Baimbridge College

Junior School
2015 Information Booklet

Your comprehensive guide to Years P - 4 at Baimbridge College
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BAIMBRIDGE COLLEGE INTRODUCTION

For most parents the choice of a primary school for a son or daughter is a decision that is only arrived at after a great deal of reflection and consideration. This is as it should be: beginning school is a significant milestone in a child’s life that will affect not only the student’s immediate happiness but also his or her long term future. A decision with such important and far reaching consequences should not be made hastily and certainly not without carefully considering all the alternatives.

Primary School is the most important stage in a child’s development. In this time, children learn to communicate and socialise, to use and understand the environment, to develop their self-image and personality and formulate values and a philosophy of life.

Obviously the curriculum at the school is important. We offer enhanced educational opportunities to our students through our extensive curriculum offerings, facilities and resources. The staff of the college are all fully qualified and committed to assisting our students to fulfil their potential.

The welfare of our students is of paramount importance. Students will be supported by the maintenance of a harmonious and safe learning environment. College wide and classroom rules will be firmly and consistently enforced to ensure that all students feel secure and safe. The Junior Coordinator and our Student Wellbeing Coordinator are always available to discuss any issues of concern that students may have.

At this school no student will be permitted to adversely affect the learning opportunities of others. Parents can feel confident that their child will have every educational opportunity in 2015 and beyond. Your support of our policies and programs, your assistance and interest in school, and your attitude to education are vital in this task. We can be most effective in our task of educating your child if we have your support. Two ways in which parents can demonstrate their support is by ensuring their child adheres to the college’s uniform policy and by signing the student’s diary each week. The ‘Compass’ student management system should be monitored regularly and any new contact details updated as required. Parents who have any concerns about something at school are encouraged to contact myself, our Assistant Principals Miss Morgan or Mr Hill, the relevant Coordinator or Ms McGowan our Student Wellbeing Coordinator to discuss the issue.

In conclusion, let me stress that we welcome input from parents whether it be in person, by letter, phone or via the Student Diary and contact can be made to the school in person, via phoning (55722788), email (baimbridge.co@edumail.vic.gov.au) and information (including the newsletter) can be found on the website: www.baimbridge-co.vic.edu.au . We look forward to having your family either becoming or continuing to be a part of our school community.

Robert Vecchiet
Principal
ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

SCHOOL PROFILE
Situated in the northern area of Hamilton, the school was opened in 1966 and in 2003 it merged with Baimbridge College to become a Prep to Year 12 school. The town has extensive sporting facilities, all community and shopping services and a population of approximately 10,000.

The Junior school enrolment is presently 18 with a number of children coming from surrounding districts.

The Junior School of Baimbridge College is situated in B Block, on the West campus. This wing consists of administration offices, staffroom, first aid room and four primary classrooms. There is also a multi-purpose room, computer lab, Reading Recovery room and canteen. Adjacent to this wing is the main library; gymnasium, music centre, large ovals, established gardens and a variety of play equipment. School access to other town facilities such as the Performing Arts Centre and swimming pool is available by bus.

The school enjoys the active support of parent bodies and the local community. Baimbridge Primary is part of the Hamilton and District School’s Education Network and often engages with member schools in exciting educational activities.

We have a junior school coordinator and specialist and generalist classroom teachers available for your child/ren. Education support staff are also available to assist with our intervention programs.

MISSION STATEMENT
Baimbridge College aims to provide the best possible education for all students, according to individual needs and abilities.
This involves:
• High quality teaching and learning experiences using the expertise of staff together with all available resources.
• Children being educated through a flexible and extensive curriculum, in a safe, caring and stimulating environment, where they are encouraged to:
  - have a positive feeling about themselves and their learning
  - use their initiative and think independently
  - make decisions, recognise and solve problems
  - achieve self-discipline and act responsibly.
• Implementing an evaluation and reporting system at all levels.
• Taking into account ideas, expectations and needs of both parents and staff, whilst having regard for children’s emotional, physical and social development.
PARENTAL CONTACT WITH THE COLLEGE

If you have any queries phone:

Mr Robert Vecchiet  Principal
Miss Rosemary Morgan – East Campus  Assistant Principal
Mr John Hill – West Campus  Assistant Principal
Mr David Gilchrist  Bus Co-ordinator
Ms Monika Dittrich  Junior School Teacher
Ms Cath McGowan  Student Well Being Coordinator

Phone: (03) 5572 2788  Fax: (03) 5572 5811
Email: baimbridge.co@edumail.vic.gov.au  Website: www.baimbridge-co.vic.edu.au

Postal Address: BAIMBRIDGE COLLEGE
85 Stephen Street
HAMILTON VIC 3300

Parents/Guardians are always welcome to contact the College by telephone, in writing, email or in person. Our Offices on both campuses are staffed between 8.30 am and 4.30 pm on all school days. If some teachers are unavailable, you are welcome to arrange a mutually convenient time to see them. An appointment is preferred. All staff have teaching duties that they cannot neglect and your cooperation and understanding is appreciated. The Compass system allows you to email individual staff, but a more personal phone call or interview is preferred for sensitive or serious matters.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

Years Prep, 1, 2, 3 & 4 are based on the West Campus in the B Block Corridor.

SCHOOL YEAR 2015 -

Staff Resume: Wednesday 28th January

Students resume

Term 1: Friday 30th January – Friday 27th March
Term 2: Monday 13th April – Friday 26th June
Term 3: Monday 13th July – Friday 18th September
Term 4: Monday 5th October – Friday 18th December

SCHOOL HOURS

Our school day is divided into six periods, as follows

Form Assembly  9:00 am - 9:10 am
Period 1  9:15 am - 10:03 am
Period 2  10:03 am - 10:51 am
Recess  10:51 am - 11:16 am
Period 3  11:21 am - 12:09 pm
| Period 4 | 12:09 pm - 12:57 pm |
| Lunch   | 12:57 pm - 1:47 pm  |
| Period 5| 1:52 pm - 2:40 pm   |
| Period 6| 2:40 pm - 3:28 pm   |

**Please Note:** Students should not arrive at school before 8.30am as there are NO teachers on duty before that time. (If this is a problem please discuss with the Level Coordinator.)

For the Junior School program this is seen as a flexible arrangement to ensure personalised learning programs fit the learning needs of that particular day or group eg. Literacy, numeracy blocks can be spread out as the need requires.
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Education Maintenance Allowance

(1) Pupils who are less than 16 years of age whose parents hold a current Health Benefits Card or Health Care Card are eligible for a maintenance grant. Application forms are available at the East General office or available for download on the website. It is suggested that these forms are filled out and signed at the school. EMA is paid in two instalments (first and second semesters). Applications for this payment should be completed by end of February, and (if applicable where circumstances alter) end of July.

(2) State Schools Relief Committee. Items such as clothing are available for families in need. Apply to the Student Wellbeing Coordinator for details.

Conveyance Allowance

An allowance may be granted on behalf of a student who attends the nearest school which provides the course required by the student and who resides not less than 4.8 kilometres from that school or not less than 4.8 kilometres from a bus route. Application forms are available from the front office.

NOTE: Applications must be checked and renewed each February.

Application Forms

If you believe you are entitled to any of the allowances and are uncertain as to what to do, please make an appointment to see the Student Wellbeing Co-ordinator. All discussions will be treated in the utmost confidence.
UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS – Junior School

Uniform Policy

1. Baimbridge College students are required to maintain a high standard of personal grooming and cleanliness.
2. Excessive jewellery must not be worn. Students may wear only a watch and/or a maximum of two studs or sleepers in the ears (no stretchers, spacers or bars). No noticeable makeup may be worn. Clear nail polish only.
3. Classroom health and safety rules will apply.

Girls – Winter

Jumper - Baimbridge College Rugby Top.
Slacks - Navy tailored Buxwear trousers. (NO track pants).
Shirt - White polo shirt or skivvy.
Skirt - Regulation navy and green. Tights - Navy Blue.
Socks - Navy blue above ankle or knee-high socks (Red Robin).
Shoes - Black leather lace up or T-bar. Polishable.

Girls – Summer

Dress - Baimbridge College Blue/White dress.
Shorts - Navy tailored Midford shorts (half elastic back).
Shirt - White polo shirt or skivvy.
Socks - White – knee high or above the ankle.
Shoes - Black leather lace up or T-bar. Polishable.
Hat - Baimbridge College Hat (No caps).

Boys – Winter

Jumper - Baimbridge College Rugby Top.
Shirt - White polo shirt or skivvy.
Trousers - Navy (half elastic back) trousers. (No track pants).
Socks - Navy blue.
Shoes - Black leather lace up or Velcro fastened. Polishable.

Boys – Summer

Shirt - White polo shirt.
Shorts - Navy walk shorts with side tabs – Midford brand preferred.
Socks - Navy above ankle socks.
Shoes - Black leather lace up or Velcro fastened. Polishable.
Hat - Baimbridge College Hat (No caps).

Physical Education

The Physical Education uniform comprises of a red polo shirt (short sleeved with collar), navy blue shorts, socks and runners. Other items: navy blue tracksuit pants and/or jacket, navy blue rugby top, red sports socks.

These items of sports clothing with the Baimbridge College logo/insignia are available for purchase at

Accurate Clothing – 124 Gray Street, Hamilton. 03 5572 1375

The College has a prescribed uniform. The College policy is that the prescribed uniform is compulsory for all students. Long hair needs to be tied up.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL ITEMS ARE CLEARLY LABELLED
WITH YOUR CHILD’S NAME
**SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE JUNIOR SCHOOL**

**Music**

Music is a vital part of the school’s curriculum and all Junior School students learn the violin through a specially designed programme.

Each week every student from the Junior School participates in two group lessons where basic skills are targeted. These are held in the Junior School Multi-Purpose room. Students are invited to join the Junior School Orchestra when they are deemed capable. These children are then taught to read music and follow a conductor. This is an innovative programme which is offered free to all students. All students are provided with a violin that they may take home for practice. Any parents who would like to join their child in learning the violin are invited to discuss this with Mr Johnny Chen.

Junior School students may also participate in the brass programme and are able to take guitar lessons. Our music faculty is housed in a large, well equipped building which has two classrooms, two rehearsal rooms and five small teaching/practice rooms, giving students an excellent opportunity to develop their skills.

The Baimbridge College Music Auxiliary is an organisation which supports both students and staff involved in the Music Programme. The Music Auxiliary, made up from parents of instrumental students provides fund-raising to assist with trips/excursions, and the supply of extra musical requirements not available through normal school budget allowance. The Auxiliary helps music staff at music nights by manning the door and organising supper. They also work at BBQ’s or other events, for music students from Baimbridge College and visiting schools. Your involvement would be welcomed.

**Fresh Fruit Everyday**

Healthy eating and good choices is encouraged and the teaching of healthy eating habits is an important part of the curriculum. Students are encouraged to bring a piece of fruit to eat in class at 10.00 am

This programme operates on two afternoons a week for approximately seven weeks each term. Students share a healthy afternoon tea together before being involved in physical activities.

Activities vary each term to give students a range of experiences.

This service is part of the governments Health and Active initiative and is offered free to all participants. Students will need to be picked up at 4.45pm from the nominated venue.

**Library**
The library is a spacious, well-equipped area that students and staff are able to access throughout the day using the classroom, silent reading area or the audio-visual room. The library has excellent computer resources for class or individual use and students are able to access appropriate websites through the Library Blog. There is a very extensive fiction and non-fiction collection catering for a wide range of reading abilities and interests. As well as periodicals (including daily newspapers), the library also provides a range of DVDs videotapes and audiotapes. Junior school students receive library lessons instructing them in library use and research techniques, promoting an enjoyment of reading through encouragement of their own reading. Students are able to be involved in activities such as the Premier’s Reading Challenge and the Children’s Book Awards.

**Discipline**

At Baimbridge College we aim to produce and maintain a positive harmonious and cooperative learning environment where the full potential of each student is achieved. We have in place, a simple but comprehensive set of rules and consequences:

1. Every student has the right to learn.
2. Respect should be shown for the rights and property of others.
3. Consideration and respect should be shown to every member of the College community.
4. Each member of the College has a right to feel safe.
5. All students have a responsibility to make the most of their educational opportunities.

A clearly defined set of consequences is set out for infringements, including warnings in the classroom, extra work after school, daily reporting, damage redress and parent interviews. Counselling through the Level Coordinators forms the basis for discussions with students. Staff strive to provide many opportunities for positive feedback, including: diary entries, Compass (on line management system) entries, verbal praise and public acknowledgement of student achievements.

It is a system that provides clearly defined boundaries for students and promotes a harmonious atmosphere.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Absences**

A phone call to the school to let us know when your child is absent will help us maintain our records. When your child returns from an absence from school, could you please send a note of explanation for your child’s absence. Notes should be handed to the West Office. The Compass system also allows any absences to be approved on line.

**Assemblies**

Assemblies are held regularly throughout the school year in various formats. Baimbridge College holds special assemblies for School Captains, House Captains and Form Captains Investiture and Anzac Day, Level, Whole School, Junior/Senior and House assemblies are held throughout the year. Often these assemblies have a theme and are avenues for acknowledging student achievement. Musical pieces from the various bands and choirs operating from the music centre are usually included.

The Junior School holds regular assemblies which are run by the Junior School House Captains.
Assessment

Full semester reports are issued mid-year and at the end of the year. These reports comment on the student’s completion of work, their work requirements and a graded level of effort and achievement for each subject. The report is reviewed by students’ form teachers, level co-ordinator, principal and assistant principal. The semester report is supported by an interim report issued mid-semester, usually falling close to the end of term one and term three respectively. The interim reports indicate students’ progress. The interim report is accompanied by parent teacher evenings where parents can discuss their children’s progress with teachers. All subject teachers are continually assessing individual work requirements and should communicate, if needed, through the student diary.

Bike Safety

Many children ride their bikes to and from school. This is encouraged by the College as a healthy habit. It should be emphasised that children MUST obey all the rules of the road. School policy is that only children in Grade 3 or higher may ride to school, the reason for this being that small children have little concept of relative speed and distance or dangerous situations. ALL CYCLISTS MUST WEAR AN APPROVED BICYCLE HELMET. College has a locked bike enclosure on the East campus situated in the staff car park.

Bookstore

Stationery requirements can be ordered through our supplier – Slade’s Newsagency, Gray Street, Hamilton. Requirement lists can be obtained from the main office.

Buses

Enquiries about buses should be directed to the Bus Co-ordinator, Mr David Gilchrist. Students other than regular bus travellers can obtain a temporary bus pass if a written note from home is produced outlining date of travel, name of student and bus on which travel is required.

Junior School students are monitored at the end of each day and a roll is taken to ensure they are reach their allocated bus correctly.

Canteen

There is a canteen on the West Campus staffed by a manager and volunteer helpers. Canteens are open at morning recess and lunchtimes. Students can buy lunches, drinks and fruit, at very reasonable prices. We appreciate the efforts that volunteers make when they assist in the canteen. If you are able to help, please contact the canteen staff.

Compass

Compass is the online management system the College uses to record attendance, behaviour, provide personal and group communication and allow for parent, student, home, school communication. Access is via the College website (Compass link on home page), a password is required. Passwords will be issued on enrolment and are to be kept confidential, especially from students who will get their own in Year 7. The Compass management system will be of benefit to you as a parent/guardian as it will automatically provide an SMS alert if your child is absent from school on a particular day without approval. Contact can then be made by you to the College via SMS reply, email, phone or in person if required. Group emails and responses to teacher ‘news feeds’ are then also possible. There will be more information available about this feature available on the College website.

Diary

All students are required to have a Baimbridge College diary. The diary contains a great deal of school information and allows students to record important dates, homework and assignment details. The diary is to be signed weekly by parents/guardians.
Excursions and Camps

All students are offered the opportunity to participate in a variety of day long excursions in the junior school. The types of trips recently covered have included Werribee Zoo, Ballarat, Bridgewater and Portland. Details of the trips are given as much notice as possible and costs are always looked at in order that as many students are able to attend as possible. The College feels these trips play a very important part in our curriculum and are carefully planned to ensure that they are not only enjoyable, but of maximum educational and social benefit to the children. Usually the junior school has one day trip per semester, or a combination of a two day camp and a one day trip.

Emergency Forms

Upon admission to the school, the enrolment forms you fill in as a parent/guardian needs to provide as much detail as possible. All home, work and other emergency contact information in the case of a problem can all assist the College to ensure any contact can be made as necessary as quickly as possible. Updated contact details need to be communicated to the school and updated on the Compass system as required.

First Aid Room

An extremely well appointed First Aid facility is available to all students. If a student is deemed ill he/she will be sent home, so it is essential that the school is provided with at least one, or preferably two, emergency contact numbers of people who will be able to collect the student when you are not able to do so. Please advise your child’s Level Co-ordinator of any specific medical problems your child may experience and notify the school if the student’s medical situation changes. If students are seriously ill or injured, parents are contacted and, if necessary, an ambulance is called. Parents are strongly advised to belong to an ambulance fund. Details of medical issues are also filled out on enrolment forms, but should also be communicated each year as part of your normal parental/guardian care. This is especially important in the areas of asthma, allergies and required medications to be given (Staff are not permitted to give students any medication unless instructed by parents – written form is preferred). Any parent that has a student who contracts an infectious disease such as head lice, school sores, measles or chicken pox must exclude them from school and are asked to contact the school about this.

The school carries spare changes of clothing to loan for other various emergencies.

Jewellery

All jewellery is banned, except for watches and studs or sleepers in pierced ears. (One per ear). Details of this are in the College diary.

Leaving the School Grounds

If it is necessary to leave the school on a regular basis (example: going home for lunch every day) then a note must be presented at the beginning of the year requesting this. A permanent lunch pass will then be issued. If a student does not normally leave the school but must leave on some particular day, then a note must also be brought from home. Parents of Junior School children need to report to the class teacher before taking their child during the school day.

Lost Property

All clothes and property belonging to students should be clearly labelled. Students are requested to enquire about any lost property either during lunch or recess, or before or after school.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are not to be brought to school. Students have access to telephones on both campuses, and messages from outside of school can be left with the General Office for delivery to students.

If a Junior School student needs a phone before or after school then they must leave the phone with their classroom teacher for the day. Any child found with a phone during the school day will have it confiscated.
**Newsletter**

The weekly newsletter is available for each family. It provides information on coming events at Baimbridge College. These are available on line – if you require a hard copy they are available at the office Thursday afternoons.

**Parent Assistance**

We are always pleased to accept offers of assistance from parents. Many parents help with the hearing of reading, preparing aids, typing stories, sports coaching, excursions, Canteen duty, College Council, working bees and supporting our many programs. Please contact your child’s teacher if you would like to help in some way.

Should you possess a particular skill, or have a great interest in some other area that you would like to share with the children (not necessarily your own’s child’s grade), please let us know – we appreciate all help offered.

**Parking and Pick Ups**

The car park is for the use of staff cars on both campuses. Parents are requested NOT to use the car park as a drop-off zone for their children. They are also asked not to park inside or across the front gates. Parents picking children up or dropping children off on the Coleraine Rd service road are to do so safely and park at the kerb on the left.

**Reports and Parent Teacher Interviews**

A written report is sent home at the end of term two and four. Parent teacher interviews take place at the end of term one and three. Interviews can also be arranged on request at other times. Please provide plenty of notice for these meetings so suitable progress reports can be obtained from all specialist as well as generalist teaching staff of your child/ren.

**School Office**

West Office hours are from 8:30 am until 4:00pm, East General Office is open until 4.30pm. The office staff support teachers and students in many ways.

**Student Bulletin**

Information about the school day is included on a Student Bulletin which is read out to students at form assembly and is pinned up on noticeboards around the school for students to read.

**Support Services**

Children from Year Prep upwards have access to medical service examinations from the School medical service, speech therapy, counselling, guidance and clinical services and integration as required. Students with disabilities and/or impairments are welcome at the school and we have a dedicated integration unit that coordinates parent support groups as required.

**Uniform**

If a student is out of uniform he/she must obtain a uniform pass from the Level Co-ordinator prior to going to period one. A note of explanation from a parent/guardian must be given to the co-ordinator at that time or no later than the start of the next day.

**Your Contact Details**

Please ensure that the West Office has your current address and phone contact details. These can also be updated on our online Compass system which can be accessed via the College webpage.
IMPORTANT NOTICE

We require all of our volunteers to apply for a

‘Working with Children Check’

The ‘Application Guide and Form’ booklets are available at the post office and

after completion needs to be signed and submitted at the post office.

There is no fee to lodge this application if you are a volunteer

Information about the ‘Working with Children Check’ can be viewed online at

HELPING YOUR CHILD SUCCEED AT BAIMBRIDGE COLLEGE

AT HOME

Students’ attitudes to school begin at home. The following are some key areas that help to promote learning in your child;

• Read to and with your child on a regular basis.

• Play games that involve taking turns such as I spy, dominoes, scrabble.

• Build fine motor skills through activities such as Lego fun, model building, knitting, sewing and juggling.

• Build gross motor skills through sports, circus skills, trampolining, running and jumping.

• Have them talk about their feelings. This is important for both girls and boys.

• Ensure that they always speak clearly, using full sentences.

• Assign chores for your child to complete independently.

• Make sure they are comfortable reciting their name, address and phone number.

• Always talk to your child about school in positive terms.

PREP ENTRY – Does your child know ....

• their full name and address

• how to tie and untie laces and buckle sandals

• how to toilet themselves and adjust clothing.

• Hygiene needs e.g. washing of hands and covering mouth when sneezing, coughing.

• How to put things away and to share

• How to say please and thank you!

GOING TO SCHOOL

To enable your child to get the best out of their schooling we encourage you to help us each day by ensuring that your child has;

• had a good night’s sleep.

• eaten a healthy breakfast.

• read to someone.

• practised basic number patterns.
  (dependent on age - counting/tables)

We ask parents to make sure that their child;

• is dressed in full school uniform.

• has long hair tied up.

• arrives at school on time, as important learning instructions occur at the beginning of the day.

• has all the things they need to complete the day. i.e. pencils, books, lunch, drink, violin, sports clothes, library bag/book etc.

• Has all clothing and shoes named.

• Has healthy food for recess and lunch breaks. Has a drink bottle.

• Has a piece of fruit for fruit break at 10.00am.

We ask all parents to be involved in their child’s schooling. If possible we invite you to help out at school. If this is not possible make sure that you talk about both your child’s day as well as your day.

GENERAL TIPS FOR RAISING RESILIENT CHILDREN

The following are some general tips for raising resilient children, divided into the three key areas of caring relationships, high expectations and opportunities for participation.

Caring Relationships

• Provide unconditional love and emotional support. Demonstrate affection physically and verbally.

• Foster self-esteem by recognising and praising achievements and helping children to develop their talents and abilities.
• Provide ample time for communication with your child about the day's events, feeling and thoughts. Help children develop a vocabulary for talking about feelings by encouraging them to label their emotions.
• Avoid harsh criticism and negative comments.
• Demonstrate forgiveness and reconcile after disciplining children.
• Provide plenty of time and opportunity for creative play and exploration.

**High Expectations**

• Help children to develop their problem-solving skills by assisting them to solve their own problems rather than stepping in with your own solutions.
• Teach children social skills and provide feedback about their social interactions.
• Recognise your child's capacity for maturity, common sense and learning, and expect them to behave accordingly. Communicate the message that "you have everything you need to succeed."
• Provide clear, consistent discipline.
• Challenge negative, defeatist thinking and encourage optimism.
• Offer plenty of encouragement to help your child persist when confronted by obstacles or difficulties.
• Encourage and respect children's autonomy.

**Opportunities for Participation**

• Expect children to carry out age-appropriate chores and tasks that contribute to the welfare of the family.
• Encourage children to give their time to worthy causes or to helping others. This might range from helping to prepare food for a sick relative to volunteering for a local community tree-planting day.
• Provide resources for children to explore their interests.
• Involve children in family decision making and rule-setting.
• Hold family meetings in which children are encouraged to voice their feelings and thoughts to resolve conflicts and other issues.

Reading, writing and overall language are linked as in real life. Purposeful activities are carried out at all levels at Baimbridge College where children write about their actual experiences, use imagination. Much of the language work done at school comes from integrated units (focuses), as children read and write for prescribed tasks. Word study and vocabulary development is continuous as children learn the words they need in their writing. Baimbridge also has a library program where children are taught to locate fiction and non-fiction books, use the catalogue to find information and how to borrow and return library books. Children are encouraged to love and enjoy good books to read for recreation and as a source of knowledge and information.
TEN WAYS PARENTS CAN PROMOTE LANGUAGE LEARNING AT HOME

1. Begin reading to your children at an early age, and as often as possible. (If possible read in other languages.)
2. Visit your public library with your children as often as possible. Choose books for yourself and your children.
3. Keep many types of reading materials (books, magazines, newspapers, etc.) in your home. Encourage your older children to read to your younger children, and allow your children to see that you also enjoy reading.
4. Ask your children questions about what they have read, such as:
   - What is happening in the story?
   - What do you think will happen next?
   - What did you like best about the story?

Asking these questions can help your children become excited about reading, more responsible for their own learning, and more knowledgeable about their way of life and other cultures.

5. Take your children to places in the community that offer educational activities and learning experiences. Talk to your children about what they are seeing. Provide them with the names of new objects of attention, concern, or interest. Answer questions they may have. Remember, you are your child’s first teacher.

6. Tell your children stories about your family, as well as stories and songs you liked to hear when you were a child. In this way, not only are you reinforcing listening skills, but you are also passing along important cultural information.

7. Discuss things that happen in school every day. Engage your children in conversation about their favourite subjects and teachers, and any special events that go on. Listen closely to what they say in response.

8. Find different opportunities for your children to write. Encourage them to write in a journal or diary, leave notes for family members, compile shopping lists, write down recipes, and write letters to family, friends, and/or pen pals.

9. Select television programs that you and your child can watch and discuss. Limit the amount of time your children can watch television and encourage them to read, write, listen to music, or talk with family members or friends.

10. Designate a quiet place in your home for reading where your child is comfortable and away from distractions.

At Baimbridge children will actively measure, weigh, count, estimate and calculate, graph, draw and describe their solutions to real problems. Fractions, decimals, geometric shapes, areas, volumes, etc. are taught and used in practical situations and, of course, tables and number facts are vital to the whole practical process. Formal and abstract computations are taught as understanding grows. Numeracy, especially the introduction of early years numeracy is a major priority of our charter.
HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD DEVELOP MATHEMATICAL THINKING

Every child and adult needs to know and understand mathematics. It’s part of our everyday life. We all “do maths.” We count money, measure things, sort from biggest to smallest, know how far it is into town and how long it takes to get there. At work, we may use spreadsheets, a calculator or adding machine, a cash register, or a precision measuring tool. The list goes on and on.

Children are taught mathematics in school, but research shows that families are an essential part of this learning process. In other words, by doing maths with your children and supporting maths learning at home, you can make a great difference.

There are many ways to make maths part of your family’s life. As you establish your own traditions for supporting your children’s maths learning, consider the following checklist of key ideas.

Always Talk About Mathematics in Positive Ways

Regardless of your own mathematics background, let your children know that learning maths is very important. Communicating a positive, can-do attitude about maths is the single most important way for you to ensure that your children are successful in mathematics. Always be positive when you talk about maths—never tell your children that maths is too hard or that you hated it when you were in school. Let them know how critical maths is by pointing out how people use maths in everyday life. Encourage them to always do their very best in this subject area.

Know What Your Children Are Studying In Maths

Be aware of the maths your children are learning each year and know the standards they’re required to meet. Ask them what they’re studying in maths class, regularly check in with them about maths homework, and help them with school projects when it’s appropriate. If your children experience difficulties in their maths learning, work with them to overcome these trouble spots. Don’t hesitate to talk with your child’s teacher if you need more information or assistance.

Have High Expectations for Your Children

Research shows that when you believe your children can learn challenging concepts, they will rise to the occasion—so expect a lot from them! Be confident that your children can learn mathematics and then actively support them as they do so. Seek out mathematical-focused programs and activities for them.

Encourage the Use of Technology In Maths

Help your children use calculators, computers, and the Internet to do maths at home. Mathematics and technology are great partners. Tasks such as long and complex calculations, charts, tables, graphs, and spreadsheets show the power of using mathematics and technology together. Doing tasks that involve maths and technology helps prepare your children for the future.
**Make Mathematics an Everyday Part of Your Family**

Find maths at home. Spend time with your children on simple board games, puzzles, and activities that involve maths. Involve your children in activities like shopping, cooking, and home fix-it projects to show them that maths is practical and useful. Encourage your children to solve problems that involve maths. Engage your children in conversations about what they’re thinking about when they solve mathematical problems. Find opportunities to explore maths together.

**Notice Mathematics in The World**

You can help your children see the usefulness of mathematics by pointing it out wherever you see it—not just in your home, but everywhere. Tell your children about the maths you do in your job and why it’s important. When you’re outside your home, look hard for ways to point out maths: What shape does that tree look like? How many more kilometres before we get there? How does mathematics figure in sports, music, car building, or the design of a Ferris wheel? If you start looking for maths in the world, you’ll find more and more of it—and so will your children.

**HOW PARENTS CAN HELP WITH MUSIC AWARENESS**

In every culture, all over the world, music is a crucial part of early learning, and a source of fun and creativity. Appreciating music is a lifelong pleasure. Music plays are large part in the teaching of coordination, cooperation and concentration.

Children should be exposed to a wide selection of music from a variety of sources.

- Take children to concerts when possible – there are many free concerts, processions or performances available throughout the year.
- Stop and listen to street performers when the opportunity arises.
- Sing with your child – let him or her teach you new songs he or she has learnt.
- Clap, beat a tin, bang saucepan lids together as you sing with your child.
- Invent nonsense verses to well-known songs while you and your child are doing something together.
- If possible, provide tapes or compact discs of children’s songs for your child to listen to. These are good distracters for a long journey in the car.
- Play musical games with your child, e.g. ‘Round and Round the Garden’; ‘This Little Piggy Went to Market’; or ‘Ring a Ring a Rosy’.
- Consider forming a ‘musical play group’ with someone who can play an instrument.
- Make some simple percussion instruments with your child for his or her toy box.