



OPTIONAL ICAS EXAMS 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Altona Primary School will again be implementing ICAS over the coming year. ICAS is a comprehensive skills-based program that assesses higher order thinking and problem-solving skills.

HOW ICAS IS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER ASSESSMENTS YOUR CHILD WILL TAKE:

1. ICAS can tell whether students really understand what they are being taught.
2. ICAS can help discover student talents and student weaknesses that don't always get picked up by the curriculum testing framework.
3. ICAS will not add extra workload to a student's study or homework regime because ICAS is an assessment they can't study for. It evaluates thinking and problem-solving ability, not memory.
4. ICAS's diagnostic reports provided with each exam result, will give parents more insight into your child's strengths and weaknesses.
5. ICAS will also give an external benchmark you can rely on to ensure our school is keeping pace with national and international standards - ICAS is the most comprehensive international assessment program, with schools in over 20 countries participating every year.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

If you would like your child to participate, please complete the permission slip and return it, with payment to the school no later than **March 9th 2018**.

PLEASE NOTE LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Please note that due to the fact students participate from a range of year levels, in scheduling these exams your child may miss a specialist subject. Unfortunately this is unavoidable.

Kind regards
Mrs Wendt