

Pre-primary Handbook 2023



Engaged ● Connected ● Successful

Welcome

Hillarys Primary School would like to welcome you to our Pre-primary Classes for 2023.

Pre-primary is the year your child transitions from part-time Kindergarten to compulsory full-time schooling.

In our early childhood environments, children develop a sense of belonging when they form positive relationships with the educators that care for them. We strive to create indoor and outdoor spaces that are safe, welcoming, and engaging; an environment where all children and families can feel nurtured and respected. The teaching staff work together as a collaborative team to develop students' confidence and participation in learning opportunities that build their knowledge, abilities, and strengths.

This booklet provides an overview of our Pre-primary programs, operational processes, and general information to ensure your child has a successful and smooth transition.



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Teaching and Learning

At Hillarys Primary School, our early childhood educators vision is to create a 'Connected Community, with Engaged Educators, and Successful Students', as we strive to instil a love of life-long learning and a sense of community. Our programs cater for children's diverse learning styles and offer many opportunities for students to participate in both 'hands on' learning experiences and structured play activities.

Pre-primary provides your child with a broad range of skills to help them understand the world. Your child will continue their learning journey with literacy and numeracy, together with exciting new learning areas such as Physical and Health Education, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, Technology, and the Arts. Your child will further develop their personal and social skills, critical and creative thinking, and physical and mental wellbeing.

Teaching and Learning

Staff use the mandated W.A. curriculum from the School Curriculum and Standards Authority. This guide provides outlines for teaching practice, learning, and assessment. It supports teachers to plan purposeful and engaging learning experiences. Staff plan experiences that encourage children to engage in individual, small group, and whole class activities.

Assessing and Reporting

Assessment in key learning of areas is carried out each term. These assessments are purposeful, developmentally suitable, and inform future planning. Electronic reports on all learning areas are issued at the end of Semester 1 and 2 via CONNECT.

Our Programs

At Hillarys Primary, our students' best interests are our prime motivation. We are experienced, dedicated professionals working together as a team to produce stimulating and inviting learning environments. As educators we consider and respect cultural differences and diversity to create programs to meet all students' learning needs.

Current initiatives in early childhood education, such as the National Quality Standards, the Early Years Learning Framework and the Pre-primary Curriculum guidelines, inform the educational programs at Hillarys Primary.

Social and Emotional Development

We are positive and proactive in supporting social and emotional learning within our school community. The Zones of Regulation curriculum is used in all year levels at Hillarys Primary. It is designed to teach children to identify their emotions and learning strategies for self-regulation. This supports them to make good choices which strengthen and enable their learning and relationships with others.

The ZONES of Regulation®
The ZONES of Regulation Visual

BLUE ZONE	GREEN ZONE	YELLOW ZONE	RED ZONE
Sad Sick Tired Bored Moving Slowly	Happy Calm Feeling Okay Focused Ready to Learn	Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Excited Loss of Some Control	Mad/Angry Terrified Yelling/Hitting Elated Out of Control

Fine and Gross Motor Control

For children to become successful readers and writers they need to have strength in their hands, arms, stomach and back. As they progress through their school years, they need to develop skills to:

- Hold a pencil for an extended time without becoming tired, particularly in the arm and hand
- Sit in a chair with feet flat on the floor, back straight and opposite arm resting on the table to support good writing posture
- Sit on the mat and focus using whole body language

During outdoor play and our physical educational program, activities are planned to strengthen the large muscles of the body through climbing, balancing, running, jumping, throwing, and catching. Our Physical Education teachers use the KIDDO program to support their teaching. The lessons are designed to nurture a love of physical activity that will last a lifetime. [KIDDO Program - kiddo.edu.au](http://kiddo.edu.au)



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Our Programs - continued

Pre-primary Literacy/English

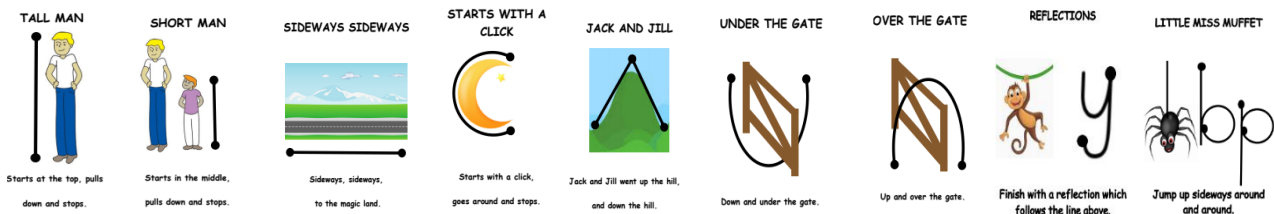
In Pre-primary, students will transition from Kindy using the same early years program Promoting Literacy Development (PLD). This program promotes the strong development of oral language, phonological awareness, and motor skills.

As we progress through the first two terms of the year, the focus will be on consolidation of letter / sound relationships and on building a bank of commonly used high frequency words (sight words) to support development of reading and writing.

A home reading and sight word program will be part of the Pre-primary learning, and will commence later in the year. Parents play a vital role in supporting their child's learning and enjoyment of reading.

Students will continue to use Peggy Lego pre-writing skills and the common language used with the program will support them when writing.

Students will also tell news and story retells to further develop oral speaking and listening skills.



Pre-primary Numeracy/Mathematics

Students will be exposed to three content strands in Mathematics: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Supporting children to build a solid foundation in mathematics is key to their future success in this curriculum area. We aim to create fun hands-on experiences, using consistent language and strategies in the appropriate developmental sequence.



Must Have

School Bag

A large backpack with a wide opening is essential in Pre-primary. It needs to be large enough for student belongings and easy enough for them to pack themselves.

Library Bag

Pre-primary children will have the opportunity to borrow books from our mobile library trolley each week. Please ensure your child brings their library book and bag on **Wednesdays**.

Hat

All children are required to wear the school black bucket hat. We are a sun safe school and require hats to be worn outdoors. Children will have the opportunity to apply sunscreen when they are at school and we encourage families to do this in the mornings before coming to school.

Uniforms and shoes

Pre-primary children need to wear the school uniform. They will be able to wear their faction t-shirts on **Thursdays** which will be their sport day each week. Please send your child to school in shoes that are suitable for climbing and that can be easily taken on and off independently. All school uniforms, hats, and library bags can be purchased from Lowes at Lakeside Shopping Centre, Joondalup.

Change of Clothes

We strongly encourage that **ALL** children have a spare, labelled change of clothes in their school bag.

Drink Bottle

A labelled bottle containing water is required each day. Please ensure that your child can open it independently. Students will have the opportunity to refill them if needed.

Recess (10.40-11am) and Lunch (12.35-1.15pm)

In Pre-primary, students have the same eating and play times as the students in Years 1-6. It is preferable that children bring their recess in a separate container to their lunch as this makes it easier for them to know which food to eat first. Please ensure your child can open and close their food containers. We are a nut aware school and ask that you please keep nut products for home. Students can order lunch in Pre-primary. If you wish to purchase a lunch order for your child, this can be done through Flexischools. The order will be delivered to your child's classroom just prior to lunch.

Health and Wellbeing

Another priority is the happiness and wellbeing of your child. Please inform us of any changes or events within your family which may cause anxiety or concern to them during their school day.

Any children who are unwell or showing signs of infection should stay home. As Pre-primary is compulsory, it is important that the school is notified of any absences. Please let the school know via the link on our website. [Online Absence Form - hillarysps.wa.edu.au](https://hillarysps.wa.edu.au)

General Information

Times

Pre-primary class times are 8.45am-2.55pm. Classroom doors will be open from 8.30am for drop off. School gates will be open from 8.30am and will be locked at 3.10pm. Please be punctual in arriving and collecting your child.

Children will not be allowed to leave the classroom unless the designated adult has arrived to pick them up at the door or other arrangements have been made. Please inform teachers if you have organised someone else to pick up your child. An email explaining long-term arrangements (e.g., childcare) would be appreciated.

Playground

Please keep your child and siblings off the playground and out of the nature garden before and after school. This is due to the duty of care responsibilities.

DOTT

As your child is now attending full time school their classroom teachers will have some DOTT (Duties Other Than Teaching) time to allow them to plan and prepare for future learning experiences. During this time, the children rotate through a range of different learning areas and specialist teachers which allows them to become familiar with staff in the wider school community.

On-Entry

During weeks three to six of Term 1, Pre-primary teachers will conduct mandatory individual On-Entry interviews for all Pre-primary students in literacy and numeracy. You will receive a copy of the parent summary at the conclusion of the interview.

Whole School Events

Whole school assemblies are held several times a term. All year levels present an assembly item per year. Some children will have the opportunity to receive an Outstanding Student Award throughout the year for demonstrating positive behaviour and academic achievement. Parents are notified prior to students receiving an award. On assembly day (Fridays) children need to be at school by 8.30am to be ready for assembly at 8.45am.

On Mondays, children attend the whole school muster. This is a closed assembly for staff and students. Muster commences at 8.45am so children need to be at school by 8.30am on Monday mornings. Values certificates are awarded at muster for students who demonstrate the term value focus.

Birthdays

You are welcome to provide a birthday treat for your child to share the class. We recommend individual cupcakes or individually wrapped treats which can be handed out at the end of the day. Please note the Department of Education Healthy Food and Drink policy discourages lollies and chocolates as birthday treats. Birthday invitations need to be handed out by the parent of the birthday child to the invited students' parents before or after school.

General Information continued

Communication Between Home and School

CONNECT/Compass

Personal meetings with class teachers are welcomed. Please note that drop off and pick up times are not ideal if you want to engage in an extended discussion. You are welcome to arrange a meeting with your child's teacher at a mutually convenient time. Other ways we communicate with families include:

- Seesaw - You will receive an invitation for you to join your classroom Seesaw page. This is where we share photos/videos of our learning experiences
- Class notice board
- Email
- Term update notes
- Formal reports in Week 10 of Term 2 and 4
- Individual parent meetings from Term 1, starting Week 7 and 8
- CONNECT/Compass. Please ensure you are connected to CONNECT/Compass as soon as possible. This will be our main form of communication this year. If you are having trouble with access, please contact the office.