each Friday morning in our Kinder and provides a playgroup experience.
All programs are run by experienced teachers. Please contact the school office for information about these programs or others we are planning for 2011.
ENROLMENTS

Original birth certificates must be sighted as proof of age for new enrolments into the Public Education system. Our school office personnel will also need to take a copy of your child’s immunisation records.

EXCURSIONS

Excursions are an integral part of the educational program of the school from Kindergarten to Grade 6. Excursions complement the learning program being carried out in the classroom. Permission for excursions is given at the beginning of each school year. This covers all outings except major camps. Parents are notified of upcoming excursions by information going home in your children’s communication book/or a separate note.

HOURS

The school provides duty of care only between 8.30 a.m. and 3.05 p.m. School commences at 9.00 a.m. Students should not be in attendance at school prior to 8:30am. In exceptional circumstances please contact the Office so that supervision can be arranged.

KINDERGARTEN

Children must be 4 years of age to enrol in Kindergarten. Kindergarten children attend school for two full days or three part days each week. Students should live in Exeter Primary’s intake area. Check with the school office staff for details.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS GROUP

The P & F extends a warm welcome to you and your family. The P & F is one part of the School Association.

Meetings:
The P & F will meet on the second Thursday of the month during term time at 7.30 p.m. A reminder is placed in Focus, our school newsletter. We are always pleased to welcome new members.
PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents are encouraged to participate in the school program in a wide variety of ways. Contacting your child’s teacher is the best way for your skill to be utilized. Many classes invite parent help on a regular basis or for special projects or excursions. Your assistance is valued. Parents can also volunteer to work in the canteen, banking, or library as well as assist with sport or working bees, attend meetings etc. Parents work with staff and students, in developing our grounds. There are working bees and fundraising activities throughout the year. Parent workshops are held on a range of topics and issues.

REPORTS

Under the recommendation of the parent task force, Exeter Primary School offers three written reports per year, the main report being in July, with a follow-up parent-teacher conversation. This process is an important part of supporting each student’s learning pathway. Teachers may contact parents at other times of the year to discuss a student’s needs and progress.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – “FOCUS”

A weekly newsletter is distributed to the eldest child in the family every Wednesday. Parents and/or Guardians of students that wish to receive our school newsletter via email, please advice our office staff or your details either by phoning 63944700 or emailing them to exeter.primary@education.tas.gov.au.

This is a very important means of communication between school and home. The P&F have regularly added a “Yellow Sheet” to the green newsletter. We ask parents to be vigilant in reading every publication to keep informed of school events.
SCHOOL UNIFORM

At Exeter Primary School we believe that the wearing of a uniform encourages school pride as well as fostering equity and safety. We support the overwhelming majority of parents who wish to see all children in uniform. We have a uniform that most children enjoy wearing. It comprises a range of mix and match options which means parents and children can select those items best suited to individual needs. These items are available at the uniform shop which is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 8.45–10.00. The Office has a price list.

Uniform Shop:
The school uniform shop is in the Heritage Block and is run by the parent group from our school. The shop operates each Tuesday and Thursday between 8.45 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.

GIRLS

**Summer**
- Dress: Green/white/red checked dress or green skort and gold polo top
- Socks: Short green
- Shoes: Black

**Winter**
- Skirt/Pinafore: Green skort or green tartan tunic with detachable bib
- Shirt: Gold polo top or gold skivvy
- Leg Wear: Green socks or stockings
- Shoes: Black
- Trousers: Green track pants or grey trousers

BOYS

- Trousers/Shorts: Grey in cotton or twill or Green track pants
- Shirts: Gold polo top or gold skivvy
- Socks: Grey
- Shoes: Black

JUMPERS

For both boys and girls we have bottle green windcheaters or rugby tops.

HATS

We are a "hat wearing" school. Hats are compulsory in Term 1 until the end of April, and all of Term 3. All students need either a Legionnaire cap or a wide-brimmed hat. Bottle green is the school colour.
SPORT

Sport is a strong feature of the school and usually includes cricket, football, softball, netball, athletics, minkey, swimming, cross country, volleyball, newcombeball, soccer and tennis.

During the year there are Athletics, Swimming, and Cross Country Carnivals, as well as representative teams for Football, Soccer, Netball, and Cricket. In addition there are many opportunities for recreational and intra-school sport, particularly for older children.

Grade 6 compete in Lightning Premierships against other schools in the Tamar region. Junior Development Officers from various sports are also used to enhance sporting opportunities for children. Sports clinics are also held after school.

Swimming and Water Safety programs operate from Prep to Grade 4. The school has an indoor heated in-ground pool. This very valuable asset was provided by parents. Grades 3, 4 and 5 students travel to Launceston to participate in deep water and water safety programs for a block of time.

Sports Uniform
Parents are encouraged to send a change of clothing as appropriate for Physical Education or sport.

- Netball skirt/Green or grey shorts
- Green tracksuit pants
- Sandshoes
- Polo-shirt of house colour (Grade 3-6 children only)

House System:
Children are allocated their House at the beginning of their Grade 3 year. School sporting competition operates on a House system with houses as follows:

Brady House - Blue
Batman House - Green
Dalrymple House - Red

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STATIONERY, BOOKS, LEVIES

Separate information outlining requirements for each grade is supplied to parents. Check with the school office for further details.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE SCHEME (STAS)

The Department of Education provides assistance that may be granted to parents experiencing financial hardship. Application forms are available from the school office.

SUPPORT STAFF

Our community is served by a Guidance Officer, Speech and Language Pathologist and Social Worker. Each works on allocated days at Exeter Primary. Please contact your child’s teacher or the Principal or Assistant Principals if you have concerns about your child’s learning or behaviour as the expertise of the support staff may be required.

TRANSITION

For children in Grade 6 we have a detailed transition and orientation program as their Primary years end and Exeter High time approaches.
TRANSPORT – SCHOOL BUSES
The school is served by 17 buses run by contractors who are employed by the Department of Roads and Transport. Information regarding bus schedules is available from bus contractors or the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources phone 6233 5193.

The first buses arrive at school at approximately 8.35 am. At the end of the school day buses depart at 3.05. Children's behaviour on buses is expected to be of a very high standard.

Parents are requested to notify the school in writing of any changes to normal travelling arrangements.

For the safety of children and the convenience of bus operators, parking of cars in front of the school is prohibited at the times that buses are delivering and collecting children to and from school.

**BUS CONTRACTORS NAME** | **BUS RUN** | **BUS NOS.**
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Manions Coaches | Sidmouth | 13
72 Shaw Street, | Legana | 12
BEACONSFIELD 7270 | Birralee | 11
Telephone: 63 831 221 | Muddy Creek/City | 08
 | Frankford | 05
 | Beauty Point | 01
 | Beaconsfield | 02
 | Greens Beach/Holwell | 03

McDermotts Coaches | Bridgenorth | 09
Rosevears Drive, | South Bridgenorth | 04
ROSEVEARS. 7275 | Little Swan Point | 10
Telephone: 63 943 535

David and Paul Scott | Rowella | 14
233 Rowella Road | Deviot | 16
ROWELLA 7270 | Rosevears | 17
Telephone: 63 947 343 | Sidmouth Shop | 15
(Kayena)

Ian & Nada Miller | Flowery Gully | 06
32 Blackwall Road, BLACKWALL. 7275 | Winkleigh | 07
Telephone: 63 944 029
Glen-Ard-Mohr Road Exeter 7275
www.schools.education.tas.gov.au/exeterprimary