Kindergarten
Information Booklet
2015

Kingston Primary School Website: www.kingstonprimary.wa.edu.au
Please download the free “Kingston Primary School” App on your smartphone.
Dear Parents/Caregivers,

We welcome you and your child to Kingston Early Childhood Learning Centre for the year 2015. We hope your child has an enjoyable and rewarding year and hope you will soon feel at home and enjoy the experience of making new friends. The Early childhood years are special and very important for your child’s social, emotional, physical, creative, literacy and numeracy development. Kindergarten is a time for children to learn that school is a safe and fun place to be. As well as this, it is also a great opportunity for parents and caregivers to meet each other and become part of our school community. The purpose of this booklet is to acquaint you with classroom organisation and ways parents may become involved in the life of the classroom.

Parents and Guardians – Your many abilities and talents certainly have a place here, so please feel free to offer these; if they can be incorporated into the program it will make for an even more enriching experience for the children.

An exciting and challenging time awaits you as your child commences their year of Kindy. It is therefore important that there is a three-way communication process for the benefit of all concerned in the education of your child: the school, the child and the parent. Good communication results in better understanding and less confusion.

If you have a question, please ask.
If you have an idea, or a problem, please share it.
If you have something to say, express your opinion.
Please listen to others, and consider other points of view.

From

Alan Kidd
Principal
General Early Childhood Information

Catering for Individual Students and their Needs
Children are individuals and therefore do not all develop at the same rate and each child should be catered for individually in the learning program. Activities will be designed to meet each individual’s needs and are linked to their appropriate level of development. Lessons and activities are altered to suit each child in the class, particularly because each child has a specific way of learning a new concept (Multiple Intelligences). Some children find it easier to learn visually, while others might learn better by exploring their environment or through an artistic form. We aim to provide them with opportunities to learn in their own way.

Handy Hints
We realise that this may be the first time your child has been separated from you and that it can become an anxious time for both you and your child. Experience has shown that the following hints at the beginning of the year will further aid the development of your child:

1. Ask them “What fun things have you done?” Not, “Have you been good?” If they don’t feel inclined to tell you all about their activities, don’t feel hurt or assume they have wasted their time. Most children prefer to keep some of their experiences to themselves; it is one expression of their individuality. Also at this age the child has a very short memory and may have honestly forgotten what they have done during the day.

2. Don’t expect a painting or an end product from every session. Most of the activities will not produce anything concrete. Its value will lie in the development of language, physical and social contacts, or perhaps problem solving, memory training, visual and auditory discrimination.

3. Work that does come home, make a HUGE deal about their efforts, even if the final product is less than a masterpiece. Ask them about what they did, what it is and display it somewhere special.

4. Please expect them to get dirty and in a mess. It is part and parcel of exploratory learning.

5. Always display a positive attitude towards your child going to Kindy. Young children are very good at picking up and reflecting the emotions of people important to them. If they sense that you are unsure about the situation then your child will, more often than not, feel the same way too.

6. Always say “Goodbye” to your child. Don’t break your child’s trust in you. Be clear about what is happening… say things like “It’s your special time to play with other children/toys…. I will be back to get you at 3 o’clock.”

7. If your child becomes upset at leaving you, in most cases the best thing to do is to let the teacher know that you are leaving, then give them a kiss and hug, say ‘goodbye’ and go. If your child is still distressed after time in our care, you will be contacted by phone.
TERM DATES FOR 2015
Term 1 Monday 2 February to Thursday 2 April  
Term 2 Tuesday 21 April to Friday 3 July  
Term 3 Tuesday 21 July to Friday 25 September  
Term 4 Tuesday 13 October to Thursday 17 December

Immunisation
Please see enclosed timetable from community health department regarding immunisation. It is really important for immunisations to be up to date for the start of kindy. 4 year old immunisations can be completed at 3 1/2 years.

Illnesses
If your child is absent please notify us of the intended duration and the reason for the absence.

There are certain notifiable diseases and conditions. These are:-

- Measles  
- Mumps  
- Chicken Pox  
- Head Lice  
- Rubella  
- Scabies  
- Conjunctivitis  
- Whooping Cough  
- Impetigo (School sores)

If your child contracts any of the above, please notify the school immediately. A period of exclusion from school is necessary.

Coughs, colds and stomach wogs tend to go in cycles and it is best that children with these be kept at home to reduce the chances of other children contracting them. We realise that children often want to come in spite of these, but please, for their sake and the sake of others, keep them at home. The WA Health Department recommends children (and adults) stay home for at least 24 hours after their last bout of diarrhoea or vomiting.

The following information will give you a good idea as to when your child can return to school should they contract any of the listed common infectious illnesses below. In most cases children can be re-admitted with a medical certificate stating that the child is no longer able to pass on the infection.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INFECTIOUS DISEASES EXCLUSION TABLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Sickness</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If your child is generally unwell (cold symptoms, fever, nausea, vomiting) it is usually best to keep him/her home until the symptoms subside. This also helps to avoid the spread of any infection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chicken Pox</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infectious from 5 days before the spots appear to 6 days after the last crop of blisters. Exclude from school until all blisters have crusted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cold Sores</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young children unable to comply with good oral hygiene practices should be excluded if lesions are uncovered and weeping.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conjunctivitis</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclude from school – highly contagious. Child can return to school when discharge has stopped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diarrhoea</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclude until diarrhoea has ceased for 24 hours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>German Measles (Rubella)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclude from school for at least 5 days after the onset of the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Lice (Pediculosis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ringworm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scabies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Sores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streptococcal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whooping Cough</td>
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</tbody>
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Absentees
Parents are asked to ring the school by 8.45am daily if their child is going to be absent or late. Parents of children who are away without explanation will be contacted and asked to explain the absence.

Arrivals/Departures
Children must be brought to and collected from the door of the Kindergarten room. To avoid unnecessary stress for your child it is important that parents are punctual at arrival and departure times.

If you need to remove your child from class/school property during school hours for the purposes of appointments such a medical/dental, you are required to stop in at the office FIRST to complete a yellow "Student Release Form" which admin staff will sign and then you will need to bring that signed form to the class, and only then will your child be released.

No child will be released to anyone but the custodial parent or the authorised person. If there is a change, please inform us in writing as to who will collect your child. In an emergency, please ring the school. Please make sure you have named the persons who are authorised to collect your child on the enrolment form.

Birthdays
These are very special days in the children's lives and we like to encourage the children to share in these. Your child may bring a cake (or cupcakes, chocolate crackles, honey crackles) to share with the other children. The easiest way to celebrate is to bring cup cakes. Big cakes can be extremely difficult to cut into small pieces. Please let the teacher know if you are bringing cakes to allow for planning particularly for children with food allergies.

Bus Children
If your child will be catching a bus to/from school, could you please advise us in writing of which bus they will be catching. Also if your child normally catches a bus and for some
reason will not be catching the bus on a particular day, again could you please advise us in writing and well before the end of school time, where possible. Children will be supervised to and from the bus lines by an Education Assistant and to the bus by a member of admin.

Canteen
The canteen is in the undercover area. Opening times, menu and ordering information will be available early in the year.

Change of Address
Please notify the school office and classroom teachers of any changes of address, doctor, telephone numbers etc, so that our information can be kept up to date. This information is essential in the event of an emergency.

Clothing
It is recommended that students wear the Kingston Primary School uniform. Uniforms can be available early in the year.

BOYS: Wear black shorts, blue shirt printed with school logo.
GIRLS: Wear black shorts or skorts with blue shirt printed with school logo.
WINTER (boys & girls): Black track pants with rugby top, zip jumper.

Kingston Primary School is a Sun Smart School and it is required that all students wear a broad brimmed hat. School bucket hats are recommended at all times for outdoor play and can be left at the centre for the year.

Please put sunscreen on your child before they come to school. Please send your child in shoes that your child can manage independently. Velcro is fantastic! Children will be allowed to remove their footwear for outside play.

Please label all clothing with your child's name.

Complaints / Concerns
We hope that parents will feel free to express their concerns, with full confidentiality, to the teaching staff or to the school Principal. In this way, potential conflict relating to minor occurrences can be resolved quickly.

Contributions
A form with an explanation of the contributions and charges for 2015 will be sent to you in Term 4, 2014.

Food
Kingston Primary School is a Crunch & Sip School. Each morning there will be a crunch and sip break. All children should bring one - two pieces of fruit to be cut up and shared with the group. Other healthy food choices could include celery, carrot, cheese and crackers, or sultanas. Lollies, chocolate and lollipops will not be allowed.

Kingston Primary School is an ALLERGY AWARE school, with the most common allergy being peanuts. Please also check with your child’s teacher for
any other food allergies that you need to be aware that other children may have in your child’s class so that you can avoid those foods, where possible, in your child’s lunchbox. Water only in drink bottles. Please NO cordial, juice or soft drink.

**Important Information**
Throughout the year various changes may occur in your child’s life. Some changes have dramatic effects on children’s behaviour at school. Please keep your child’s teacher informed of any important changes in your child’s life (new baby, family illness, moving house, parent separation, death of a friend, family pet).

**Lunch**
At lunchtime the children will be required to eat their sandwich or main item first. Any extra food may be eaten after this. We ask for a nutritious lunch. **Treats such as roll ups, chocolate bars and lollies remain home treats.** Please be mindful of hot weather when choosing sandwich fillings. We suggest a cooler bag with a frozen bottle or ice pack to keep your child’s lunch cool and fresh. Please ensure that your child is able to open any food packaging by themselves. Practice this skill over the Christmas school holidays. Please be mindful of any items that require utensils and ensure you pack these appropriately e.g. spoon for yoghurt. Please advise the teacher if your child has any food allergies.

**Paint Stains**
Soak in cold water overnight. Scrub with soap, wash. Do not use hot water.

**Recyclable Material**
One person’s junk is another’s treasure and we in the Kindergarten treasure all sorts of clean junk. Listed below is some of our favourite junk:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cards</th>
<th>Coloured Paper</th>
<th>Clean Pantyhose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Card</td>
<td>Computer Paper</td>
<td>Cardboard Rolls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottle Tops</td>
<td>Boxes (Small &amp; Large)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any other clean, useable items. We **cannot** use dirty food containers, toilet roll tubes, cigarette packages etc. We sometimes need special items for specific activities and requests for these will be posted on the notice board.

**School Bag**
Every child should bring a backpack big enough to hold large pieces of work. Bags should be clearly marked with your child’s name. School bags with the school logo can be ordered from the uniform shop.

**Spare Clothes**
Sometimes accidents and spills do happen, so we ask that you make sure your child has a spare set of clothes in a plastic bag. We will keep this plastic bag in their schoolbag just in case an accident does occur. Please include in the plastic bag: underwear, shorts/skirt/pants, and a top. These clothes do not need to be the school uniform. Please make sure each individual item is labelled including the plastic bag.
The Virtues Program
Kingston uses the Virtues Program to help create a culture of character in the school. This is designed as a holistic approach to character education and provides students with empowering strategies that inspire the practice of virtues in everyday life. The school focuses on a specific virtue each fortnight and this is targeted through newsletters, bulletin boards, daily announcements and classroom activities. The language of the virtues is embedded in the school culture.

Early in the year there will be a parent meeting to refresh these ideas and inform you of our teaching practices.

We look forward to working with you during the year to provide an interesting and happy early childhood environment for your child to learn and grow in.

Thank you again for your support and we look forward to providing the best education for your child.
Kindergarten Information 2015

How many Kindergarten Groups?
Kingston Primary School will be running kindergarten groups in three rooms.

Session Structure
The Kindy program will run over two and half days. Your child may be in a Monday and Tuesday with half day Wednesday morning group or a Thursday and Friday with a half day Wednesday afternoon group.

Session Times
Kindy starts at 8.45am
Kindy finishes at 2.55pm
Kindy half day 8.45am – 11.25am or 12.15pm – 2.55pm

Early Learning – Kindergarten is so Important!
While Kindergarten is often perceived as a great place to go and play, paint and glue cartons together, it is actually a crucial phase of your child’s education. All whole school approaches at Kingston Primary School commence in Kindergarten, and literacy, numeracy and social skills are developed. Prior to attending Kindergarten, children learn to speak, recognise their name, walk, toilet train etc. Kindergarten is such an important program where we assess each child’s development and ensure that they commence on their journey of learning through the school in partnership with parents.

Kingston Early Childhood Statement
At Kingston Early Childhood, our aim is to develop children who are:

Independent
Resilient
Creative
Confident

We encourage children to learn through worthwhile and enjoyable experiences within a safe, supportive environment. Children learn by exploring their world, talking, making and sharing.

We develop relationships with children and families that are caring and nurturing, to allow the children to be the best that they can be. We guide children to recognise and manage their emotions.

We provide an integrated curriculum that is challenging, active, playful and intentional. We provide a balance between teacher directed and child directed learning experiences.

“All children experience learning that is engaging and builds success for life.”

Early Years Learning Framework for Australia, 2009
What Will Your Child Do At Kindergarten?
A developmentally appropriate play based program will operate at the Centre. Activities are planned and prepared to explicitly promote literacy, numeracy, physical and social emotional development. Your child will be able to participate in self directed, as well as teacher directed learning experiences.

Settling In Hints
The first few weeks of Kindergarten are very important for you and your child. This is the time that your child needs your support, both in the Kindergarten centre and at home. For most children, it will be the first big step to independence. For some children, it may be a challenging experience in which they have to cope with unfamiliar adults, peers, environment and routine. If your child becomes upset at leaving you, in most cases the best thing to do is to let the teacher know you’re leaving, give your child a kiss and hug, say ‘goodbye’ and go. If your child is still distressed after time in our care, you will be contacted by phone.

Classroom Management
It is important for children to develop self-management skills in terms of making decisions about their own behaviour. We promote desired behaviours at school by providing good models for the children to observe. Children will gradually become aware that choosing to behave appropriately will have rewards and choosing to behave inappropriately or dangerously will have consequences. Eventually we hope to develop intrinsic motivation in the children, where they make choices to behave correctly without expecting to receive a reward. We encourage our Kindy rules for the safety and well being of all concerned.

Our main “rule” in Kindy is to “show care and respect for ourselves, each other and our environment”. This is in line with the whole school Virtues program. Within this rule most issues can be discussed and resolved. We discuss our rule with the students and help them to see ways in which they can keep themselves and others safe and allow all students to learn in a comfortable environment by exercising a particular virtue or virtues.

Respect for ourselves, each other and our environment is the basis for counselling students about behaviour. We focus on the behaviour of the child and acknowledge the “gifts” within each child. That is, the child is always “OK” – sometimes their behaviour is not. We avoid global praise such as “good boy” and instead target appropriate behaviour. For example: “I appreciate your helpfulness with packing away the blocks.” We make it explicit that the child has to make a choice about his or her behaviour.

“Reflection time” away from the group will be used if a child is repeatedly unable to comply with group expectations. The “reflection” area is usually just a small distance from the group and usually the child chooses when they feel they are ready to return to the group and comply with group expectations. Parents will be advised if a child is consistently unable to conform to limits and parents will be involved in developing strategies for change.
Parent Help
We welcome parents, relatives, friends or baby sitters to our Kindy. Try to make time to spend a session with us each term. Your child will enjoy sharing his/her Kindy experiences. We invite you to help us and your child by volunteering your help on any of the following rosters - please tell us so that we can include you:-

1. Helping to prepare materials.
2. Helping with an activity.
3. Helping to prepare fruit.
4. Helping with cleaning up.
5. Watching your child and playing with him/her, reading books etc.

A Child’s Thoughts on Starting Kindergarten

Please plan the beginning of the day so I don’t have to be rushed, I can get confused or worried.

Don’t push me inside the door and run, as if you wanted to get rid of me – it makes me feel unhappy. Come and look with me at all the interesting things I can do.

Please don’t slip away without saying goodbye, or I will be afraid that you may leave me for good. When you leave me, tell me when you will be back, and try hard to be on time or I will worry.

Sometimes I spend a lot of time making something and I am proud of it. If you laugh at it or call it rubbish, half of it seems wasted. But if you show you value it too, it makes me feel happy and successful and ready to tackle more difficult things.

I like you to visit when I am at Kindergarten. When you come on Roster, I will feel proud and say to my friends, “That’s my Mummy” or “That’s my Daddy”.

Send me to Kindergarten in clothes that I am comfortable in and that are easily washed, so that I can play in them without fussing about getting dirty.

What makes me feel good is if you show me that you are really pleased to see me and are ready to look when I have something to show you!