

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Hammond Park Kindergarten for 2016. We are looking forward to a wonderful year with the children and have an exciting program planned. The children have all settled in very well, with many already making new friends.

We have started off the term by looking at various learning centres that we have set up in the classroom, with the children having an opportunity to explore and enjoy what each area has to offer.

Beliefs

Hammond Park Primary School is a safe, respectful and joyful place to be. We believe that all children are capable of successful learning. Children need to be valued as individuals, within the context of their family and their communities. Children can develop self-discipline, confidence and positive self-esteem through a supportive and secure learning environment. Therefore at Hammond Park the children will participate in a learning program based upon the principles outlined in the National Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)- "Belonging, Being & Becoming", and the Western Australian Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines.

Daily Routine

Our doors open at 8.40am.

Children may become distressed when they join in late for activities. They can also become fearful if they are left waiting at the end of the day. If your plans change during the day, please ring the school office so a message can be relayed to the Kindergarten staff.

The children will participate in a Fine Motor Program at the start of each day. This program provides opportunities to improve hand/eye coordination, build small muscles and begin pre-writing activities. It would be appreciated if you could assist your children for 10 minutes to complete these activities.

Morning Meeting

Each morning, the staff and children will greet each other; have an opportunity to share ideas, special news and important information. The children participate in an activity (such as a game) and finish with a small meeting to consolidate skills and concepts. When you arrive at school in the morning, please take the time to read the morning message board with your child.

English Block

This time is used to explicitly teach and then practice a range of reading and writing skills such as: identifying their own name, concepts of print, telling a story by looking at the pictures, commenting on characters and events in a story, identifying some familiar sounds or letters in their names. Our block will also include: rhyme, syllabification, making marks on a page (including some known letters) and printing some or all letters of their name or familiar words. The English block will include our whole school program "Letters and Sounds".

Recess at 10.50am/ Lunch at 12.40pm

The Kindergarten children bring their own recess snack and lunch from home. As students open their own lunch boxes, please make sure that the containers and clasps are easy to open and can be manipulated by little fingers. Fresh fruit, sandwiches, cheese, crackers, raw vegetables, natural popcorn, precooked pasta or rice and water bottles encourage healthy eating practices.

Mathematics Block

Our approach to Mathematics focuses on understanding and concept development. Concepts that your child will learn include counting, patterning, and organisational skills such as sorting, classifying, graphing and making comparisons. The children will have the opportunity to develop mathematical concepts both through the manipulation of concrete objects and real life experiences.

Read, Rest and Crunch and Sip

Children will be encouraged to look at books or listen to a story, resting quietly for a short period of time after lunch. During this time, children will require a small container with cut up fruit or vegetables for crunch and sip. Please help your child place their named container in the crunch and sip basket at the start of the day.

Integrated Learning Opportunities

This session provides an opportunity to actively engage with the learning environment. Teaching staff use this time to foster the children's creativity, encourage them to explore new materials and to find answers to questions. The ultimate aim is to teach children how to learn and foster a love for learning. A balance of indoor experiences such as puzzles, books, block play, painting, clay, dough and language activities such as sandpit, water play, gardening, dramatic play, dress-ups and lastly whole class activities such as music, dance, drama, discussions, experiments and games will be planned.

Pack Away and Home at 3.00pm

If anyone other than the usual parent is collecting your child, please inform the staff in the morning. If you wish to collect your child early, you will be required to go to the office to sign your child out and receive a slip.

General Information

Fundamental Movement Skills

On Wednesday mornings, the Kindy children will participate in a Fundamental Movement Skills program. Children need to master certain fundamental skills (gross motor skills) if they are to enjoy the wide range of physical activities, sports and recreational pursuits offered in our school community.

Letter Boxes

We will be introducing the children's individual letterboxes this week. These are located inside the classroom. Establishing a system for students to send and receive written messages is a staple of any good literacy program. Opportunities for children to communicate with one another in written form includes a wide variety of writing materials designed to entice children to write and draw.

Behaviour Management

Our approach to classroom management is to create an environment of mutual respect and co-operation. We expect appropriate behaviour and that all Kindy staff also model these behaviours. We believe it is important to focus on positive behaviours and reward such behaviour with appropriate verbal praise.

Health

If children are sick, the school should be notified by phone message and a written note sent upon their return. If an infectious disease is the cause, please advise the school at the onset of the absence, so that the necessary precautions can be taken. Please remember that it is you, the parent who needs to decide if the child is well enough to attend school. Please do not send your child just because they really want to come.

Communication

We consider communication between the school and home to be very important. We will keep you informed about school and class events through the use of notes, newsletters and morning meeting board. We understand that for working parents, communication and regular visits to the school are difficult therefore email is often the best form of communication. Please see the attached card for my contact details.

If you have any concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to come in and see us. Remember our first concern is the happiness of your child. Should anything happen at home to upset your child in anyway, we would appreciate it if you let us know. If we have any concerns about your child or their progress, we will inform you as the need arises.

Parent Roster

It is wonderful to have parent and grandparent involvement in our classroom, as it helps the children make links between the home and school environment. Parent roster is a great opportunity to spend time in your child's class and to also be of assistance to us. Please let us know if you have a specific skill such as storytelling, playing musical instruments or would like to share your cultural background, as we would be very happy for you to share these skills with the children. To allow the children time to settle into the class routines, our parent rosters will commence later in Term 1. All parent helpers will need to sign in at the office before coming to help in the classroom.

Parents provide valuable support by placing their names on the roster. We ask that younger siblings be kept at home when possible, as they can distract the Kindy students.

Birthdays

We are happy for the children to celebrate their birthday at school and you are quite welcome to bring along cupcakes to be shared at the end of the day.

Homework

As indicated by the Hammond Park Homework Policy, Kindergarten students will participate in a Pre-Reading program that commences in Term 3. This program helps children to develop good pre-reading skills. It is not designed to teach reading but to develop a love of books and establish good habits for future home reading.