



Maidens Park Primary School

An Independent Public School

Early Childhood Parent Information Booklet 2022



Learning through PLAY

WELCOME
TO
MAIDENS PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are proud of the inclusive environment we provide for children to learn, work and grow. This is created by dedicated and competent teaching staff, supportive and happy, enthusiastic children.

We believe in building open, communicative partnerships with parents and families that enhance quality teaching programs and improve children's learning.

Our school offers the following Early Childhood learning opportunities:

- ❖ Play Café (Birth – 4 years of age)
- ❖ Kindergarten
- ❖ Pre Primary
- ❖ Year 1
- ❖ Year 2

This booklet has been put together to provide parents with information about Maidens Park Primary School and the teaching and learning programs your child/ren will be involved in. If there is anything we can do to improve this package, please let us know.

Louise Cairns
Principal

Welcome to Early Childhood Learning

Our aim is to provide our children with a programme that promotes the development of the whole child through play. We are proud to be part of Maidens Park Primary School and enjoy having access to all the resources in the school.

Outcomes of the Programme

- To encourage learning through PLAY in a challenging and interesting environment that is safe and supportive.
- To develop confidence in themselves and encouraging independence by providing opportunities for children to make choices and to practise self-help skills.
- To develop social skills by playing and working with other children and by sharing and taking turns.
- To provide opportunities for children to develop their oral language skills to enable them to participate, communicate and express ideas individually and in group situations.
- To provide opportunities for the children to develop early literacy and numeracy skills in a supportive learning environment.
- To encourage responsibility in the children by looking after play equipment and being 'helpers' at school.
- To develop their natural creativity through music, movement and art and to appreciate the art of others.

We look forward to a fun-filled year. If there are any queries regarding your child's learning, please contact us.

Maidens Park Primary School offers the following Early Childhood learning opportunities:

PLAY CAFÉ

Every week the school makes facilities available for families of 0-4 year olds to have the opportunity to interact with each other and the Early Childhood staff from the school.



Play Cafés are different in each community as they reflect the interests and needs of their local families.

Our Play Café involves some of the following:

- Guest Speakers to share their knowledge
- Discussion topics raised by families
- General Chat
- Activities for the children – play dough, painting, outdoor play, etc.

Everyone helps, talks and laughs to share their experiences and get to know other families from our school community.

When: Every Friday

Where: Kindergarten Room 16

Time: 8.30am – 10.30am

What to bring: Drinks and snacks for your children.
We will provide the coffee because you deserve it!

There is no formal enrolment for Play Café.

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is available for children who turn 4 years old on or before 30 June 2022. While it is not compulsory, almost all parents send their children to Kindergarten so they get the best start to learning at school. However, if parents choose to enrol their children in Kindergarten they must attend regularly.

In 2022, Kindergarten children will attend on:

Tuesday	All Day	8.25am – 2.30pm
Wednesday	Half Day	8.25am – 11.30am
Thursday	All Day	8.25am – 2.30pm

PRE PRIMARY – YEAR 2

The children attend 5 full days per week. If you feel your child is unable to cope with full days, please discuss this with your class teacher.

WHAT TO BRING EACH DAY

Children are required to bring the following items each day:

- A large bag clearly marked with the child's name that is big enough to carry work and belongings home.
- A piece of fruit or vegetable cut up ready to eat (we don't share fruit)
- A packed lunch on days, your child attends all day.
- A spare set of clothes (clearly marked with child's name) in their bag in case of accidents.
- A broad brimmed hat – to be left at school in child's tray. **NO HAT, NO PLAY**
- Drink bottle with **WATER ONLY**.



Please label ALL your child's belongings to help reduce lost property.

ON THE FIRST DAY

The children will need to learn the routine of hanging up bags, getting their water bottle and starting the day with a variety of activities.

Show your child around the room and reassure him/her that you will pick them up after school. There may be tears on the first day, so be prepared. After all, for many children it will be the first time away from parents and family and is their first step towards independence. Children usually settle down quickly when they make new friends and discover new activities and we will contact you if there are any concerns or problems.

Please feel free to stay with your child if necessary, to ensure that the transition from home to school is a happy one.

PARENT AND EMERGENCY CONTACTS DETAILS

It is important to ensure all phone numbers, addresses and contact persons are kept up to date in case we need to contact you or another contact person in an emergency.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Please do not drop your children at school before 8.10am. Please remind your child to hang up their bag and bring their water bottle into the classroom. The classroom will have a number of activities set up for use before the siren. Please feel free to assist your child with these activities until the siren goes. Once the siren goes, parents are asked to leave the classroom promptly to enable the teacher to start the day with the class.

If your child is going home with someone other than the custodial parents or emergency contacts, please let us know. We have a communication book in each class for you to write in details of pick up changes.

If you are running late for pick up your child, please telephone the school and let us know so that your child does not worry or become upset.

CLASS MEETINGS

We will hold a class meeting early in Term 1 to discuss routines and answer any questions. Teachers may hold individual parent meetings throughout the year when needed.

YEAR BOOK

This is a record of your child's learning throughout the year. Children will bring these precious books home during the year for your enjoyment! Please return these books to school as soon as possible so children can continue to add other work to them.

PARENT HELP

Parents are welcome to come in and help at school. If you have any special skills, interests or ideas that may enhance the children's learning program please let us know! Grandparents and other family members are welcome too!

When on parent help you can help by –

- Assist children with activities
- Help to wash and cut fruit
- Help to pack up inside and outside equipment
- Join in children's games



ALL PARENT HELPERS MUST FILL IN A CONFIDENTIAL DECLARATION FORM BEFORE BECOMING A HELPER IN THE CLASS.

OUR TREASURE LIST

Your junk is often treasure for us. We collect and use all sorts of things at school. Some examples of things we collect include:

Plastic containers (Ice Cream, Yoghurt, Butter, etc) / Cardboard boxes (all sizes) / Doll's clothes / dress – up clothing / Beads / Corks / Buttons / Lace / Ribbon / Fabric pieces / Old cards / Wool / Feathers / Magazines / Stockings (Clean) / Wrapping paper / Shells / Tree Bark / Seeds



BIRTHDAYS

We enjoy celebrating birthdays at school and you are welcome to bring a cake along when your child has a birthday. We suggest small patty cakes, as these are easy to share around the children.

COOKING

Cooking is an integral part of our learning program. The Mathematical, Language, Health and Social Concepts gained from this activity are invaluable.

There will be a small charge for the year which helps with the supply of ingredients.



Parents as Partners

I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there
The clay they used was a young child's mind
And they fashioned it with care.
One was the teacher and the tools that were used
Were books and music and art.
One was a parent with a guiding hand
And a gentle loving heart.

Day after day the teacher toiled
With a touch that was deft and sure,
While the parent laboured side by side
And polished and smoothed it o'er.
And when at last their task was done,
They were proud of what they had wrought.
For the things they had moulded into the child
Could neither be sold nor bought
And each agreed they would have failed
If they had worked alone,
For behind the parent stood the school
And behind the teacher, the home.

