



Learning Together Every Day

Hammond Park

PRIMARY SCHOOL



Kindergarten Parent Information Booklet 2017

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**We warmly welcome you and your child
to the Hammond Park Primary School community.**

When can children start Kindergarten?

Children can start Kindergarten if they turn four years of age on or before 30 June 2017.

How often do children attend Kindergarten?

In 2017 Hammond Park Primary School offers a 15 hour a week kindergarten program. This program is in line with the National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education.

The model for provision is outlined in the table below:

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Possums Quendas Woylies	Possums Quendas Woylies	Possums Quendas Woylies	Numbats Wallabies Bandicoots	Numbats Wallabies Bandicoots
Week 2	Possums Quendas Woylies	Possums Quendas Woylies	Numbats Wallabies Bandicoots	Numbats Wallabies Bandicoots	Numbats Wallabies Bandicoots

In Term One as part of our transition to full days at Kindergarten, the children attend part time during the first two weeks. This means that they will go home at 12.00 midday each day of their roster.

From week three, all children will go home at 3.00pm on each day of their roster.

School start time: 8.50am – bell sounds

Morning recess: 10:50 – 11:10am – bell sounds at 11.10am

Lunch: 12:40 – 1:20pm – bell sounds at 1.20pm

School finish time: 3.00pm – bell sounds

Term 1 2017 commencing on Wednesday 1st February.

What happens at Kindergarten?

Hammond Park Kindergarten provides a safe, stimulating and supportive environment where children can grow socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually.

We aim to capture children's natural love of learning while developing literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for future learning.

Children learn through playing and being actively involved in experiences planned by their teachers. Children are encouraged to explore, discover, improvise, create, question, discuss and construct.



English as an Additional Language

Hammond Park Primary School is located in a thriving community that is represented by people from all over the world. We are proud to have a multitude of cultures at our school and we appreciate the skills and diversity everyone brings to our community.

If your child speaks any other languages, it is very important that you let the school know upon enrolment. We are then aware of the rich culture your family is bringing to our school as well as the need to cater for your child's additional language strengths through visual prompts, short instructions and the opportunities to develop their oral language through play.

One of the greatest gifts we can pass on to children is language. The first language, learned in the home, is extremely important and forms the foundation for all later language development. We would like to reiterate how important it is to continue to speak your family language(s) at home. Children with a sound knowledge of their first language will be able to transfer skills from one language to another. This will assist with your child's ability to develop their English language skills as well as their development of a positive self-identity and well-being.

Learning is hands on and takes place through touching, seeing, hearing, exploring and experimenting. Some of the activities children may participate in include:

- ***designing and creating***
- ***dressing up***
- ***dancing***
- ***doing puzzles***
- ***making collages***
- ***listening to and playing music***
- ***painting and drawing***
- ***cooking***
- ***reading books and storytelling***
- ***playing with clay, play dough, blocks, sand and water***

Community Involvement

At Hammond Park Primary School we understand that kindergarten is often the parents and caregivers first point of entry into a school community. Therefore we believe it is important to foster positive relations with our community as soon as possible. We also understand that many of you will be forging new friendships, meeting new people and embarking on a new journey together with your child.

Teddy Bears' Picnic

On Wednesday 30th November 2016 we will be holding a 'Teddy Bears' Picnic' for our new kindergarten children and their parents and caregivers. This is an opportunity for everyone to come into our school, find out where the classrooms are, complete some fun learning activities together, meet some of the teachers and staff as well as meet other parents and children. You will find out more about this event in the enclosed letter.

Parents Information Evening

On Wednesday the 23rd of November 2016 we would like to invite the 2017 kindergarten parents to attend a parent information session from 5pm – 6pm in the school library. During this information session you will meet some staff members, learn about the school canteen, school banking and other parent and community activities. You will find out more about this event in the enclosed letter.



Parents' & Citizens' Association

We have a very active and successful Parent and Community group at Hammond Park Primary School.

The Parents' and Citizens' Association (P&C) provides a great opportunity for parents, teachers and community members to support the learning and infrastructure of the school. The Annual General Meeting is held in February. Dates of the meetings are published in the events calendar on the school app-SKOOLBAG, the school newsletter, on the school website and in the term planner.

The role of the P&C is diverse. Most school P&C Associations contribute significantly to the funding of programs and facilities within the school. The interests and activities of the P&C are diverse. Listed below are the Committees that have been established. *All committees welcome input from parents and community members.*

Fundraising Committee: This team of P&C members coordinates and runs a number of fundraising events each year.

Canteen Committee: Volunteers are always needed in the school canteen each Wednesday.

What does my child wear?

Uniform

We encourage all children to wear the Hammond Park Primary School uniform and a school hat throughout the year. Children should wear suitable footwear that they can put on and take off by themselves. We also encourage the application of sunscreen before the school day. Children will keep their shoes on for most activities, including outdoor play. Please feel free to come and purchase your child's uniform from the front office between the hours of 9.00am and 2.00pm Monday to Friday.

What does my child need to bring?

A list of items that your child will need (ie. pencils and other stationery items) for use in the classroom is included in this information package. As Kindergarten is about shared experiences; all stationery items will be shared for classroom use. These items **don't** need to be labelled. Some of the items will be labelled by the staff and sent home at the end of the year to be used in Pre-primary (eg. take home folders and art smock). Please send all stationery items to school in a sealed plastic bag with your child's name on it.

A library bag will be required in Term Two. Hammond Park Primary School library bags with our school logo on it are available for purchase from the school office.

Every day your child will need a large school bag containing:

- a container with their crunch and sip (raw fruit and/or vegetables)
- a drink bottle filled with water,
- morning tea - fruit, vegetable sticks, cheese, crackers and nutritious snacks,
- lunch – sandwiches, salad wraps etc,
- a clearly named school hat,
- a change of clothes (in case of a mishap or getting wet during water play).

**** All items, including spare clothing, must be named ****

**** Please do not send toys from home****

Crunch and Sip

The Crunch&Sip program is an easy way to help kids stay healthy and happy!

Crunch&Sip is a set break to eat fruit or salad vegetables and drink water in the classroom. Students re-fuel with fruit or vegetables during the morning or afternoon, assisting physical and mental performance and concentration in the classroom. This gives kids a chance to refuel, a bit like putting petrol in a car.

Each day students bring fruit or salad vegetables to school in a clearly labelled container to eat in the classroom at a set time. Each child is encouraged to bring a small bottle of water to the classroom to drink throughout the day to increase hydration.

At Hammond Park Primary School we follow the Department of Education's ***Healthy Food and Drink Policy***.

School Canteen

The school canteen (Fabulous Food Factory) commenced operation in Term 3 of 2015 on Wednesdays. The Fabulous Food Factory will continue to operate on a Wednesday in 2017. The canteen menu is over 80% 'green' according to the Department of Education's Healthy Food Guidelines and the majority of the food is homemade on the premises. The menu is displayed on the noticeboard next to the canteen and on our website. You can also find information about the online canteen at <http://www.onlinecanteen.com.au> Reusable bags for orders are available from the canteen.

Medical Conditions

If your child has a medical condition, it's very important that you fill out the appropriate medical forms during the enrolment process. If your child has a Medical Action Plan endorsed by a doctor, please give a copy to the school office before your child starts kindergarten or as soon as it's available.

Please make sure your child's class teacher has any emergency medication they need for your child, as outlined in their Medical Action Plan.

If your child needs to have medication administered during school hours, you will need to fill out an, *authority to administer medication form* at the front office.

Hammond Park Primary School is an *allergy friendly school*. This means that we don't have certain products available at the canteen and we request that parents avoid nut products in lunch boxes.

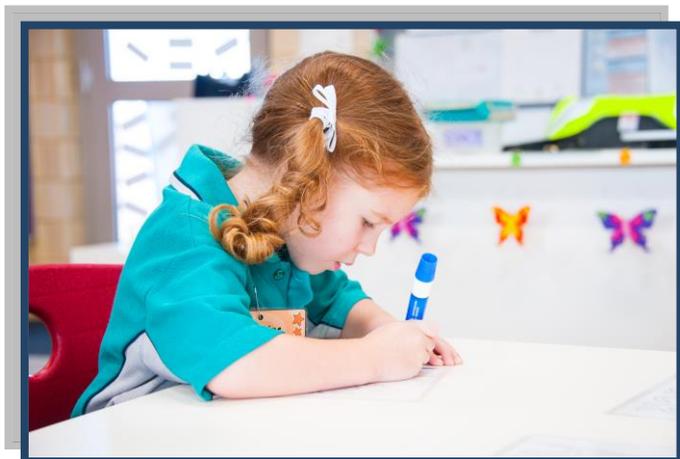
Toileting

When your child begins kindergarten, your child needs to be able to go to the toilet independently.

This means your child is able to:

- realise when they need to go to the toilet,
- remove their pants and pull their pants up,
- wipe their bottom and flush the toilet,
- wash their hands after using the toilet.

Accidents do happen and the teaching staff are there to help, but your child needs to be developing these skills independently. It is time to start practising these independent toileting skills so your child is ready for Kindergarten.



Social/Emotional

The first day of Kindergarten can be an anxious time for both you and your child. Preparing your child for Kindergarten by answering all their questions honestly and in as much detail as they can understand can help prevent potential anxieties.

Here are some tips to get ready for starting school in February 2017:

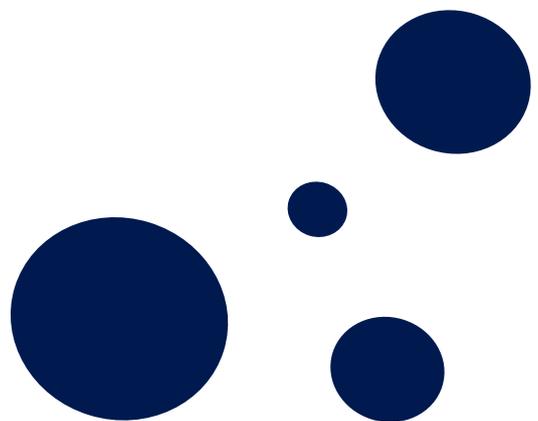
- Read stories with your child about starting school.
- Go past the school and talk to your child about how they will soon be going there, the exciting things they will do and the friends they will make.
- Check that your child can open and use their lunch box and drink bottle by themselves and help them to practise this.
- Explain that Mummy, Daddy/another family member/or OSHClub will drop them off and then pick them up when school has finished.



We look forward to sharing this exciting and important journey with you.

Reading Books about Starting School

- Billy and the Big New School by Catherine and Laurence Anhold (Orchard Books)
- Buzzy had a Little Lamb by Harriet Ziefert and Emily Bolam (Blue Apple Books)
- Fiona the Pig's Big Day by Leigh Hobbs (Penguin/Viking)
- First Day by Margaret Wild and Kim Gamble (Allen & Unwin)
- I am Too Absolutely Small for School by Lauren Child (Orchard Books)
- Meet the Barkers: Morgan and Moffat go to School by Tomie de Paola (Putman)
- Mr Ouchy's First Day by BG Hennessy and Paul Meisel (Putnam)
- Tom goes to Kindergarten by Margaret Wild and David Legge (ABC Books)
- When an Elephant Comes to School by Jan Ormerod (Lincoln)
- Who will go to School Today? by Karl Ruhmann and Miriam Monnier (North-South)



Notes

