

## Sooke Elementary School Start



Hello all Sooke families!

We are excited to start our 2025-2026 school year next week! Welcome new and returning families!

### **First Day – Tuesday, September 2**

This first day for **returning students** in grades 1-5 is a shortened day and will run from **8:50 am to 11:38 am**.

We ask that students please return to last year's line-up location on Tuesday Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> when the bell goes at 8:48 am. Students will return to their last year's class for the first few days until enrolment numbers are finalized across the district and schools are given permission to move students.

The following classes will be greeted by different teachers:

Division 6 (Ms. Doyle) will be met by Ms. Moore & Ms. Gates

Division 13 (Ms. Froese) will be met by Mrs. Riddell

For our **new students and families**, please meet at the picnic tables/red bench by the primary playground at 8:50 am. From there the students will be escorted into the gym before moving into classes with grade level peers. Students will return to the picnic table area for pick-up Tuesday only. On Wednesday, students can line up with the class that they join on Tuesday. Please ensure you chat with your child about where they line up on Wednesday morning.

### **First Week**

For this first week, teachers have planned a variety of learning experiences to transition students back into the classroom and create a sense of community and belonging as well as to provide students with skills and understanding to help them have a successful school year. We will work to ensure we have class placements finalized this week and then help students transition to their new classes. The exact date is yet to be determined. Please know that our staff are very thoughtful in determining class placements for each student.

### **Kindergarten Gradual Entry**

A reminder that kindergarten is a gradual entry with shortened days beginning **Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>**, Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. The first full day of kindergarten is Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. Parents of students in kindergarten please refer to the letter emailed to you in July and then again today for your family's specific time.

Our Kindergarten classes will be determined after we meet the students and get to know them. The entire Kindergarten team will work with the children during the first couple weeks of September and the students will do activities in all the Kindergarten classrooms. This will allow us to form balanced classes that support all students.

## **School Supplies**

We are pleased to share that we have secured funds to cover school supplies for this year (2025-2026), so families will not need to purchase items. While this may not be possible in future years, we're happy to offer it for the upcoming school year.

## **Flourish Food for Schools**

All schools in BC are now supported by the Feeding Futures School Program Fund, designed to assist schools in the development and enhancement of school meal programs and other nutritional supports for students. The goal of Feeding Futures is to support students by providing nutritious meals in an inclusive manner, to ensure that hunger is not a barrier to learning.

This school year, our school will be receiving regular support to provide snacks and hot lunches to all students who may need some food at school. Our goal is to provide food openly, in a caring and supportive manner. If you were part of this program last year, we will automatically include you in the program this year. A consent form will be sent home next week. **The program won't be up and running until Monday, September 8th so please send your child/ren with a lunch next week.**

Our program will be supported by the Flourish! School Food Society. To learn more about the food services they provide, visit [www.flourishschoolfood.ca](http://www.flourishschoolfood.ca).

Starting on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, Sooke Elementary will also be offering an option for families to purchase a daily hot lunch for their student(s). The hot lunches provided by Flourish! School Food Society includes a hot entree, salad, and occasional dessert. This hot lunch is served daily during lunch time by our school meal coordinator.

The cost of this hot lunch program is \$7.00 per day, which is paid monthly as a single payment via School Cash Online. Please note, there are no refunds if a student is absent or misses lunch for other reasons.

If you would like to sign up for this program for the month of **September** please go to School Cash Online on Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

For sample monthly menus visit: <https://flourishschoolfood.ca/menu>

For more information about Flourish Food Society please visit: <https://flourishschoolfood.ca>

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

## **Some Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the school schedule?**

#### **School Hours**

**8:50...School starts/classes begin** (teachers meet students outside and escort them)

**10:10 – 10:25...Recess**

**11:58 Outside Lunch Playtime**

**12:38...Instruction Begins**

**2:38...School ends/students dismissed**

### **What do I do if my child is late or absent from school?**

If your child is absent or late for school, we ask that you **please email us at [sooke@sd62.bc.ca](mailto:sooke@sd62.bc.ca)** If there is to be an extended absence, you may also inform us using the above email and please email your child's classroom teacher.

### **What do I do if my child arrives late, leaves early, or has an appointment during the day?**

Please escort your child to and from the office and complete the sign in/sign out sheet.

### **How do I as a parent visit the school?**

We are thrilled to welcome parents/guardians and visitors into Sooke. We ask that should you come into the school you do so by coming to our main office to check in and to make appointments with staff should you wish to meet with any of the staff.

## **Upcoming Dates**

Tuesday, September 2nd: First Day of School with **early 11:38 dismissal**

Wednesday, September 4th: **Full Day of School (8:50-2:38)**

Friday, September 5th: **Kindergarten Gradual Entry**

Wednesday, September 10th: **First Full Day of Kindergarten**

Monday, September 22nd: **School Planning Day (school not in session)**

Tuesday, September 30th: **National Day for Truth & Reconciliation**

If your family has moved from our school and/or school district and you have not let us know, please do so asap @ 250 642 5431 or email [sooke@sd62.bc.ca](mailto:sooke@sd62.bc.ca)

Looking forward to seeing you all next week!

Renee, Principal