



# New Farm State School



## Buddy Program

The purpose of the Buddy Program at NFSS is to support a smooth transition for children starting school. It helps students entering their first year of primary school to feel safe, valued and connected to the school community. Collaboratively the Prep and Year 5 teachers pair the new primary school (Prep) students with an older buddy (Yr 5 student).

Buddies meet regularly throughout the year to complete fun activities together. These activities include literacy activities, maths games, craft, special events and sporting activities. The program has an extremely positive impact on both the younger and older buddies with solid relationships being formed, enhancing the sense of a friendly and supportive school environment. Some of the benefits for the older students include acknowledging leadership, demonstrating responsibility, acting as positive role models and taking pride in their ability to be helpful citizens within our school.

The NFSS Buddy Program includes the following elements:

- teachers work collaboratively to oversee how the relationships develop and are maintained
- the older buddy is provided with advice and some 'training' on how to be a buddy
- each buddy understands each other's role and appropriate interactions are explained
- students participate in structured activities together as well as being provided with opportunities to identify other activities they might do with and for each other
- student temperaments, interests and other elements are considered when matching buddies

