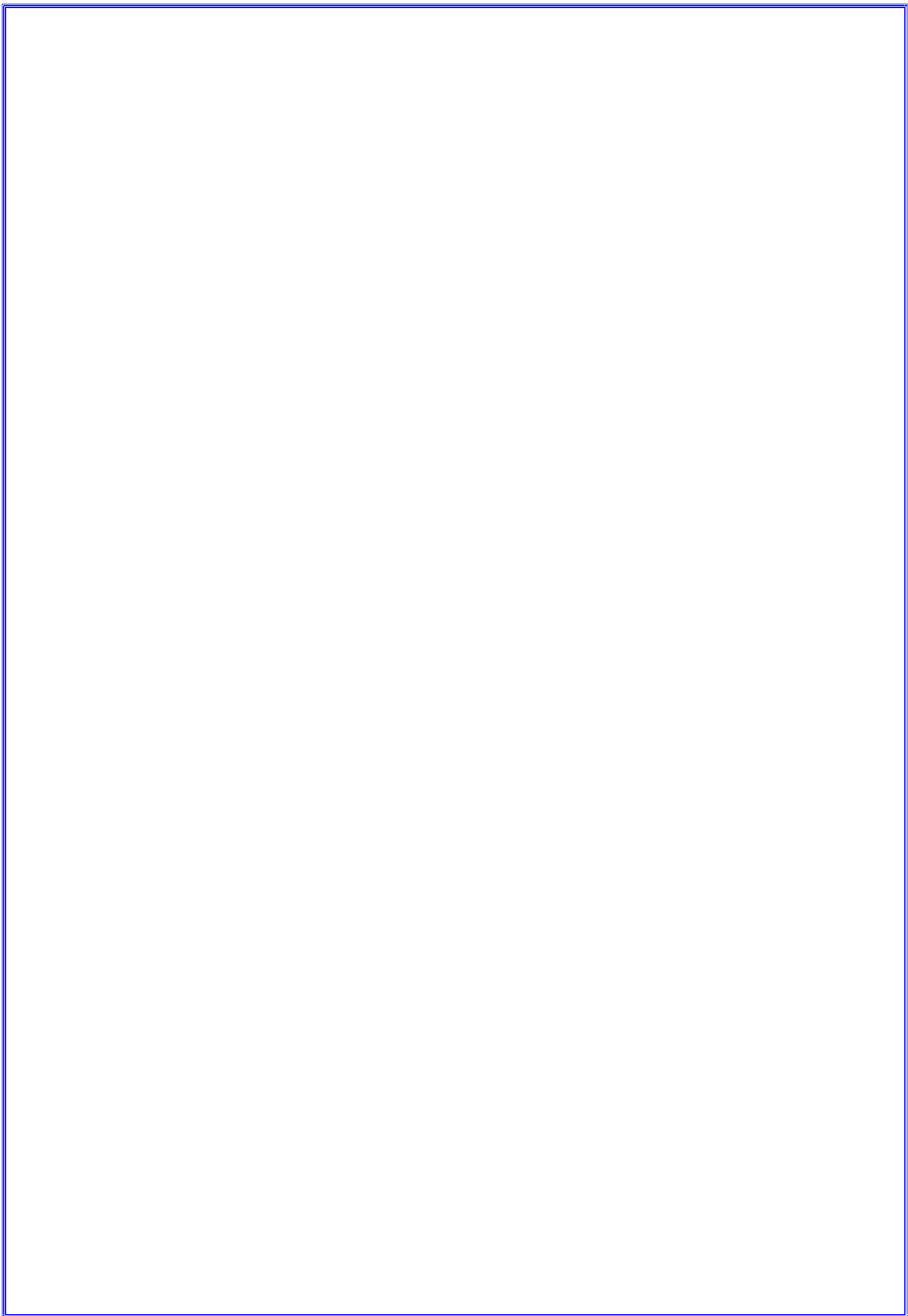


Freestone State School



Handbook

2023



GET SET FOR SCHOOL AT FREESTONE

Very soon, your child will be commencing school at Freestone State School. To ensure that both you and your child have a stress-free start, here is some information that you might find useful.

THE STAFF

A qualified teacher and teacher aides supervise the two multi-age classes which cater for students from Prep to Year 3 and Year 4 to Year 6. They are responsible for the curriculum, organisation and running of each class or smaller group.

Current Staff (Subject to Change)

Teachers

- ☺ Mrs Laura Watson
- ☺ Mrs Jenny Millen

- ☺ Mrs Jayne Shelley (Music)
- ☺ Mr Roy Nott (P.E.)
- ☺ Mrs Heidi Thompson (Japanese)

Teacher Aides

- ☺ Mrs Annette Sinden
- ☺ Mrs Marguerite Walsh
- ☺ Mrs Lynn-Marie Cremasco
- ☺ Mrs Marie Gould
- ☺ Mrs Teena Waugh



WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL NEED FOR SCHOOL

☆ A royal blue / red school bucket hat available from the school.

☆ A lunch box with a small piece of fruit for our **mid-morning fruit break** (e.g. cut watermelon, grapes, carrot sticks, small apples, cherry tomatoes). Please pack food for **lunch break** and also **afternoon tea**. Students on the late bus run must bring a snack to eat after school.



☆ Tuckshop is offered on a Friday and orders must be placed by Wednesday. Tuckshop forms are sent home at the beginning of the week with the eldest sibling or a notice posted on the Skool Loop App.

☆ A school bag big enough to hold a lunch box, a library bag on borrowing day and a jumper.



☆ Two spare sets of clothes/underwear (in a named plastic bag). These are kept at school. A reminder will be sent home for replacement sets. In winter, we request a warm change of clothing.

☆ A library bag for borrowing and returning books.

☆ A drink bottle.

Names and labels:

As children sometimes do not recognise their own belongings, we cannot emphasise enough the need to label absolutely everything - bags, shoes, lunchboxes, hats, library bags and clothing.

WHAT YOUR CHILD WEARS TO SCHOOL

Our students may wear royal blue shorts or royal blue skirts (with navy blue bike pants), or skorts. The preferred footwear is socks and joggers with either velcro straps or laces. White socks should be worn on formal occasions. School uniform shirts are available for purchase through the P & C and are stocked at school.

We are very conscious of sun safety at our school and recommend that you apply sunscreen prior to your child's arrival. Children are encouraged to wear the school's bucket hat. Regular caps are not an option. We have a strict 'no hat no play' rule and due to safety issues, we do not have spare hats.



HOURS OF OPERATION

School will be operating five days a week starting at 8:50 am and finishing at 3:00 pm. Flexible drop off and pickup times are available on request.

Students travelling by bus are supervised in the Year 4 - 6 room until approximately 8:40 am. After this, students move outside to play supervised games until 8.55 am when the school roll is taken and classes commence.

Staff are usually at school from approximately 8:00 am. This provides an opportunity for teachers and parents to interact. For an extended discussion or to raise specific concerns, please make an appointment.



ARRIVAL PROCEDURE

When children come into the classroom, they are expected to be responsible for their own belongings. Please encourage your child to follow the routine outlined by the teacher.

This routine may include:

On arrival, the student will put their bag on the port rack outside the classroom for Prep - Year 3 or the port rack in the undercover area for students in Years 4 - 6.

The students put their homework bag and fruit inside in the designated area.

The students place their lunch box and drink bottle in fridge in undercover area before joining other students in the Year 4 - 6 room. Students complete activities with a member of staff or play quietly.

At approximately 8.40am the students will be taken out for supervised games.

At 8.55 am each morning; students follow the teacher/staff directions and move to the Year 4 -6 classroom for roll marking. Parade is held once a week usually in the Year 4 - 6 classroom or the undercover area.

COLLECTION TIME

At 3:00 pm students can be collected by a parent, caregiver or an older sibling. Students will not be allowed to leave until the teacher sights the person collecting the child. A teacher or teacher aide will supervise bus runs.



PUNCTUALITY

Classes commence promptly at 9:00 am so please ensure that your child is at school on time. This way, your child does not miss out on any valuable group learning experiences.

At the end of the school day, please make sure that whoever is collecting your child is here on time. A child can quickly become distressed when it is time to go and no-one is here to collect him/her.

In addition, teachers may have meetings to attend, appointments, etc. and cannot always be there to supervise late into the afternoon.

Absences maybe sent to the Skool Loop App or an SMS to school mobile phone.

PREP OPEN MORNING/SESSIONS

The Prep Open morning for parents and future prep students is usually held in Term 4. In the last few weeks of term 4 the prospective students are invited to attend and participate in class sessions.



During the interview session at the Prep Open morning, parents will be able to discuss any specific issues concerning their child.

The Principal is more than happy to meet with prospective parents and students by arrangement.

THE FIRST FULL DAY OF SCHOOL IS:
Monday 23 January 2023

- WHAT DO WE DO?

Arrive at school at approximately 8:30 am. Students in Years 1 to 6 should go to the Year 4 - 6 classroom for supervision.

Prep Students will need some extra help on their first day. Assist your child to find his/her name at the Prep tables and assist your child to put on his/her name tag. You may sit with your child until the teacher indicates it is time to start. Say your goodbyes and reassure your child that you will be coming back to get him/her in the afternoon.

It is best to cheerfully say goodbye and quickly leave rather than dragging out the parting process. As soon as the parents have left, the students will be settled with a story or a song. The teacher or teacher aide will support your child and let you know if he/she does not settle.

MORE BITS AND PIECES TO REMEMBER



Open Door Policy

Our door is always open and we encourage parent participation in all aspects of our program. This will give you the opportunity to work with your child, meet his/her friends and gain an insight into the daily activities. Please talk to the classroom teacher about this.

We are always happy to discuss any matters regarding your child. This can often be done informally before or after class. However, we may need to make an appointment to arrange a mutually suitable time for lengthy discussions.



Sharing Information

Events in family life, such as a major illness; visits by grandparents or other relatives; an accident or death of relatives, friends or pets can impact greatly upon children and may markedly affect their behaviour.

It is important for home and the school to share information which may affect your child. We would be most grateful if parents would inform the teacher of any unusual happenings. Send a message to the school mobile, have a quick chat to the teacher or pop a note in the diary.

Treasures from Home

Toys and trinkets from home very often become lost or broken at school, so it saves a lot of time and heartache if these are left at home.



Any toys that find their way to school will be cared for in the office or classroom until the end of the day. Staff cannot assume responsibility for any loss or breakage. Parents will be notified of "show and tell" days.

Birthdays and Other Celebrations

Birthdays and other special celebrations are wonderful ways to build relationships with one another. From past experience, we have found that patty cakes are more practical to share than large birthday cakes. However, whichever you choose, please ensure there is enough for everyone in your child's classroom or even better, the whole school. On many occasions, the students choose to share with all of their friends in the whole school.



Parent Help - Prep Class

Parents are encouraged to contribute to the school programs. Once the children have settled, all parents are welcome to help.

Grandparents and other relatives are also welcome to visit but need to be aware that a Blue Card will be required of any helpers who are not parents of a student.

Parents can also assist by taking small tasks to perform at home such as cutting up materials or making play dough. The Prep teacher will put up a parent roster once they feel the children have settled and routines have been established. Parents are asked to please sign the Visitors/Voluntary Helpers Book in the foyer/office.

Lost Property

Please make regular checks of the lost property box located in the undercover area.

Excursions

From time to time during the year, we will organise tours of educational interest for the children. Written permission from parents will be necessary before a child may participate in any such outing.



At times the school may request parent helpers. Please contact the school for details.

Swimming - Term 3 - costs are covered by school and P&C.

School Camp

All students from Prep to Year 6 are offered the opportunity to attend school camp towards the end of term 4. Camp is usually over 2 -3 nights. Costs for camp is subsidised with parents paying under \$200 for transport, accommodation, food and activities,

Prep Programming

We plan programs that aim to promote the achievement of every student.



At the beginning of the year as younger children settle into school life, play forms an integral part in their learning. As the year progresses, there is greater emphasis on focused teaching and learning as the students continue to develop and move towards Year 1.

The *Australian Curriculum* will guide the content to be taught and achievement standards expected of the students.



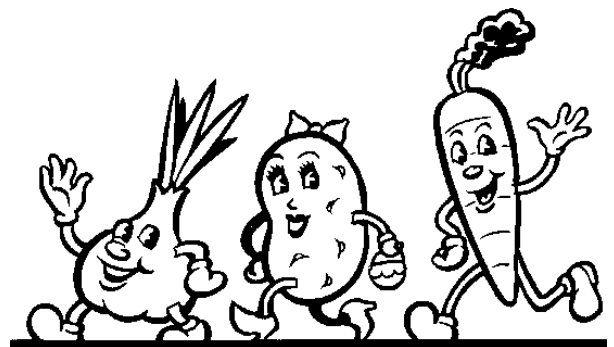
NOTES:

FOOD FOR HUNGRY KIDS

Please consider carefully the foods you include in your child's lunchbox. We encourage children to make healthy choices; to eat first and leave the 'treats' for later. Containers need to be easy to open, food should not need reheating or cutting up and spoons need to be included so that your child can independently manage their food. Two fridges are available in the undercover area for lunchboxes.

Suitable Healthy Choices:

- ☺ Bread - sandwiches, rolls, French sticks, pita or lavish bread
- ☺ Crackers - Rice, Ryvita, Sao, Salada
- ☺ Savoury biscuits
- ☺ Cheese/salad/olives
- ☺ Salami/meat
- ☺ Vegetables - carrot sticks, beans, capsicum
- ☺ Baked beans (in a container they can open)
- ☺ Boiled eggs
- ☺ Fruit - fresh, dried or canned
- ☺ Natural popcorn
- ☺ Yoghurt/milk



- ☺ Custard (not flavoured)
- ☺ Buns - plain or fruit
- ☺ Leftovers
- ☺ Cereal or nuts (subject to change)
- ☺ Tuna (in a container they can open)
- ☺ Muesli bars



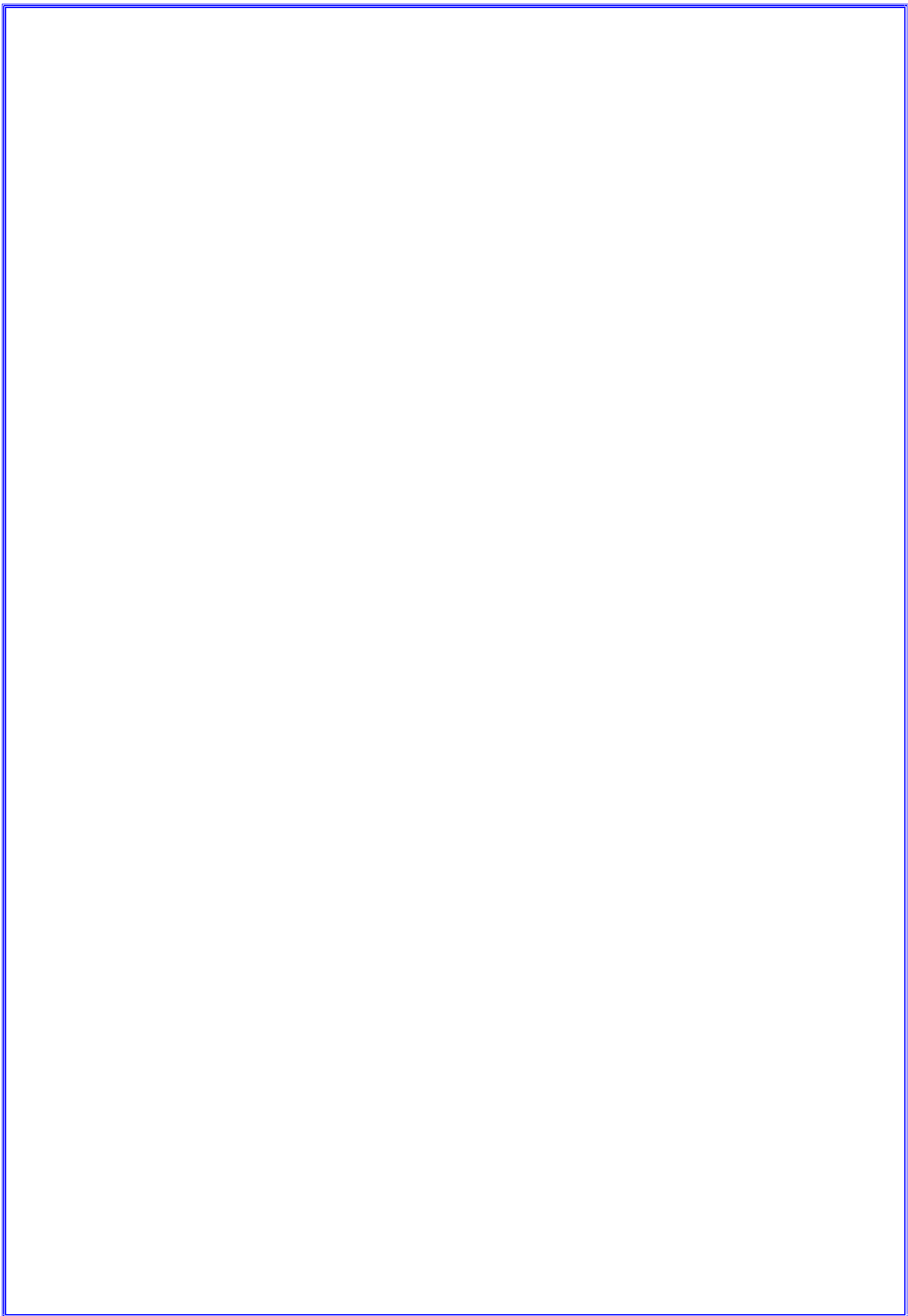
Unsuitable Food for Lunches:

- ☹ Chips or lollies not recommended
(Maximum one packet of chips per day)
- ☹ Cakes with lots of icing or cream
- ☹ Chocolate or chocolate flavoured or chocolate coated foods
- ☹ Roll-ups
- ☹ Soft drink

FREESTONE STATE SCHOOL TIMETABLE

| | |
|----------|---|
| 8.40 am | Supervised Games |
| 8.55 am | Roll Marking - daily Parade (Monday) |
| 11.00 am | 1 st Lunch Bell - Play |
| 11.20 am | Eat lunch |
| 11.40 am | Middle Session Bell |
| 1.30 pm | 2 nd Break Bell - Play |
| 1.40 pm | Eat lunch |
| 1.50 pm | Last Session |
| 3.00 pm | School Concludes |







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