



Welcome to

KINDY



Our aim is to provide a safe, supportive environment that encourages exploration and appropriate learning experiences through intentional play, recognising the individual physical, intellectual, emotional and social needs of the children.

Welcome to the Kindy Parent Handbook! This document has been developed with a goal to provide all Kindy parents with a succinct overview of the Kindergarten program at Esperance PS. It is recommended that you read this document in conjunction with the school's Parent Handbook, which provides a comprehensive A-Z overview of the whole school's operations, policies and planning relevant to parents incorporating frequently asked questions.

Further information on the Kindergarten programs will be obtained at the Kindergarten Orientation day in November as well as at the initial Parent and Carers Classroom Meeting in early Term 1.

Attendance

At Esperance Primary School we offer a 15 hour a week Kindergarten program. Children can enrol in five full day sessions each fortnight and through the following structure, students will have two consecutive days each week, with the Wednesday being once a fortnight.

- The Yellow and Red Group (Monday/Tuesday) attend Wednesdays each **odd week** of the school term.
- The Blue Group (Thursday/Friday) attend Wednesdays each **even week** of the school term.

Day	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
Week 1 - Odd					
Week 2 - Even					

Booklist Items

At the beginning of Term 1 please supply the following items:

- Small pillow (because of limited storage space these need to be no more than 30cm square - no pillow pets please)
- 2 x glue sticks
- 2 x Permanent Black Markers (e.g. Sharpie Fine Point or Artline 70)
- 1 x packet Whiteboard Markers
- 1 x Scrapbook (72 pages)

Please note: the pillow will stay at Kindergarten and needs to be clearly marked with the child's name. All other items are shared and do not need to be labelled.

Bus Collection

General information about bus services is in the *Parent Handbook*.

If your kindy child is arriving by bus, they will be collected from the Andrew Street bus bays at the front of the school by Student Councillors, who will walk them to their classroom. A bus child is automatically taken to the bus in the afternoon unless a written note is sent to school stating otherwise. An Education Assistant and Student Councillor escort the children to their appropriate bus each afternoon.

Parents and Carers are responsible for providing staff with their child's bus roster, including bus name/number and when the student will be using the service. Please advise staff at your earliest convenience if there are changes.

Clothing

Kindy Students are welcome to wear the school uniform. However, from time to time students will be engaged in activities that may involve paints and other like materials. In view of this please feel welcome to dress your child in 'play clothes' and appropriate shoes as an alternative to formal school uniform.

Uniforms can be purchased at Haslams, on Andrew Street Esperance. Tartan Skirts, skorts and school dresses are available to purchase from the School Office.

Remember to **label ALL clothing**, including socks and shoes with your child's full name. As we are encouraging independence, we would appreciate shoes your child can manage independently.

Hats

Esperance Primary School has a "Wear hat, can play" policy. **Your child will be provided with a school broad brimmed hat at the beginning of the year.** In 2023 the hats will be donated by the Parents and Citizens (P&C) Committee.

Communication Folder

Your child will be supplied with a communication folder which will come home each day. Sometimes it may be empty. If you have notes for us we ask you to put them in the folder. The folder needs to come to school each day.



Eating at Kindergarten

Lunch

The children need to bring a packed lunch each day. Please keep it simple and nutritious, i.e. a sandwich/wrap/salad, fruit and small snack. To ensure children have enough energy for learning in the afternoon they will be encouraged to eat their sandwich/wrap/salad first. We encourage you to avoid nuts and egg products in lunches as some students may have allergies related to these products. As one of our aims is to encourage independence, please make an effort to avoid commercially packaged food as children can have difficulty opening it. The school canteen offers healthy lunch options. You will need to provide a **water bottle clearly labelled with their name** each day for your child.

Morning Tea/Crunch & Sip

Sitting together for a mid-morning snack is an important part of our program. Apart from encouraging the use of manners and the development of social interaction, the children are often exposed to different foods and we are able to discuss healthy options (Crunch and Sip is offered as morning tea). You will need to provide a **clearly labelled water bottle** and a piece of fruit or a vegetable each day that your child attends Kindergarten. The fruit and vegetables will be cut up by staff for all the children to share.

Canteen

Our canteen, Seahorse Snacks, operates Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for lunch and recess snacks. Kindergarten students can **order lunch only** and orders are delivered to the classrooms.

Lunch orders must be placed before school at the canteen or online at www.quickcliq.com.au

Family Roster

At Esperance Primary School we value the important role that families play in education and we encourage the involvement of Parents and Carers. Participating in activities is an opportunity for families to observe their child in a school environment, to see what is happening in classrooms and to enjoy yourself alongside your child in their learning. Family Rosters will be available for you to volunteer your time each term.

Help provided by any member other than a parent requires a Working with Children Check or a signed Confidential Declaration Form. Forms are available at the School Office.

Gates

The gate from the car park into the Kindergarten/Pre-primary area is unlocked at 8:25am and locked again at 9:15am. In the afternoon it is unlocked at 2:50pm and locked again at 3:15pm.

Please help us by ensuring that you shut the gate when you enter or exit.

If you need to come into the school outside of these hours during the school day, please enter or exit through the School Office. Parents and Carers are asked to supervise their child before and after school.

Please see the School Map in the Parent Handbook for entry gates.

Parking

Please see the School Map in the Parent Handbook for parking locations. There is limited parking outside of the early childhood entry.

School Bag

Please ensure that your child's belongings are secured in an appropriate bag which is easily identifiable and easy for them to open. The bag should be big enough to carry their lunch, hat and spare clothes and also have room for their creations.

Starting & Finishing Times

Kindergarten hours are 8.45am – 3.00pm.

Drop Off

Our classroom doors open at 8:30am to enable students to be settled and ready to learn. Please be on time each morning. At 8.45am the siren sounds to commence classes. Parents and Carers are asked to leave by this time.

If your child arrives after 9:00am, please bring them to the School Office to sign them in. We are always happy to see our students, so please bring them to school even if you are running a little late.

Pick Up

If someone other than yourself is collecting your child, it is imperative that you please provide consent in writing to your child's teacher. This is particularly important for extended periods of time when you may be unable, for whatever reason, to collect your child at 3:00pm. If you are unable to collect your child on any given day, please ensure you have advised the School Office no later than 2:30pm. Our preference is phone contact as quite often an email or Seesaw message may not be received or checked by the teacher prior to the end of school.

Toileting

Typically, Kindergarten children are able to go to the toilet independently. This means your child is able to:

- Realise when they need to go to the toilet
- Adjust their clothing accordingly
- Use toilet paper
- Wash their hands after using the toilet.

Accidents do happen and staff are there to help develop these skills independently. You can help by getting your child to practice these independent toileting skills so they are ready for Kindergarten. If your child is not fully toilet trained, please inform the teacher at what stage of training your child is at so we may also support them to feel comfortable. Please ensure your child has a change of clothes in their bag for every session.

