



Walpole Primary School

Nature, Culture, Future



**Kindy Information Book
2022**

Welcome!

Welcome to Walpole Primary School. Walpole is a small rural school in a natural paradise, that provides a rich curriculum, delivering a balance of project-based learning and explicit teaching.

This booklet will hopefully give you the basics to what you need to know about your child's first year at school. It is designed to be read alongside the Parent Information Book which has general information about the school. To avoid duplication, topics covered in that book are generally not covered here.



Contact Details

Walpole Primary School	Ph 6871 0200
	Email Walpole.ps@education.wa.edu.au
	Webpage www.walpoleps.wa.edu.au

School Hours

Kindy students generally look forward to coming to school and spending their days with their friends and teacher. They are entitled to attend 15 hours per week. This includes recess and lunch breaks. In 2022, the kindy students will attend two full days in Semester One (Wednesday and Friday) and three full days in Semester Two (Monday, Wednesday and Friday).

School Commences	8:50am
Recess	10:40 – 11:00
Lunch	12:20 – 1:00
School Ends	3:00pm

There is no before or after school care based at the school. Students are expected to arrive between 8:30 and 8:50 and be collected at 3pm.

Walpole Family Centre do have after hours care. Please ring 9840 1400 for details.

Collecting Your Child From School

Parents/caregivers are expected to collect their kindy child from the classroom at the end of the day. This ensures a clear hand-over of duty of care. If you need to collect your child during the school day, please sign them out through the front office. If someone else is picking up your child, please inform the teacher or office.

There is a Kiss and Wave near the kindy classroom. If you need to park your car, please do so in the car park near Latham Ave.



Dress Code

Kindergarten students are not expected to wear school uniform but most of them do, feeling that they are a part of the school community. It also makes it easier not having to think about what they will wear each day. The official school shirt is royal blue with aqua underarm gusset, sleeve and collar and white trim. This has the school logo and can be purchased through the office. Orders are taken three times a year. Other uniform items can be bought at any retail outlet.

Suitable footwear is important as the children do a lot of running and climbing. Students should also wear a broad-brimmed hat and bring a change of clothes each day. This means they have clean clothes if an 'accident' occurs.

Student Requirements

A requirement list is sent home towards the end of the previous year. Most items are easy to get from the Post Office but can be bought elsewhere.

Being Prepared for School

Coming to the big school is the next step for your four year old. There are some things you can do to ensure that there is a smooth start. It would be great if they are able to go to the toilet independently- they can pull up their own pants and dress themselves. They should be able to follow instructions and listen quietly to a story. Kindy students are expected to share equipment and pack away when they have finished. Ensure your child is comfortable being in the care of someone other than their parents for a short period of time.

Health Concerns

A healthy child readily participates in kindy activities. If your child suffers from any health concerns, please let the teacher know. It can make a big difference in the teacher's planning and expectations.

If your child has a cold, or any sickness they can spread to others, please keep your child at home. The school will contact you if your child becomes unwell during the day and needs to be picked up.

Sunscreen is applied during the summer months. Please notify the teacher if you do not wish this to happen or want to provide an alternative due to allergies, etc.



Absences from School

Evidence shows that every day at school makes a difference to a student's academic achievement. Even though attendance in kindy is not compulsory, it sets good habits for the rest of schooling. Please send an explanation for your child if they are away- by phone, note or e-mail.

Parent Help

Helping in the classroom can be very rewarding as well as giving you an insight into how the teacher approaches concepts such as reading and writing. Kindy parents are welcome to stay a bit longer in the mornings and help their child do a puzzle, read a book or talk about their work.

Parents have an opportunity to join in school activities in many ways. The teacher may call on parent helpers for classroom activities or an excursion. Please let the teacher know if you are available. If more offers are presented than needed, the teacher will normally organize a roster so the experience is shared.

Going to kindy provides an opportunity for children to gain independence from their parents and learn to do things for themselves. Children adjust to different learning expectations, identity and relationships. It is important to be able to leave your child in the care of the staff and know that they will be looked after. Teachers have at least four years university education and many years of experience working with children. Parents are expected to leave the centre and their child once the 'mat session' begins.

For more information on how to support your child at school go to: <https://www.learningpotential.gov.au/>

Notes

Please check your child's bag regularly for notes and newsletters.



Lunch Arrangements



Walpole PS does not have a canteen and it is expected that students will bring recess and lunch provisions from home. Healthy options and 'nude lunches' which have reusable or no packaging are encouraged. The students share fruit for morning tea and also have another snack of fruit or vegetables during the afternoon.

Many parents pack a large amount of food for their children to eat. If they can't eat it in the time given, the students will be asked to take what is left home.

School Buses

Walpole PS has a very reliable and comprehensive bus service for students who live out of town, travelling as far as Peaceful Bay and North of the town. Kindergarten students are able to catch the bus to and from school. This needs to be booked prior to the school year starting, at www.schoolbuses.wa.gov.au.

Curriculum

Early childhood is a vital period in children's learning and development. A number of documents guide the teaching and learning in the early years including the Early Years Learning Framework, the Kindergarten Guidelines and the National Quality Standards. These frameworks guide program delivery and enable teachers to reflect on their practices to ensure a holistic approach to learning including a balance of play, intentional teaching, spontaneity and developmental planning.

Expectations have increased with pre-primary now the first year of formal schooling and the starting age increase of six months. At school, kindergarten students are exposed to the letters and sounds of the alphabet and attempt to write using letters and symbols. They role-play reading, holding the book up the right way and looking from left to right. They understand that the words and pictures communicate a message. They are exposed to recognising numbers and counting to ten. The kindy kids explore the language of maths.

You can help your child become ready for school by reading them stories and encouraging them to retell the story or even role-play reading to others, e.g. the cat. Talk about familiar print you see around you- signs, book covers, their name, etc.

Semester Reports are distributed at the end of terms 2 and 4 and outline student outcomes against the *Early Years Learning Framework*. Student strengths and weaknesses are described without awarding a grade for achievement.

Homework

Homework at kindergarten is more for the parents than the students. It would be great if you can read to your child most nights and discuss their day with them.

Assemblies

Kindergarten students do not attend the first few assemblies. The teacher decides when they are ready to sit for the extended period of time required. Assemblies are held twice a term on Fridays.

Library

The school library is open on Tuesdays, which is not a kindy day. The children have Book Bags in the classroom which they can take home to share with the family.

News Time

Generally, students are encouraged to share 'news' at some time during the week. They may be asked to bring in a special toy or recall an event. Please ensure the toy is given to the teacher in the morning and collected at the end of the day. Toys from home are not normally encouraged as they can be lost, ruined or fought over.



Learning at Home

Your child's early learning starts, and continues, at home. The everyday activities you do with your child, such as talking to them, singing songs and reading books, set them up to be curious and interested in the world around them.

Play is a powerful and natural way for children to learn. Play involves making choices, exploring materials and solving problems. It doesn't have to be adult-led or with expensive materials. Cardboard boxes, balls, pegs and dress-up clothes encourage inventive games.

Modelling literacy and numeracy skills prepares your child for school. Count items aloud as you shop. Describe the colour, size and feel of materials you use. Write lists and letters. As your child gets older, encourage them to 'do the same'. Encourage their attempts at early writing and reading.

More information on helping your child at home can be found on the Education Department's website

<http://www.education.wa.edu.au/home/detcms/navigation/education/the-early-years/resources-for-families/>

