



VICTORIA PARK CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

PARENT INFORMATION BOOKLET



**PRE-KINDY
&
KINDY**



Ours

Author Unknown

“Whose child is this?” I asked one day
Seeing a little one out at play
“Mine,” said the parent with a tender smile
“Mine to keep a little while
To wash their hands and comb their hair
To help them with what they are to wear
To prepare them that they may always be good
And each day do the things they should”



“Whose child is this?” I asked again
As the door opened and someone came
“Mine,” said the teacher with the same tender smile
“Mine to keep just for a little while
To teach them how to be gentle and kind
To guide and direct their dear little mind
To help them understand each rule
And get the best they can from school”



“Whose child is this?” I ask once more
Just as the little one entered the door
“Ours,” said the parent and teacher as they smiled
And each took the hand of the little child



Welcome to Victoria Park Christian School.

This booklet provides you with information relating to our Pre-Kindy and Kindy program for 2022. Please take time to read through the booklet and if you have any questions regarding our school or the program, we will be happy to speak with you. You can contact our school administration staff on (08) 9362 2626 between 8:30am and 3:30pm. Please arrange to speak with the class teacher outside of teaching times – refer to page 5.

 **STUDENTS IN PRE-KINDY/KINDY CANNOT BE ENROLLED IN TWO SEPARATE SCHOOLS AT THE SAME TIME.**

 **ECE Staff – 2022**

Principal

Mr Mark Foster

Class Teacher

Miss Rebekah Eyre

Education Assistants

Mrs Sharyn Macri

Mrs Rebecca van Moorsel

Receptionist

Mrs Samantha McCutcheon

 **Criteria for Entrance to Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten**

Application for Enrolment forms need to be completed and sent to the school with an application fee of \$250 (\$150.00 will be credited back to the first term's fees.) These forms are available from the school office.

Pre-Kindy – The child must turn 3 before commencing and be fully toilet trained.

Kindy – The child must turn 4 before the 30th June of the school year for which they have enrolled.

 **Class Composition**

Our classes have a maximum of 24 students on any given day.

2022 Term Dates

Term One	Registration Day	Thursday	27 January
	Students commence	Monday	31 January
	Pre-Kindy commence	Tuesday	01 February

	Welcome Back Picnic	Wednesday	02 February
	Public Holiday	Monday	07 March
	Students conclude	Friday	08 April
Term Two	Anzac Day	Monday	25 April
	Pupil Free Day	Tuesday	26 April
	Students commence	Wednesday	27 April
	Mother's Day High Tea	Friday	06 May
	School Photo Day	Friday	20 May
	Public Holiday	Monday	06 June
	Students conclude	Friday	01 July
Term Three	Students commence	Wednesday	20 July
	Father's Day Breakfast	Friday	02 September
	School Concert	Thursday	22 September
	Students conclude	Friday	23 September
Term Four	Students commence	Tuesday	11 October
	Awards & Graduation Evening	Thursday	08 December
	Students conclude	Friday	09 December

*** These dates may be adjusted throughout the year. Please always refer to Skoolbag for the latest updates to important dates.***



HOURS OF OPERATION

Classes Operate: 8:50am to 3:10pm
 Student Supervision: 8:30am to 3:30pm

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Wednesday 26 January
 Monday 07 March

Australia Day
 Labor Day

Friday	15 April	Good Friday
Monday	18 April	Easter Monday Holiday
Monday	25 April	ANZAC Day Holiday
Monday	06 June	Western Australia Day
Monday	26 September	Queen's Birthday
Sunday	25 December	Christmas Day
Monday	26 December	Boxing Day
Tuesday	27 December	Christmas Public Holiday



School Hours

★ Pre-Kindy

The Pre-Kindy Program runs for two days per week – Tuesdays and Thursdays. All children need to have turned 3 prior to starting Pre-Kindy. Please also note that children must be fully toilet trained. Nappies and pull-ups cannot be accommodated in our Kindy classroom.

★ Kindy

The Kindy Program runs for three days per week – Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. All children need to have turned 4 prior to the 30th June of the school year in which they have enrolled.



Hours

Self-registration and free play	8:30am
Class commences	8:45am
Crunch'n Sip break	10:30am
Lunch	12:00pm – 12:30pm
Recess	1:30pm – 1:45pm
Class ends	3:10pm
* Pre-Kindy class finishes	3:00pm



Supervision

There is a teacher on duty from 8:30am in the morning to 3:30pm in the afternoon. Please make sure that your child is delivered to and picked up from school during these times.



Child Collection

Because we care about the safety of your child we require parents or caregivers to provide written notification regarding alternative pick-up arrangements from school. We cannot allow your child to leave with any person other than a parent without your permission.

Fees and Equipment



Financial Information

\$4,050	Pre-Kindy annual tuition fee
\$2,585	Kindy annual tuition fee – 3 days
\$100	Working Bee Levy per family per year
\$120	Excursion Fee (\$60 for Pre-Kindy)
\$15	Student Insurance per year
	The Working Bee Levy is refunded if your family is represented at a school working bee - \$25 per term.
\$30	Stationery levy (\$20 for Pre Kindy & \$50 for 5 day Kindy Students)

Withdrawal of Students

Should you need to withdraw a student, a full term's written notice must be given or a Term's Tuition Fee will be charged.



Equipment

- All writing and art resources are provided for your child.
- Students are required to wear the school sports uniform, white socks and sport shoes of any colour. Velcro only on shoes, no laces please .
- Students are required to wear a hat at all times while outside
- Girls with long hair are required to keep it tied back at school.
- Stud earrings only may be worn. If your child wears jewellery on cultural or religious grounds, please advise us.
- Library bags (4 year olds only) are needed for students to borrow from the school library. Students cannot borrow from the library if they do not have their library bag. Library bags are purchased from the school office.



Registration Day

On this day, you will be able to purchase uniforms, library bags, pay school fees and have a further opportunity to talk with the teachers should you wish to do so.

The school is open for registration between 10:00am and 3:00pm on January 27, 2022.

Parent Information



Settling In and Drop Off Times

It is our aim for your child to settle in at school as quickly and as happily as possible. Please develop a short drop off routine, such as placing their drink bottle in the correct place, doing a puzzle together or sharing a hug. When you are ready to leave your child, please confidently say goodbye to them. Your confidence in their ability to cope is strongly reflected by them. Most children settle quickly once their parents go, but if there are any problems we will certainly let you know.

We offer a 'soft start' to both Kindy and Pre Kindy to assist in making the transition to school an enjoyable one. Please let us know of any special circumstances for your family.

Pre Kindy Soft Start

Week	Tuesday	Thursday
1 1 st and 3 rd Feb	8:30am-11:30am Provide fruit snack	8:30am-11:30am Provide fruit snack
2 8 th and 10 th Feb	8:30am-1:30pm Provide fruit snack and lunch	8:30am-1:30pm Provide fruit snack and lunch
3 15 th and 17 th Feb	Full days available after teacher consultation 8:30am-3:00pm	Full days available after teacher consultation 8:30am-3:00pm
4 22 nd and 24 th Feb onwards	Full days available 8:30am-3:00pm	Full days available 8:30am-3:00pm

Kindy Soft Start

Week	Monday, Wednesday, Friday
1	Everyone to attend from 8:30am to 1pm
2 – onwards	Full days available



Independence at School

Coming to 'Big School' can be very exciting for some children, yet a very big change for others. To make school a happy place, children need to be prepared and know what to expect.

To help your child settle quickly into school give them some practice in:

- Opening and eating from a lunch box
- Using their drink bottle
- Taking off and putting on own footwear (No laces) and jumpers

Children **MUST** be independent in:

- Going to the toilet
- Making requests of the teacher.



Communication

Kindy and Pre Kindy information is most frequently shared via Skoolbag (the whole school notice system) and Seesaw (the Kindy communication app). Information for how to access both of these will be available in your child's registration pack available from the classroom on Registration Day.

Throughout the year we will communicate with you on your child's progress. This will be done in the following formats:

- Term 1 – Interviews
- Term 2 – Semester 1 Report
- Term 4 – Semester 2 Report and Portfolio of work samples

If you have any queries in relation to your child's wellbeing or progress, please arrange to meet with your child's teacher via the Seesaw app. We appreciate any information about your child's health, needs or situations at home that may have an impact on their school experience. This is often difficult to do at busy before and after school times without prior appointment.



What needs to bring each day

Each day you need to bring the following items:

- A fresh cut piece of fruit or vegetable to eat during Crunch & Sip
- Water to drink in a bottle your child can use without help
- Healthy packed lunch
- Spare change of clothes

Please make sure that all of your child's belongings are clearly labeled with their name. This makes returning lost items to their rightful owners much easier. We kindly request that you leave your child's hat at school, rather than taking it to and from school everyday.

Make sure that your child's lunch is quick and easy to eat. During lunch eat time, approximately 20 minutes, children will be required to sit while eating. At all times we encourage healthy foods, please do not pack lollies, chips, cordials, chocolates etc in your child's lunch box – they will be sent home.

Health and Safety



Immunisation

It is compulsory that your child is up to date with his/her immunisation. Before entering school, it is required for the school to have a copy of your child's AIR Statement.



Sun Safety

Your child's health and wellbeing is our priority, thus the wearing of a school hat during outside play is essential to protect your child from the sun's harmful UV rays. The school has a 'No Hat Play in the Shade' policy. Please ensure you leave this hat at school, so it is not forgotten at home.



Food Allergies

Please advise the school of any particular needs your child may have regarding allergies or food requirements. Victoria Park Christian School is a NUT AWARE school and we do have students with nut allergies. For this reason, we ask that you do not send food products that contain nuts or traces of nuts eg peanut butter, Nutella, museli bars. We do allow for birthdays to be celebrated at school – please refer to Birthdays under General Information.



Asthma/Anaphylaxis Action Plans

Please advise the school if your child has an active asthma or anaphylaxis plan. As per government requirement, we need a up to date copy of these in the office and in the classroom to keep your child safe. All required medication including Epipens, antihistamines, inhalers etc will be stored in your child's classroom. Please ensure all medication is appropriately labelled with your child's name and dosage required.

If your child has other routine medication they need to take during school hours, please inform the office and fill out the provided paperwork.



Illness

Although it may be inconvenient, please do not send your child to school if they are sick. If your child is sick, please contact the school office by phoning (08) 9362 2626, emailing admin@vpcs.wa.edu.au or via the Skoolbag app to inform us of their absence. You may also wish to inform the teacher also, but the office must have official notice from you directly. Please contact the office also to find out when your child is able to come back to school after being ill.

Children with serious flu symptoms, fever or sore throat are to be kept home.

General Information



Uniform

All students are required to wear the school's sports uniform each day they attend in the Pre-Kindy/Kindy classroom. The sports uniform is available for purchase through the school's uniform shop. The following list outlines the summer and winter uniform for both Pre-Kindy and Kindy students:

SUMMER – Terms 1 & 4

- Sports T-shirt with school Logo
- Navy blue microfibre shorts

WINTER – Terms 2 & 3

- School sports Jacket Navy/White/Silver
- Sports T-shirt with school logo
- Navy blue sport pants
- Navy scarf – optional

Appropriate sport shoes with white socks are to be worn (NO flashing lights/noises).

Please note that the school discourages the wearing of all jewellery at school for Health and Safety reasons. If your child wears jewellery for cultural or religious reasons, please discuss this with the teacher.

Earrings should be limited to one small indiscreet ear stud in each ear lobe. NB No responsibility will be taken for any injury caused by the wearing of ear studs. Extract from School Policy.

Birthdays

All children love a birthday celebration! You are welcome to send in cupcakes, muffins etc (something that does not need cutting by the teacher) for your child's birthday. Lollies, gift bags or birthday parties are not allowed. Please let the teacher know a week in advance so that time can be allowed for the celebration. Please remember that we are a NUT AWARE school – do not provide cakes/foods that contain peanuts or nut products.

Hats

It is compulsory for all children to wear regulation school hats during lunch and recess play times and during outdoor class activities. Regulation uniform hats are available from the school. Please remember to label your child's hat with their name clearly on the inside.





Up-cycling and Donating Items

You can help us by collecting any of the following items (please ensure they are thoroughly cleaned before sending them to school).

- match boxes
- cardboard cylinders (not toilet rolls)
- cotton reels
- cardboard boxes from food items (no egg cartons)
- shells
- wool and string
- buttons and beads
- Easter egg wrappers
- foil wrapping paper
- off-cuts of wood and dowel

If you would like to donate some of the following items, it would be much appreciated:

- paper plates
- white paper patty pans
- old kitchen utensils, pots and pans
- cotton wool balls
- popsticks
- balloons



Working Bees

Our school runs working bees each term to help maintain the school grounds and develop new areas. Your help is always greatly appreciated. \$25 per working bee is deducted from your maintenance fee.



Do you have a talent?

If you have a special interest (eg painting, woodwork, sewing, cooking) and you would like to help out in the class, please let us know. We would love your involvement.



What Will I Learn in Kindy?

Parent: “What did you do today?”

Child: “Nothing, we just played.”

We have all heard this response before. The good news is that children learn best through ‘play’ and with hands-on activities. There are many different opportunities provided to students to allow them to formulate their own play as well as directed play activities. Please also note that the program is displayed at the entry to our Kindy classroom for you to take a look at.

They will learn to:

- Work with others and alone
- Work with teaches and other adults
- Share and cooperate
- Have a go at activities and areas of play
- Complete an activity or task at my own level/ability
- To question and answer
- To be independent but confident enough to ask for assistance
- Share my experiences with my friends and other adults
- Experience various activities presented in the Kindy environment (ie music, games, recognising numbers and letters, learning letter names and sounds, holding a pencil correctly and forming letters and numbers, using scissors to cut etc)

Below are some of the activities that your child will be participating in:

Worship/Bible: The ‘Early Encounters’ program is used to introduce your child to the many stories of the Bible. Children start each day with worship songs and prayer. Our EE program is at the core of our learning each week and children are very excited to engage with the provoking stories and concepts we explore. Through structured and unstructured learning times, your child will develop an understanding of who Jesus is and His plan for our salvation.

Developmental Play: This includes various play centres like building, play dough, painting, drawing, puzzles, games, creative art, sand and water.

Pre-Maths: Number work using songs and games, mathematical concepts using “hands on” experiences.

Pre-Reading: Children will participate in shared reading, sequencing activities and matching skills. Phonics is introduced at a slow pace using the Diana Rigg Phonics Program.

Handwriting: Each child will be provided with opportunities to write the letters of the alphabet, numbers to 10 and their own name.

Writing: Children will begin the early stages of story writing. Children at this stage usually illustrate and then dictate their stories for teachers to write.

Physical Education: A variety of activities are planned to enhance the development of fundamental movement skills.

Craft/Art: During this time children will be able to imagine, design and create objects that relate to current interests or stories we are exploring.

Library: Each week, children in Kindy have the opportunity to borrow a book from the library. You will be informed as to when the child's library day is.

Speaking and Listening: Sharing boxes, learning of rhymes and jingles and listening to stories.

Screen Time: We know that children learn and develop best when their screen time is limited. Naturally, our classroom is full of hands on learning experiences. This limits our need to use screens and allows more practical learning time for your child. Screens will only be used during worship and rest time for songs and story telling.



Early Years Learning Framework

The Framework is all about children '*belonging, being and becoming*' in many different ways. They each bring their own diverse experiences, perspectives, expectations, knowledge and skills to the classroom and further their learning through play. Play enables children to:

- Express their personality and uniqueness
- Be curious and creative
- Make connections between prior experiences and new learning
- Develop relationships and concepts
- Stimulate their sense of wellbeing.

The Framework consists of five learning outcomes that convey the highest expectations for all children's learning. These Learning Outcomes are:

1. Children have a strong sense of identity
2. Children are connected with and contribute to their world
3. Children have a strong sense of wellbeing

4. Children are confident and involved learners
5. Children are effective communicators.

(Belonging, Being, Becoming – The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia, 2009, Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations for the Council of Australian Governments)

Your child will be provided with a variety of opportunities and experiences both indoors and outdoors enabling them to develop in each of these areas. We take this type of play very seriously, as our play is our learning!

We have taken the time to outline our learning philosophy for our Early Childhood classrooms. These concepts will form the basis for your child's learning throughout the year, into Pre Primary and beyond. You can find this document on the next page. Please feel free to ask the teacher about any of these ideas.

Early Childhood Philosophy

The philosophy of the Victoria Park Christian School Early Years programme is based on our belief that children deserve the opportunity to know Jesus, to develop their full potential and cultivate a life-long love of learning. We recognise that children have the unique and tremendous potential to become masters of their own learning.

We acknowledge the Noongar People as the traditional land owners of our region and seek to share their cultural heritage in a meaningful, respectful and authentic way.

We believe the most valuable learning occurs when we maximise teachable moments, relationships and interactions; and utilise concise and succinct documentation and programming practices. We adopt the ideology presented in the **Early Years Learning Framework of Being, Belonging and Becoming**, and as such we:

- respect children's uniqueness
- embrace diversity and our school's unique multicultural dynamic
- empower children's self-identity and personal decision-making
- recognise the value of their input into our programme plans and structure

We subscribe to the Reggio Emilia philosophy of three teachers; the parent, the

teacher and the learning environment. As such, our classroom environments invoke wonder and curiosity as well as provide rich learning opportunities spurred on by children's interests, strengths and challenges. The physical environment allows for children to learn and develop responsibility for their own health, wellbeing and safe risk-taking. We recognise that children communicate in 100 languages and learn through a variety of different styles.

Our more structured learning opportunities follow a cyclic approach as we revisit concepts throughout the year in different ways, ensuring mastery before progressing to more difficult concepts. This structured learning is flexible and child-led, according to unique strengths and challenges of our students.

We recognise that we are all global citizens and that God has given us a responsibility to model respect, care and appreciation for all environments. We strive to ensure sustainable practices are embedded in our school and promoted in our educational programme and practice. We believe a collaborative team of passionate and qualified staff is the key to success in all areas of Early Childhood Education. We recognise and value our role as advocates for children, families, the community and education team, treating all with respect and equity. We acknowledge the importance of building positive relationships with all children through meaningful interactions, shared learning, exploration and embracing each child's individual strengths, challenges and interests. We endeavour to build community links and strong connections between school and home, for the benefit of the holistic development of our students.

We encourage collaboration between all members of the educational team to develop our policies, procedures and documentation, recognising the value, expertise and experience of all. In addition to this, we formally engage in professional dialogue on a regular basis to discuss current research and best practice. We engage in professional learning opportunities where possible.

We embrace the **National Quality Framework** and are committed to providing education of an excellent standard through ongoing reflection through the regular review of the Quality Improvement Plan for our programme.



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