



Kindergarten and
Pre-Primary
Information Booklet 2023

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WELCOME TO VICTORIA PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Early Childhood is a vital stage in a child's education, providing the opportunity to formally and informally socialise with other children of their own age, in a positive and secure environment. Socialising and learning through planned play activities are integral to the Early Childhood program. We aim to provide challenging and supportive learning programs that give children every opportunity to learn, by building on existing knowledge, skills and interests.

At Victoria Park Primary School, we seek to form positive working relationships with our parents and carers. Communication within the school community is very important to us and this booklet is one way in which we can inform parents and carer of matters relating to the school and your child's education. We trust you find this booklet informative and helpful and we encourage you to refer to it throughout 2023. If the information you seek is not in this booklet, please don't hesitate to ask at the school office or visit our website. www.vicpark.ps@education.wa.edu.au. Our school office staff are always happy to assist.

You will also receive a parent newsletter fortnightly. I encourage you to read this as it will keep you informed of school events as well as P&C (Parent & Citizens Association) and local community news.

When families and educators work together we can enhance our children's wellbeing and learning achievements. For your child to get the most out of the opportunities provided by the Early Childhood staff, parents are encouraged to become involved with their child's education. This can be achieved by helping with the day to day running of the class, actively participating in our Parents & Citizens Association or nominating for a position on the School Board when there is a vacancy.

We look forward to working closely with you this year in providing the best possible start for your child's education.

Travis
PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL DETAILS

1 Cargill Street, Victoria Park WA 610

Telephone: 08 6216 4900

E-mail: victoriapark.ps@education.wa.edu.au

Website: <http://www.vicparkps.wa.edu.au>

2022 OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Principal: Travis Miller
Deputy Principal: Deb Eke
Deputy Principal: Nadene Coupar
Manager Corporate Services: Sue Pereira
School Officers: Sharon Cockroft, Rebecca Doak, Amanda Fisher, Deb Baker

OFFICE HOURS

Office is open between 8:00am to 4:00pm daily

TERM DATES

Term 1 Wednesday 1 February to Thursday 6 April
Term 2 Wednesday 26 April to Friday 30 June
Term 3 Tuesday 17 July to Friday 22 September
Term 4 Tuesday 10 October to Thursday 14 December

Bell Times

8:35am	Doors Open
8:50am	Morning Bell
3:05pm	Dismissal

School Professional Development Days

Students are not required to attend school on the following dates:

Monday 24 June

Monday 16 July

Monday 9 October

Public Holidays (during the school term)

Labour Day 6 March Good Friday 7 April Anzac Day 25 April WA Day 5 June

P&C DETAILS

Carolyn Ellis - P&C President
president.vicparkpandc@gmail.com

UNIFORM SHOP

Our uniforms are online. Please visit their website for more details
www.matrixuniforms.com.au



Every day at school is important!

Kindergarten/ Pre primary Program

The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) is a national framework for all early childhood educators ensuring that children in all early childhood education and care settings experience quality teaching and learning. The Early Years Learning Framework describes childhood as a time of **belonging, being and becoming**.

- **Belonging** - Acknowledging children's interdependence with others and the basis of relationships in defining identities. Belonging shapes who children are and who they become.
- **Being** - Recognising the here and now in children's lives. The early childhood years are not solely preparation for the future but also about the present.
- **Becoming** - Reflects the process of change in children's identities, knowledge, understandings, capabilities, skills and relationships.

The EYLF has a specific emphasis on play-based learning and recognises the importance of communication and language (including early literacy and numeracy) and social and emotional development.

Purposeful play

Purposeful play is a powerful medium for learning and helps children make sense of their world. Play is an important part of your child's first years of life because it helps the "wiring" of your child's brain. Children need opportunities to choose from a wide variety of activities, materials and equipment that will stimulate, challenge and involve them in interesting tasks.

Educators respond to children's ideas and play and use intentional teaching to scaffold and extend each child's learning.



Loose Parts Play

Research tells us that the degree of inventiveness and creativity and the possibility of discovery are directly proportional to the number and kind of variables in it. To support this, we have embraced a *Loose Parts* style of play in our outdoor environment.

A commonly used explanation for *Loose Parts* play is: materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. They are materials with no specific set of directions that can be used alone or combined with other materials.

At Victoria Park Primary School we call these materials our 'precious junk'. *Loose Parts* play promotes independence, experimentation, resilience and creativity. It also provides endless opportunities for problem solving and critical thinking. Given the children will be engaging in this type of play, they may come home with a few minor bumps, bruises or splinters. This is how children develop resilience and learn how to alter their play if necessary. It is beneficial to learn to face the knocks and challenges of life and what better way to do this than through play!

Our Daily Program

Kindy Daily Program

Our Kindy program revolves around learning centres so that the children are able to make choices about their learning. Young children do not learn in the same way as adults, they need to experience things in a concrete form through their five senses before they can translate this knowledge into symbolic forms. The carefully planned and structured play-based activities create an interesting, engaging and meaningful curriculum, that uses children's interests and questions as a starting point for effective learning. Through inquiry, your child is learning about the world around them and how they can fit within it.

When children play they are showing what they have learned and what they are trying to understand. This is why play is one of the foundations of the EYLF. The modelling and explicit teaching of social skills will help develop children's self-awareness and self-control.

The main aim of our program is to make your child's first contact with school a happy and satisfying experience, which will help to establish positive attitudes to learning. We aim to encourage the development of your child's confidence, concentration and social skills, to foster their imagination and creativity and help build their self-esteem.

We provide a warm, positive atmosphere in our Kindergarten and allow children time to interact and learn with their peers and adults in a happy, relaxed, yet purposeful environment. We recognise that each child is unique and develops at their own pace and we observe each child in order to provide the appropriate environment to stimulate more learning.

Pre-primary Daily Program

The Pre-primary consists of a combination of teacher directed activities and inquiry based learning opportunities, where children are able to make choices about their learning. Young children do not learn in the same way as adults, they need to experience things in a concrete form through their five senses before they can translate this knowledge into symbolic forms. The carefully planned and structured play-based activities create an interesting, engaging and meaningful curriculum, that uses children's interests and questions as a starting point for effective learning. Through inquiry, your child is learning about the world around them and how they can fit within it.

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We provide a warm, positive atmosphere in our Pre-primary and allow children time to interact and learn with their peers and adults in a happy, relaxed, yet purposeful environment. We recognise that each child is unique and develops at their own pace and we observe each child in order to provide the appropriate environment to stimulate more learning.

Literacy

At Victoria Park Primary School we implement a strong oral language and comprehension program for all children. The children will be exposed to all phases of Phonological Awareness including syllable awareness, rhyme recognition and initial sounds. Recent research suggests that early knowledge of letters and sounds has a strong and direct relationship to success and ease of reading acquisition in later years. It is also very important that parents read to their child (children) every day in order for them to develop an interest in reading. Each year at the end of first term, all Kindergarten children will be assessed using the Screening of Communication Skills (SOCS) Tool. Early intervention can then take place for those children who display some difficulties with their oral language development, comprehension and communication skills. Pre-primary students complete the on-entry assessment.

Numeracy

Mathematical understanding in early childhood is integral to developing proficiency in numeracy. We teach the numerical concepts that are required for everyday life. We do this by providing opportunities for students to reinforce their mathematical learning in practical, everyday situations during play in whole group/small group and individual settings. Throughout early childhood children will be exposed to aspects of number, measurement and shape.

Social Skills

Another very important area of focus in Kindergarten and Pre-primary is the development of social skills. Skills, such as negotiating, considering the needs of others and problem solving will develop throughout their school life. School is often your child's first experience as part of a large group of children of a similar age.

P.A.T.H.S.

The early childhood classes teach the P.A.T.H.S program that lays the foundations for lifelong social emotional learning. P.A.T.H.S stands for **P**romoting **A**lternative **T**hinking **S**trategies. Children will learn how to do the "Turtle" when upset, frustrated or angry as a way of dealing with their emotions in an appropriate manner. The curriculum is intended to help prevent or reduce behavioural and emotional problems in young children.

The Learning Environment

At Victoria Park Primary School we know that learning occurs both inside and outside of the classroom. The children become actively involved in planned and incidental learning to assist with their mental, physical and social/emotional development. The indoor and outdoor learning environments are organised and planned to engage children, making use of the natural and built environments. Activities promote independence and social interaction through structured tasks and intentional play opportunities.

Incursions / Excursions

During the year we may be involved in some incursions (visitors/events within the school) and excursions (visits to places outside the school). Both are part of the educational program we provide at Victoria Park Primary School. You will receive notification if a cost is involved.

Payments for incursions/excursions can be paid by eftpos at the main office. Payment can also be made by direct deposit to the school's account. Please include your child's name and year as a reference

Account Name : Victoria Park Primary School
BSB: 016 263 Account Number: 3409 62599

General Information

Allergy Aware School

Victoria Park Primary School has a number of children with severe allergies to a variety of substances including food and insect bites. With this in mind we are a Nut Aware School and it is vital that children **DO NOT** bring food items which contain nuts including Peanut butter, Nutella, Nut bars etc.

Attendance and Punctuality

It is very important for young children that you collect them promptly as lateness can cause concern and uncertainty for your child, especially in the early days, when routine is still being established.

We advise that you drop your older children to the primary school before dropping your youngest child. At the end of the school day, it is important to pick your children **up on time**. The school bell rings at 3:05pm.

Consistent, regular attendance at Kindergarten is very important as this practice sets your child in good stead for the rest of their life at school. It is recommended that children do not take breaks during school times, unless of course they are unwell.

We also ask that if you are delayed and unable to collect your child on time, notify the school by phone so that we can dispel any fears in your child.

Average Period of Absence (Years PP-10)	Rate of Attendance	Equivalent School Missed	Level of Education Risk
2.5 days per term	95%	6 Months	Regular attendance
5 days per term	90%	1 Year	Regular attendance-Monitor
1 day per week	80%	2 Years	Indicated at-Risk
1.5 days per week	70%	3 Years	Moderate Risk
2 days per week	60%	4 Years	Moderate Risk
2.5 days per week	50%	5 Years	Severe Risk
3 days per week	40%	6 Years	Severe Risk

Authorisation For The Collection Of Your Child

Early childhood students are required to be escorted to and from their class by their parents or another known adult.

SIBLINGS AND UNDER-AGED CHILDREN ARE NOT AUTHORISED TO COLLECT CHILDREN IN EARLY CHILDHOOD- EVEN WITH PERMISSION FROM A PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

Please make sure if someone else is picking up your child that you inform the classroom teacher. We are not authorised to release your child to any adult without parental consent. Please note that authorisation may also be given by phone.

Communication

Victoria Park Primary School utilises the App School Stream to communicate with parents. School Stream is a free app available to download. You are able to receive push notifications regarding important whole school information from the school.

Newsletters are an important communication with parents/carers, as it provides up to date information on what's happening within the school and P&C activities. Newsletters are circulated via School Stream fortnightly on a Tuesday. Paper copies are also available from the front office.

Additionally, paper and electronic notices will be sent home. Teachers will communicate via Seesaw. Log-in details will be sent home at the start of Term 1. Please check your child's bag for important information. Notices will also be displayed on the board outside the classrooms.

Head Lice

Head lice are spread from direct head-to-head contact with another person who has head lice. They are unable to jump or fly. If your child has head lice, please keep them home until their hair has been treated. To minimise the risk of spreading head lice, ensure shoulder length hair is tied up and loose hair is clipped back. If a case of head lice is detected at school a note will go home to inform you to check your child's hair and provide treatment if required.

Illness and Allergies

Minor playground injuries will be dealt with at school. However, if your child has an accident or becomes sick at school, every effort will be made to contact parents/guardians to arrange medical attention. For this reason, it is essential that the school has the most up-to-date contact details for you including phone numbers, email address and an additional emergency contact.

The Department of Education policy requires the school to be aware of students affected by illnesses such as Asthma, Diabetes, or Allergies that require treatment. If medication is to be administered, the office and teacher need to be notified, and then will seek clarification from the Principal. Permission notes for teachers and other staff members issuing medication need to be completed by parents and a doctor.

It is imperative that all allergies and medical conditions are noted on the enrolment form and the school office staff and teacher are informed so that a medical plan can be implemented if required.

Medical – Communicable Diseases

Information on the exclusion periods for communicable diseases are provided by the Health Department. **Parents/carers are asked to notify the school immediately if their doctor has confirmed a diagnosis of the following:**

- Chicken Pox – exclude until all blisters have crusted. Usually about 5 days
- Conjunctivitis - exclude until discharge from eyes has stopped
- Measles – exclude for 4 days after the onset of the rash.
- Mumps – exclude 5 days after swollen glands
- School Sores – exclude until after antibiotic treatment has commenced.
- Head Lice/Nits – exclude until hair is treated and head is free from eggs and lice
- Rubella – return to school once symptoms have subsided, usually at least 4 days after start of rash
- Whooping Cough – exclude for 5 days after an appropriate antibiotic treatment or for 21 days from the onset of coughing



Crunch and Sip and Lunch

Recess and lunch times are great opportunities for children to sit and chat quietly with a small group of friends. As well as fruit and vegetables, other healthy substitutes such as plain popcorn, cheese, sultanas, plain cracker biscuits and rice crackers could be included.

For lunch we recommend a nutritious lunch that is easy to eat, eg. sandwich, bread roll or similar with suitable filling and one or two healthy snacks such as a small yoghurt, fresh fruit, cheese or plain muesli bar. Water is available at all times so please do not include juice or milk drinks with your child's lunch. In accordance with Health Department guidelines we do not encourage lollies, chocolates, chips, chocolate coated muesli bars or the like as healthy snacks for lunch. (For great ideas for healthy and interesting school lunches, visit: [det.wa.edu.au/healthy food and drink](http://det.wa.edu.au/healthy%20food%20and%20drink))

We have a policy that students do not share their food at lunch for student safety

P&C Association

Victoria Park Primary School P&C association is a school based organization whose membership consists of parents, teachers and interested citizens. They have two main roles within the school community. First to promote the interest of the school by bringing parents, students, citizens and teaching staff into close co-operation and secondly, to assist in providing resources, facilities and equipment to the school through fundraising.

Any member of the Victoria Park Primary School community can become a member of the P&C. The P&C meets twice each term on Tuesday nights at 7:00pm on Weeks 3 and 8. An Annual General Meeting is held on the first meeting of the year and at this meeting all positions on the P&C are declared vacant.

Second Hand Uniform Shop

We have a second hand uniform shop on site which is run by parent volunteers. Generally open on Fridays each fortnight to coincide with school assembly days. Dates for uniform shop opening will be advised in the school newsletter.

Uniforms

Students are encouraged to wear school uniforms from Kindergarten.

Parent Volunteers & Concerns

Parent and carers involvement provides continuity for your child between home and school. Parents are encouraged to participate and assist in whatever capacity they can. A voluntary roster for parent help will be displayed on the noticeboard outside the classrooms. Please write your name against a date that suits you. Your child will love you to be involved and in this way you can be part of the learning experiences we provide.

Parents are encouraged to raise any concerns or issues that they have. Please do not hesitate to see the teacher if you wish to discuss any matters concerning your child's progress, the program content or any other general queries or concerns. This will be a happy and rewarding association with our school for you and your child.

Parking

As there is limited parking near the school please be mindful of not to double park, not to park across drive ways and not to park on the footpath. The Town of Victoria Park is very vigilant with parking surrounding the school and the Ranger often patrols the area.

Personal Information

All personal information is stored safely and securely within the school. It is essential that parents keep all information up to date and notify the office staff of any changes to contact details, addresses, emergency contacts and medical details etc.

Personal Items List (Booklist)

These are items staff require parents to purchase for their children to participate effectively in the learning programs. Please put the children's items for personal use (Booklist Items) in a bag with your child's name on the bag and bring it in on their first day of school. *We ask that you do not name individual pencils, texas, as we share these items in the classroom.*

Parents are not obliged to use the listed supplier but please do not provide a substitute where specific items have been requested.

Recycling

If you have any valuable "junk" you feel we might be able to use in the Kindergarten, please bring it in. Please ensure items are clean and dry. We do not use milk or juice bottles, or empty toilet rolls.

School Board

The School Board is a body that, in partnership with our principal, is given powers to set and monitor the key directions of our school. The School Board is involved in reviewing the School Vision, School Performance and Allocation as identified in the Business Plan. In essence, the role of the School Board is one of setting the long term future for the school and maintaining oversight (not management) of the school's operation.

School Nurse

The Community Health Department provides the services of a Community Nurse one day per fortnight (or equivalent). The nurse covers many health promotion activities at the school, including:

- Screening students for health problems
- Backup and support of the school health education program.

Children identified are given regular follow-up checks. The nurse will see a child that either the teacher or parents are concerned about. Referrals to speech therapy and occupational therapy can be made through the school nurse.

School Psychologist

The School Psychologist attends the school one day a week. The role of the school psychologist is to support the school in the areas of student behaviour and learning difficulties.

Staff Car Park

Parents are not permitted to use the staff car park when picking up or dropping off their children. Parents are asked not to walk through the car park. Please use the footpaths provided.

Toys

The Early Childhood has a variety of equipment, toys and games for the children to use each day. Children should not bring any toys or personal, precious items to school unless they have been requested for a particular reason. Parents please check with the teacher if you are unsure. Precious items from home can be accidentally damaged, broken or lost which can be very distressing to the child concerned.

Voluntary Contributions

Victoria Park Primary School requests a voluntary payment of \$60.00 per child per year. This money compliments the school's funding which is provided by The Department of Education. Details on the Charges and Contributions are available on our website and via the front office.



WHAT TO BRING

Please label everything with your child's name.

- A child's carry bag or backpack, one that they can manage.
- A bucket hat or wide brimmed hat, with their name on it. No caps please. We are a Sun Smart school. The school policy is "**NO HAT - NO PLAY**", therefore children without hats will only be permitted to play in the shaded sandpit. Please put sunscreen on your child before they come to school.
- Lunch - Please provide a healthy, nutritious lunch in an easy to open lunch box that has the student's name on the outside.
- A water bottle filled with water only.
- A change of clothes in case of accidents.

	Hat
	Drink Bottle
	Lunchbox
	Crunch and Sip

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT

1. FIRST DAY

First days at anything new can be a little daunting for all of us, as well as being very exciting. Please remember that it is normal and appropriate for children to be a little unsure, just as it is for you, the parent. We will do our best to help the first days to be as stress-free and enjoyable as possible.

2. HINTS FOR STRESS-FREE EARLY DAYS

Avoid big build-ups as the unknown can be frightening. Talk about the first day but do not push conversation if your child is unsure. As hard as it is, try to avoid prolonged goodbyes! If your child is getting upset reassure them, you will be back on time to pick them up and then leave. A prolonged goodbye only escalates the tears. Children usually settle quickly and we always call to let you know how they are.

3. WHAT TO DO

Arrive on time but not so early that there is a long wait for the classroom door to open. Place their bag on their bag hook and place the requested supplies in one of the plastic bags provided and write your child's name on the bag. Once inside we will greet your child and give them a nametag, then they can go to the puzzles/book mat. A bell will be rung when it is time for parents to leave. Return to collect your child **PROMPTLY AT PICK UP TIME**. Please wait outside the classroom. We will dismiss children one by one to ensure safety.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD AS THEY TRANSITION INTO SCHOOL

- Establish positive habits and routines at home. Starting the day at the same time and following a routine helps your child learn what steps come next as they get ready. Just as a similar bed time each night with a story is a lovely way to end the day.
- Encourage your child to dress and undress themselves. You can help your child by dressing them in clothes that are easy for them to manage.
- Follow a routine when using the toilet. This includes going to the toilet independently, flushing the toilet and washing and drying hands.
- Give your child lunch that is easy for them to eat or they have had practice eating by themselves. Give them practice opening and closing their own lunch box and drinking from their drink bottle. If you, as an adult, have difficulty with their lunch box or drink bottle it is worth purchasing new ones.
- Encourage your child to pack away their toys when they have finished playing. There are times during the day when we have to pack away to prepare for what is coming next. All children participate in this process and it is something you can practice at home.
- Give your child responsibility for packing their own school bag. You can give them a checklist with pictures (like on previous page) to remind them what they need.
- Encourage your child to ask for help if they need it.
- Discuss rules with your child. Explain that there are rules at school just like there are rules at home. They may be different but rules are there so we know what is expected and to ensure that everyone is safe.

