



Margaret River Primary School Pre Primary 2024

Parent Information Booklet



Term Dates 2023

Term 1: Wednesday 31st January – Thursday 28th March

Term 2: Monday 15th April – Friday 28th June

Term 3: Monday 15th July – Friday 20th September

Term 4: Monday 7th October – Thursday 12th December

* Pupil free days will be announced by the school and parents
will be notified

Session Times

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 8.45am – 3.10pm

Introduction

On behalf of all our school staff we welcome you and your child to our wonderful school. I am sure that you and your child will enjoy an exciting, educationally sound experience at Margaret River Pre-Primary. We look forward to getting to know you and your children over the next 7 years.

Going to school each day in Pre-Primary is an expectation, being a compulsory year of schooling as lessons and activities build on those of the previous day. Children who do not go to school regularly constantly play catch-up and risk falling behind in their learning.

Pre-Primary is such an important year for your child as they are continuing to establish all the foundations for effective learning to take place. Our staff are experienced teachers who have specialised Early Childhood training. At times parents will view the “end product” as a measure of the child’s successes however it’s often the “process” that took place that is the important factor.

Please feel free to visit at any time and become involved in any capacity that helps enrich the learning of our students. You can also access information via our website <http://www.mriverps.wa.edu.au>.

This handbook is a guide to get you started.

Lorraine Macaulay
Principal

Administration

Lorraine Macaulay – Principal

Jenny Robb – Deputy Principal (Early Childhood)

Belinda Symes- Deputy Principal

Rebecca Thomas- Deputy Principal

Vision Statement

Our school vision is to provide a supportive, professional, skilled, creative environment so all students can grow in knowledge, experiences, and friendship, support each other, share their achievements and work towards realising their dreams.

Compass

Compass is our whole school communication platform. It can be accessed via the web or app on Apple or Android devices. Through Compass you will be able to receive news and updates, submit absentee notifications, access our school calendar, and give permission for events. You will receive your login details to access Compass early in Term 1, 2024. For more information about Compass, please visit: <https://www.compass.education/guide>

Teachers Charter

At Margaret River Primary School teachers have a commitment to:

- the principles of developmental learning,
- ensuring that all students are successful lifelong learners,
- developing students as autonomous and reflective learners,
- collaborating in planning and facilitating learning programs,
- participative decision-making processes in their relationships with students and colleagues,
- liaising with the wider community to support students' learning, and
- see themselves as learners through ongoing professional development.

How does a child learn?

- By firsthand experience – this is essential and is basic to all learning throughout life. It comes through seeing, touching, hearing, smelling, tasting, and using whole body movements and feelings (emotions). All the senses are used in forming a concept and understanding.
- The child must also personally reconstruct his/her experience through play. Play is a vital part of the Pre-Primary program which can be seen wherever the children are – in the home corner, playing with dough, busy with art activities, either inside or outside. Play to a child is work, and by doing something is how a child learns.
- A child also learns by questioning. How often do we hear how, when and why? A child is usually sincere in wanting to know and the continued questioning is how he/she sorts him/herself into the scheme of things.
- By reasoning – a child's reasoning is often not like an adult's because experience is limited, therefore, the conclusions reached may not be very accurate. However, we must encourage reasoning and help to develop understanding.

Your child will learn:

- To continue to develop a positive self image. To know he/she is special and has something unique to offer to others.
- To continue to develop independence – e.g., Furniture and fittings are scaled to child's size thus he/she can do things without adult help.
- To express him/herself in speech, music, drama, and art activities.

- To communicate and have a good relationship with others.
- To respect ideas, property and feelings of other children and adults in the centre.
- To build on their curiosity so they are eager to experience and learn new things.
- To observe, question and organise their thinking about the world.
- To achieve basic skills and knowledge essential to future learning in literacy and numeracy.

How Can Parents Help in a Child's Learning?

Printing: If you wish to teach your child to write his/her name, could you please use the correct form of lower-case printing and show him/her the correct pencil grip. It is difficult if your child must re-learn to print his/her name and it often takes a long time for the child to change if taught incorrectly. Bad habits are hard to lose! (See attached sheet).

Literacy: Our reading program will be a continuation of the concepts established in kindergarten. We will be revising the ability to identify the initial sound in a word and begin sounding out and reconnecting individual sounds in 3 letter words. During term one, we will establish the home-based oral language programme focussing on comprehension and questioning skills and in second semester we will begin the home reading programme. More information on both programmes will be made available during the year.

Numeracy: The children will be learning about and manipulating numbers up to 20, making patterns, sorting objects according to multiple criteria (size, shape, colour, material), sequencing things according to size and weight and learning about 2 and 3D shapes. The children will explore early addition and subtraction concepts and practise solving problems 'in their head'.

K-6 Primary Education

There is regular interaction between the teachers from K-6 which develops a better understanding of the whole process of education. In particular, the pre-primary and year one teachers regularly discuss matters of common concern. Pre-Primary children will have ample opportunity to become familiar with the physical layout of the school. The general administration of the K-6 complex is carried out by the Principal.

Parent Participation

We welcome all mothers, fathers, grandparents, and other carers into the Pre-primary to help and participate. Visiting the Pre-primary is a great way to share in the educational experiences of your child and to see your child's progress. It is also a wonderful opportunity to get to know the children who will be your child's peers and friends, possibly up to Year 12 and beyond.

Here are some ways you can help:

1. Parent Help Roster. This goes up on the notice board in Term 1.
2. Keep in touch with staff on matters concerning child health, well-being, and education.
3. Becoming actively involved in the School P&C.

A parent roster is posted on the notice board at the beginning of each term. Please help fill in the spaces provided (generally a couple of times a term). Roster help includes assisting at puzzle time, helping with activities, writing names on work etc.

If you have any special talents/ interests- music, cooking...we'd love to hear from you!

Arrival and departure times

Pre-primary start and finishing times are 8:45am – 3:10pm.

Throughout the year we ask you to remain with your child when you bring him/her to Pre-Primary until staff open the door to greet the children. We ask this in the interest of your child's safety. If you are late dropping off your child, you will need to go via the office for a late slip after 9am. Please try to be punctual bringing and collecting your child each day.

Except for our bus children, we recommend children begin arriving at 8:45. This gives adequate time for the students to independently sort out their morning tea, drink bottle and anything else that needs to come inside - news, library book, oral language book or reading book.

Pick up and drop off Arrangements.

If you have made arrangements for your child to be collected by someone other than yourself, please inform us of this with a signed note, as legally we are only allowed to deliver children to their parents and must have written proof of prior arrangements.

What to bring to Pre-Primary

A good-sized school bag

Big enough to fit their creations, notes, lunch box, drink bottles, spare clothes etc. Please remember to check for notes etc. as the children will be responsible for bringing these home in their bag.

Lunch box

Example: a healthy sandwich, a piece of fruit and a small screw top yoghurt. Note: We do not chill or heat lunches. Please provide an ice pack if required.

Fruit or other yummy nutritious food

In Pre-Primary we have morning tea that encourages good nutrition. Please send along fruit or other yummy food like celery, cheese, dry cracker biscuits, carrots etc. each day in a labelled container.

A drink

Your child will need a named drink bottle filled with water only please.

Footwear

We encourage children to remove their shoes when they arrive not only for safety reasons when climbing, but also for learning through their senses.

Hats / clothing

Broad brimmed green hat, which your child will keep in their workbox so that is available at all times. Parents are responsible for providing and applying sunscreen to their child and a spare change of clothes for spills and accidents.

Birthdays

You are very welcome to send in a birthday cake, biscuits, or enough little cakes for all to share (small cupcakes are recommended). You will be informed of any allergies etc.

Holidays

Family holidays are valuable moments where memories are created, and new discoveries experienced. It is desirable that students do not take holidays during the school term. If this is unavoidable an appointment with the Principal will need to be arranged prior to going on holidays.

- **Parents please note:** the outdoor playground is set up by the staff each day for use by the children during their pre primary session. Children are **not permitted** to play in or use any equipment in the playground before or after school.

Parking

We encourage parents to park on Georgette Drive. There is an access gate to enter the pre-primary area from there. Also, our school is very lucky to have a rear laneway behind the school's southern oval. Parents can use this area for safe parking. Entry is from Bussell Highway only. Disabled parking

is available at the Doctors Surgery car park (across from the school), the front office and Georgette Street, if required.

Bike

We encourage your child to ride with or alongside you when the weather is fine. There is a bike rack next to the water tank dedicated to kindy and pre-primary.

Buses

Please let us know if your child will be using the buses. You need to register to use the bus service on www.schoolbuses.wa.gov.au or by phoning 08 9326 2000.



Reports

As with the rest of the school, reports are emailed home at the end of each semester. If you have any concerns or questions regarding your child's progress, please don't hesitate to make an appointment to see your child's teacher.

School contribution

The voluntary school contribution of \$60.00 per child is payable at our MRPS office reception.

Immunisation

The Health Department now recommends boosters be given to four-year-old children instead of five-year-olds. The boosters are for Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping cough and an oral Polio vaccine. The school requires proof of immunisation at enrolment.

Head Lice

It is an unfortunate fact of life that most children will come in contact with this itchy pest at Primary School. We stress that you closely inspect your child's hair regularly and watch for signs of itchiness. Please inform your child's teacher if your child has head lice.

Information updates

If at any time you need to change the information you have given us, please do so as early as possible. In particular, medical details, phone numbers, addresses and those of emergency contact people need to be current, both with the main school office and staff in the Pre-primaries.

There are times when changes occur to the family that can be reflected in your child's mood or behaviour. We would appreciate it if you inform us if this ever happens.

Your information will be treated with the utmost respect, discretion and confidentiality.

If at any time during the school year you have any concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to let us know, so we can arrange a convenient time to talk.

Parents and Citizens levy

This voluntary donation is to be paid with the school contribution please.

The P & C levy of \$30.00 per family minimises active fundraising.

Absences

Student attendance at school is crucial to ensure your child has the best chance of learning.

Please provide the school with explanations of absence for your children. Your children's records of attendance, along with identification of absences that have and have not been explained, are

maintained on the electronic Schools Information System and are checked regularly by the District Attendance Officer. Absences can be phoned through to the front office or you can notify the school through Compass, our whole school communication system.

We look forward to working with your child and you.

Yours sincerely

Pre-primary staff

Margaret River Primary School – Grow and Achieve Together

