



2023

KINDERGARTEN HANDBOOK

Thank you for your interest in enrolling your child/ren in the Bicton Primary School Kindergarten Program. This booklet will provide you with some information about our Kindergarten Program.

It is an exciting and important milestone when your child starts school. These first years; Kindergarten, Pre-Primary and Year One are opportunities for your child to continue to learn, develop and build on the foundations you have laid at home.

Kindergarten is the first experience your child has of school life. Even though Kindergarten is not compulsory, children learn important early maths, reading and writing skills, as well as social skills that will help them through school. Going to Kindergarten encourages a love of learning and helps children become confident learners. Being confident and happy about your child starting Kindergarten helps make the transition from home to school easier for both you and your child. If your child attends our school regularly in the early years, they are more likely to continue this in the future.

Did you know your child's brain will grow to 85% of its adult size by the time they are three years old? Imagine all the learning they do in this time?

We look forward to the opportunity to establish a long and productive association with you and your family.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerry Woodhouse', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mrs Kerry Woodhouse
Principal

Early Childhood Vision for 2023

At Bicton Primary School we believe in nurturing the whole child. Our focus is on fostering our students' academic, social/emotional, physical and creative development.

We have a positive, vibrant environment that incorporates a balance of explicit teaching and play based learning, both free and intentional. Using our surroundings, we immerse our students in rich experiences to encourage their own curiosity. Learning through hands-on exploration allows our students to be actively engaged in the learning process.

We recognise each child is an individual. By planning and teaching with differentiation we allow each child to develop and flourish in their own time. Support and guidance are provided within a safe space, allowing each child to grow and create a sense of their own identity.

We strive for our students to have a love of learning and encourage families to be involved in their child's schooling. Building this partnership between school and home promotes a sense of belonging and inclusivity for everyone in the Bicton school community.



Our Bicton Vision

To nurture, inspire and achieve success.

Our Bicton Mission

Bicton Primary School exists to develop our children to be creative, positive and independent people. We aim for personal excellence based on recognition of individual differences, supported by a positive learning environment of developmentally appropriate instruction.

Our school promotes a respectful, nurturing, and supportive environment. Each student's self-esteem is fostered by positive relationships with students and staff. We strive to have our parents, teachers, and community members actively involved in our school life.

By promoting high standards and expectations we all share the responsibility for achieving the school vision.



Bicton Primary School Business Plan 2022-2025 Goals

Strategic Pillar 1: School and Community Relationships and Partnerships

- Promote a shared responsibility for student wellbeing and learning

Strategic Pillar 2: A Learning Environment that Promotes Continued Growth

- Create a learning culture and environment of rigor, excellence and growth mindset

Strategic Pillar 3: Data Analysis and Evidence to Improve Student Outcomes and Progress

- Have data informed staff to improve student outcomes
- Data and evidence reflects the whole child
- Ensure pedagogical approaches are evidence based and supported by relevant data

Strategic Pillar 4: Teaching and Learning Excellence in Every Classroom

- Provide stimulating, engaging and innovative learning environments that enhance our values, expectations and quality teaching and learning practices
- Develop learning spaces that are flexible, inclusive and creative so students can be challenged in a dynamic and forward thinking way
- Ensure learning is visible in every classroom
- Contextualise the curriculum to respond to the needs of our learners
- Provide feedback rich classrooms that are targeted and purposeful
- Provide a holistic curriculum inclusive of health, wellbeing and safety for all students
- Western Australian Curriculum, Kindergarten Guidelines and Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) are fully adopted and effectively implemented

Strategic Pillar 5: Exemplary Leadership and Capacity Building

- Ensure an expert teaching team is attracted, retained and developed



Administration

The Kindergarten Classrooms are operated through the school office.

Phone: 9205 5800

2023 Term Dates

School Development Days

| | | |
|--------|---|---------------------|
| Term 1 | - | Monday, 30 January |
| | - | Tuesday, 31 January |
| Term 2 | - | Friday, 2 June |
| Term 3 | - | Monday, 17 July |
| Term 4 | - | Monday, 9 October |
| | - | Friday, 15 December |

First Semester

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|---|-------------------|
| Term 1 | Wednesday, 1 February | - | Thursday, 6 April |
| Term 2 | Monday, 24 April | - | Friday, 30 June |

Second Semester

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Term 3 | Tuesday, 18 July | - | Friday, 22 September |
| Term 4 | Tuesday, 10 October | - | Thursday, 14 December |

2023 Session Times

| | | |
|-------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Kindy 1 | Monday and Thursday and alternate Wednesdays | 8.45am – 3.00pm 8.45am – 2.30pm |
| Kindy 2 / 4 | Tuesday and Friday and alternate Wednesdays | 8.45am – 3.00pm 8.45am – 2.30pm |

Wednesday Attendance

Kindy 1

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Term 1 | Feb 1, Feb 15, Mar 1, Mar 15, Mar 29 |
| Term 2 | April 26, May 10, May 24, June 7, June 21 |
| Term 3 | July 19, Aug 2, Aug 16, Aug 30, Sept 13 |
| Term 4 | Oct 11, Oct 25, Nov 8, Nov 22, Dec 6 |

Kindy 2 & 4

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Term 1 | Feb 8, Feb 22, Mar 8, Mar 22, April 5 |
| Term 2 | May 3, May 17, May 31, June 14, June 28 |
| Term 3 | July 26, Aug 9, Aug 23, Sept 6, Sept 20 |
| Term 4 | Oct 18, Nov 1, Nov 15, Nov 29, Dec 13 |

Regular Attendance is Important

Regular attendance is critical for students to achieve optimal learning at school. Bicton Primary School monitors and records student attendance daily and regularly reviews attendance data to determine whether a student's attendance is of concern. We also aim to monitor the reasons for student absence and to work with students, parents and teachers to improve the attendance of students who are at risk.

Missing school adds up:

If your child misses an average of five days a term, they miss out on approximately one year of school by Year 9.

If your child misses one day a week of school, they will miss almost two years of school by Year 9.

If you have an appointment and need to pick up your child early or bring them to school late, please go via the front office where you will need to sign your child in or out of school.

Vacations

Parents of students wishing to go on family vacations during school term should be directed to the Principal to determine a reasonable duration for the absence. A significant amount of notice would be expected.

How can I become involved?

Bicton Primary School values a strong partnership with families. As the first and most significant teacher in your child's life you have much to offer teachers. We invite you to volunteer to help with classroom activities or excursions. Your child's eyes will light up when you join them at Kindergarten. Remember also that a solid parent-school relationship will keep you well informed and help your child form a positive attitude to school.

COVID precautions permitting, we are very keen to have parents involved. We encourage parents to come on roster regularly. You can help provide extra experiences for the students as well as gain valuable insights into your own child. We aim to enrich the children's experiences so if you or any friends have special talents you would like to share with the students we would love to hear from you.

What Happens During the Day?

Your child will go to Kindergarten for 15 hours each week. This means children have more time to learn and develop socially and emotionally. It may also make it easier for them when they go to full-time school. The teacher plans regular breaks each day so children can eat, play and rest.

We ask that you pack a nutritious morning recess and lunch. Our school also participates in the Crunch and Sip program where students are asked to bring in a small container with fruit, vegetable sticks and/or cheese, which they can eat during the morning class session.

What Will My Child Learn in Kindergarten?

Kindergarten is a wonderland of painting and storytime; of talking and listening; of exploring the world; and of making new friends. Your child begins to build on what they have learned at home. This includes their understanding of language – that language is made up of words, that written words are made up of letters in the alphabet and that spoken sounds can be written down. They also learn about numbers and shapes and the many different ways we use maths in our lives every day.

These early lessons help your child later with reading, spelling, language and maths skills. Your child's teacher takes into account the many different experiences and backgrounds of the children in the classroom, to ensure the learning program supports and nurtures each child.

Control over small muscles: painting, threading, building, drawing, cutting crafts – all these require coordination of hand and eye muscles – essential for reading and writing.

Control over large muscles: swinging, running, jumping, climbing, digging, hopping, etc. Until a child can control his/her whole body, he/she has little chance of controlling small-specialised muscles.

Concentration: puzzles, games, art/craft and the use of other types of educational apparatus.

Respect for others: everyone has a right to have a turn at a favourite toy, so we must share. Respect for staff, other adults and peers.

Awareness of his/her world: nature study and science.

Music: an early appreciation of music and movement to music; working together to play games.

Creative thinking: block building, constructing, painting, drawing, modelling dough and problem solving.

Widening of intellectual development:

Kindergarten is an ideal environment for the stimulation of your child's language and thinking process. Our teachers develop your child's auditory, visual and problem solving skills through stories, poems, discussions and games.

Co-operation: working together to achieve common goals.

Responsibility: for belongings, cleaning up, and for his/her own actions.

Self-discipline: learning to control own emotions and desires. Expressing himself/herself in an acceptable way.

Manners: common courtesies and common hygienic practices.

Handy Information for Parents

What should my child bring on a typical school day?

- A large bag
- A school hat
- Sunscreen (please apply in hot weather)
- A change of clothes and underwear
- Water bottle (named) – no cordial or juice please.
- Crunch & Sip Container – Please see below
- Recess – a nutritious snack
- Lunch



School Uniform Requirements from Uniform Policy Relevant to Kindy Students

At a minimum the students are required to wear the school Blue and Gold Polo T-shirt and the skort, shorts, dress or track pants with the school logo. Students must also wear appropriate footwear as outlined below and a Bucket Hat with their faction colour on the reverse side.

- Royal blue school jacket with school logo (Available only from Uniform Concepts)
- Royal blue school fleece jacket with school logo (Available only from Uniform Concepts)
- Royal blue school track pants with gold piping and school logo (Available only from Uniform Concepts)
- Royal blue 'skort' (short/skirt) with school logo (Available only from Uniform Concepts)
- Royal blue shorts with gold piping 'micro fibre' with school logo (Available only from Uniform Concepts)
- School check dress with gold piping and school logo (Available only from Uniform Concepts)
- Bucket hat with faction colours on the reverse side with school logo (Available only from Uniform Concepts)
- Only Royal blue tights (with feet) to be worn under dresses and skorts
- Royal blue school scarf with school logo (Available only from Uniform Concepts)
- **Kindergarten students wear the 'Kindy shirt' and full school uniform**
- Appropriate footwear suitable for vigorous activity

FURTHER DRESS REQUIREMENTS

- Hats are to be worn all year round. Parents/students should ensure that all students wear Bucket Hats with school logo (as sold by only Uniform Concepts) when outdoors
- Only natural coloured hair is permitted
- Earrings only sleepers or studs are suitable to wear
- Jewellery other than earrings, is not permitted at school
- Smart watches (with or without wifi access) are not to be worn to school
- Make up and nail polish are not appropriate at school
- Shoulder length or longer hair must be tied back for health concerns
- Full, half and three quarter leggings are not acceptable school uniform
- Enclosed shoes, such as sneakers/runners, must be worn for Physical Education

- Sandals and open toe shoes must have a back strap and be securely fastened to the foot (eg. no thongs or thong like sandals)
- Body piercing is not permitted (excluding single pierced ears)



Crunch & Sip Container

All students from Kindy – Year 6 are encouraged to participate in ‘Crunch & Sip’. Students are invited to bring in a small individual container with fruit and vegetables in it to eat during the day when they feel hungry. Foods to be consumed for Crunch & Sip are:

Vegetables: All fresh vegetables are permitted (eg. celery, carrot sticks, broccoli bits)

Fruit: All fresh fruit (e.g. whole fruits, chopped melon), fruit canned in water, juice or with no added sugar (e.g. peach slices), dried fruit like sultanas or apricots are allowed for Crunch & Sip but should be limited.

Drinks: A clean, clear water bottle filled with plain water.

Points to Remember

Please adhere closely to the session start (8.45am) and finish (3.00pm and 2.30pm every Wednesday) times. Children of this age can become distressed very quickly if parents are late collecting them. Parents are required to provide the teacher with the names of all people authorised to collect their child other than themselves. A book is provided in the classroom for this purpose.

When you come to collect your child, please wait outside until the door is opened so as not to disrupt the session. The children will then be dismissed individually to the waiting authorised person.

How will the school communicate information?

Please check your child’s drop box which is located in the classroom.

The school website is the hub of school communication for our school. You will need to subscribe on the news tab to receive our regular update, which provides information on our school events, activities and pedagogy for the whole school.

www.bictonps.wa.edu.au

The school will also communicate through the Connect School Space for notices which need to be sent immediately or of high importance. Classrooms will also use Connect for Teaching and Learning and class information.

MGM Outreach is an emergency message text for us to contact you and to be used for absentee notifications. Bicton SMS 0447 952 027.

Please feel free to contact the teacher if you have any concerns about your child or to gain information regarding the Kindergarten Program. Teachers are also available for longer discussions and will be happy to make an appointment with you.

What if my child is ill?

In the interest of all children and adults in the classroom, those with active contagious illness which may affect the health of others will be sent home. If your child is unwell the best place for them is at home. Please email the teacher or text 0447 952 027 and state your child's full name, date and reason for absence.

What if there is an emergency?



The school data base keeps records for each child at the school.

This needs to be accurate at all times, particularly for contact in cases of illness or accident. Please advise us if there is any change of address or contact details.

In an emergency the school will access the ambulance service but please be aware we will not cover the cost of the ambulance as the Department of Education requires parents to insure against accidents. It is strongly advised that you have some form of ambulance cover, as it can be costly.

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Allergy Aware Guidelines

The School has an Allergy Aware Guidelines in place due to **severe** allergic reactions to high risk food products by some children.

We therefore ask for your assistance by ensuring that children **DO NOT BRING** nuts, peanut paste, peanut biscuits, chocolate flavoured nut paste or items with nut ingredients.

If you are unsure of any particular product or require further information regarding the allergy aware guideline please contact the office.

Children Attending Out of School Care

Please let the teacher know if your child is attending OSH Club and which day they will be collected by OSH staff.

Head Lice

Shoulder length or longer hair needs to be tied back and clipped at the side to avoid spread of head lice.

Birthdays

If your child would like to celebrate their birthday at Kindergarten, we ask you to check with the classroom teacher. Generally, you are welcome to bring small individually wrapped (pre-packaged) item for each child. Please check with the teacher for any food allergies. Please do not provide lollies or lolly bags. **The School has an 'Allergy Aware' Policy in place due to severe allergic reactions to nut products by some children.**



Celebrations

Food is often used to reflect a particular cultural context such as Shrove Tuesday or Bastille Day. It is acknowledged that some of these foods may be 'red foods'. These occasions should be very limited with the *red foods* served in small portions eg. a small Easter Egg.

Culturally accepted celebrations involving food, such as Easter, Christmas and birthdays are all important and should occur, COVID precautions permitting. However, we must attempt to plan these occasions according to the School's Healthy Eating Policy by reducing the frequency of red food, providing healthier alternatives, reduced quantity and consideration given for food intolerance.

Toys

We ask that parents do not allow children to bring toys to school as it is upsetting if things become lost or broken.

Making the Most of Technology for Younger Children

Television and other electronic media

As parents there are times when we are tired or busy and it's easy to let our child watch television or use electronic media. Used in the right way, television, DVDs and electronic games can be beneficial, however too much exposure may be harmful. It can affect your child's ability to talk, listen and concentrate. This is because watching television and playing electronic games is one-way communication and it's easy to 'switch off'. Two way communications involve: listening, talking and thinking.

Tips on TV and electronic media

- Limit TV time to one hour a day for three to five year olds.
- Turn off the TV when no one is watching.
- Choose programs with your child that are designed for their age group.
- Allow them to watch the same DVD again and again. Repetition of phrases or words can make it easier for children to learn.
- Try to watch TV or DVDs together and talk about what happens.
- Don't place a TV or computer in your child's bedroom.

Kids online – how to be cyber savvy

The internet opens a window to the world of fun and learning. Children aged from two to seven years are old enough to begin supervised learning about the computer and explore the internet. Around five years of age children may start visiting children's websites and enjoy emailing friends and family. Try cybersmart.gov.au to assist you with introducing your child to the internet.

Opportunities to connect with our community

Parents are very welcome to engage with our community in many ways. You may wish to:

- Attend class meetings
- Attend assemblies
- Attend whole school events eg. Faction Sports Carnival, Book Week Parade
- Participate in rostered classroom activities
- Share one of your skills with our community eg. media or photography at school events
- Become a volunteer eg. in the library, canteen etc.
- Become a Class Parent Representative
- Join the P & C committee and their events
- Join the School Board

What are the costs for Kindy at Bicton Primary School?

These are very reasonable. Contributions are endorsed by the School Board. Contributions from parents are used to purchase both consumable and non-consumable materials. The 2023 contributions will be \$60.00, plus an ICT levy of \$50.00 per family. A booklist is sent home.

Where can I find out more information?

For more information, please contact the school on (08) 9205 5800 or email: bicton.ps@education.wa.edu.au

We look forward to getting to know you and your child. We will work together to encourage success and promote your child's whole development in a nurturing and inspiring environment.

Ms Kerry Woodhouse
Principal

Mrs Kara Larsen
K-2 Deputy Principal