



*Kinross
Primary School*

KINROSS PRE-PRIMARY INFORMATION BOOKLET

*An
Independent
Public School*





*Kinross
Primary School....
excellence in innovation
with a focus on student
achievement and
success.*

Kinross Primary School

Early Learning Centre

Welcome parents and children to Pre-Primary at Kinross Primary School. This booklet is for your information to let you know all about the Pre-Primary year. Please feel free to ask any questions regarding information in this booklet or about any aspects of the program. The programs provided for your children focus on speaking, listening, reading and writing skills.

READ BOOKS TO YOUR CHILD AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE.

The program integrates these essential developmental areas into themes to make learning more meaningful and relevant to the child. The specific needs of each child form the basis of the program. This is done by providing activities which will develop the skills, attitudes and knowledge that each child requires. The activities set for the children are designed so that each child can participate successfully. We create a supportive environment so that the children are encouraged to learn from mistakes and build upon existing knowledge. The activities are designed so that children acquire skills that may otherwise not be achieved. Every child will have the opportunity to 'have a go' at everything that happens this year, and they should learn that there is often more than one right way to do things or answer problems. A hands on approach is the main source of teaching children skills, attitudes and knowledge. By this we mean that children participate in activities where they can actively explore, using their five senses. These experiences not only maximise learning, but also create a positive attitude to learning. Purposeful play is a powerful medium for learning. Children need, and will be given opportunities, to choose from a wide variety of activities, materials and equipment that will stimulate, challenge and involve them in interesting tasks. The program will be highly sensitive to the development of the social/emotional area. In fact, it is regarded as the most important area as a child's feelings about themselves form the basis of all other learning. The whole school approach to social and emotional well being is through the 'You Can Do It' Program. The program focuses on the five foundations: persistence, getting along, confidence, organisation and resilience. The PATHS curriculum (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) compliments the You Can Do It program by building and enhancing student interpersonal problem solving skills.

ALLERGIES AND MEDICAL CONDITIONS

IF your child has a medical condition i.e. allergies, asthma etc, please notify the school immediately if you have not done so already. Where necessary an Action Plan will be made in consultation with you and the Associate Principal, so that if an emergency arises directions can be easily followed. This will need to be up-dated each year. Please note that Kinross Primary School has a **NUT AWARENESS** policy in place to support students who have nut allergies.



CHAPLAIN

Laura Butshiire is the Chaplain at Kinross Primary School. Previous to beginning chaplaincy in 2013 Laura worked with both primary and high school students in various settings. Her job as School Chaplain is to care for students, staff and parents by being a support person, a listening ear and an encourager. Laura spends time in classrooms, having one-to-one conversation with students, presenting the Golden Key award and running programs about social skills and resilience. She is passionate about seeing young people live out the best story they can with their lives. You will see Laura around on Thursdays and Fridays so feel free to say hello!



CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES

Voluntary contributions can be paid by cash, cheque or EFTpos at the School Administration during normal office hours. Contributions for Pre-Primary are \$60 per child per year. The P&C also requests a \$25 contribution per family.

CHRUNCH AND SIP

Your child is asked to bring one piece of fruit or vegetable each day for crunch and sip time in class. We ask that the food you provide your child is 'nut free' for their snacks and lunch. This is due to several children having a condition known as FOOD ANAPHYLAXIS which is a sudden, severe and potentially fatal allergic reaction to nuts, especially peanuts.

DELIVERING AND COLLECTING STUDENTS

Please be prompt when escorting your child to and from Pre-Primary to avoid undue distress. Parents must come to the door at the beginning and end of each session.

On arrival children become in the care of a staff member and, under no circumstances, are to be left to enter the Pre-Primary classroom alone. Parents are encouraged to spend some time settling their child into the classroom. Children will not be released at pick up time until an authorised adult comes to the classroom door. If an adult is unknown to staff, we will require authorisation from the child's parents prior to allowing the child's release.



"Growing Together...."

*'Growing Together' is not only the motto for Kinross Primary School –
it embraces everything we value as a school.*



'By taking the initiative to put my son into the special reading program, by the end of the term not only could he read, he loved it and thanks to that he is today a "bookworm" '. KPS Parent

PLAYGROUND

Students are ***not permitted*** to play on playground equipment before or after school as areas are unsupervised at these times. We appreciate your co-operation in this matter in the interests of safety and well being for all students in our school. When collecting your child early for an appointment, please remember to sign them out at the front office.

EXCURSIONS

Throughout the year the children may be taken on excursions. A note will be sent home prior to the excursion with the information and permission form which must be signed and returned to the teacher in order for your child to participate.

Please note: If there is no authorisation then your child will not be able to attend the excursion.

ILLNESS AND ACCIDENTS

Children who are ill should not attend Pre-Primary. A child who is not well can become very distressed when in a group situation. It will also help stop the spread of infection to other children and staff.

LIBRARY

Students, staff and parents of Kinross Primary School are served by an up-to-date, state of the art library and resource centre. The library is accessible 5 days a week during school hours to all students. Library and computer sessions are conducted weekly by a specialist teacher in Pre-Primary.

Pre-Primary students are able to exchange their books once a week and use the computer lab. They are expected to bring to school a library bag in which library books may be carried home. They will not be allowed to borrow school books without this protection. Children will be notified of their library borrowing day. The uniform shop stocks library bags for parents to purchase. Parents/guardians will be sent an invoice for lost or damaged library books.

LITERACY AND NUMERACY

Literacy programs provide rich opportunities for children to expand their English language skills, knowledge and understandings, building a platform for future literacy learning. This learning occurs in an environment that engages children with a wealth of literature and enjoyable language and literacy experiences.





Our teaching programs are reflective of research that shows strong links between children's oral language, phonological awareness, vocabulary and print awareness and their success in learning to read and write. We tailor learning programs to children's pre-existing capacities—extending those who are ready for greater challenges and supporting those who need more time.

Learning programs provide opportunities for children to explore and enjoy learning mathematical ideas on their own and with others. Activities enable children to solve problems which are meaningful for them. Teachers encourage persistence, curiosity and a willingness to try out new ideas. They engage children in conversations to extend their thinking.

MEDICATION

If your child is on medication and you wish to request staff to administer it, please note the following points:

- Only requests to administer medication which have been prescribed by a doctor will be considered.
- All medication should be provided in *properly labelled containers* showing the name of the medication, the name of the student and the appropriate dose and frequency. Equipment for administering the medicine should also be provided. *Only medicine in pre-measured doses* will be accepted. Teachers supervise self-administration.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parent involvement provides continuity for the child between home and Pre-Primary and therefore parents are encouraged to stay and/or assist in specific activities. Parents are welcome in the mornings to help with an activity until recess or on special days.

Parents are welcome to participate in a duty roster. You will be invited to help with the supervision of an activity. We ask that you come without smaller children as this is a time for your child to feel special. Please remember to call at the office to sign in and pick up your parent helper badge.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Please make appropriate appointment times to discuss your child's development.
- Notify teachers of any changes to the normal routine within the home situation. Such changes can affect the child's attitude and emotional well-being, e.g. loss of a pet or late night.
- Please assist with parent help roster where possible.
- We encourage the sharing of special skills or experiences with the children.
- Please notify the teacher of any ongoing illness or allergy and complete the appropriate forms at the School Office.



KINROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL P&C

- We encourage you to consider joining the school P&C or placing your name down for the canteen roster as the school benefits from their activities.
- Please inform your child's teacher before or after a child's absence. This is a requirement of all parents.
- Accompany your child to and from the classroom.
- Encourage your child to be responsible for carrying their own bags and personal belongings.
- Ensure that the school is notified of any changes in address or telephone numbers or emergency contacts.
- Children, parents and teachers are all involved in the active process of learning, which starts at birth and continues through Pre-Primary into school and beyond.
- Holidays during term time are discouraged as it is disruptive to your child's learning. Please be advised that if this occurs teachers are not obliged to supply work during the period of absence.

PARKING

Parking is available in the Pre-Primary car park (entrance off Callander Avenue) for the parents of Pre-Primary and Kindergarten children only. Parents are not permitted to park in the staff car park or staff bays which are numbered.

READING

The programs provided for your children focus on building oral language and pre-reading skills using direct explicit teaching of sounds and letters. We encourage parents to read to children and access books from the local and school library. **READ BOOKS TO YOUR CHILD AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE.**

SCHOOL HOURS

Pre-Primary opens the doors at 8.30am. Children arriving early need to stay with their parents.

Children will be dismissed from class in the afternoon at 2.55pm.

On Wednesday, school finishes at 2.30pm.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

We love to celebrate birthdays, or other special occasions at Kinross Pre-Primary. Children are made to feel special on their day. We celebrate birthdays with a song, stickers and certificates. We remind parents that due to health and safety considerations, we are unable to distribute cakes or party favours.

"It is evident to all families in attendance (at the school) that there was a close connection between the students and teachers. This respect was our pleasure to witness."

Community Member



SUN SMART POLICY

As time will be spent outside each day, your child will require a wide brimmed or legionnaire hat marked with their name. Kinross recognises the importance of early cancer prevention and operates a 'NO HAT, NO PLAY IN THE SUN' policy throughout the year. Parents are encouraged to apply sunscreen during summer months.

THE ALPHABET

At Kinross Pre-Primary we use a range of resources to teach your child about letters and sounds. Our aim is to instil in your child an interest in written letters and spoken sounds. The Pre-Primary children learn their sounds through the Soundwaves program and phonological awareness. This is a crucial element of our whole language teaching which integrates with the First Steps Reading program being used throughout the school.

UNIFORM

To ensure sound communication practices are in place, school Newsletters are emailed to parents. Newsletters are also available on the school website. Long hair needs to be tied up and sun safe hats to be worn all year. No jewellery to be worn except appropriate earrings (sleepers/studs). In accordance with the Kinross code of dress, the wearing of school uniforms is actively encouraged. The children are required to wear footwear suitable for using sports and playground equipment every day.

The P&C also operates a uniform shop which is located in the undercover area. The shop is open Tuesday and Thursday 8.00am—9.00am.

WHAT TO BRING TO PRE-PRIMARY

- Children require a large backpack which can be purchased from the school uniform shop with their name written on the bag.
- Keep a change of clothing in the backpack in case your child has an accident at school. Be mindful of the seasons and make sure your child will be comfortable to change their clothes if necessary.
- A piece of fruit or vegetable (cut up if you prefer).
- A water bottle to be kept in the classroom with your child's name clearly visible.
- Ensure all items on the booklist are purchased and brought to school on the first day. We recommend you purchase the exact items on the school booklist as they have proven to be reliable for everyday use.
- A sunsafe hat with your child's name on.





WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL LEARN

- The rules and routine of being in Pre-Primary.
- To follow instructions.
- More about themselves/family and the wider community.
- Literacy and numeracy skills.
- Improved speaking and listening skills.
- To work with teachers and other adults.
- To follow instructions, simple rules and learn to make choices.
- Independence.
- That a friendly and happy environment promotes confidence and a sense of security in children.
- A self-directed learning approach develops decision-making skills leading to a child taking responsibility for their own learning.
- A positive self-esteem is developed to enhance your child's academic success and personality development.
- To recognise the rights of others and to be responsible for the care of equipment through appropriate use and packing away when finished.
- Acceptable social behaviour is encouraged through the use of positive reinforcement.



YOU CAN DO IT!

We believe our students learn best when they are provided with the necessary social and emotional training to develop emotional well being, personal success and positive relationships.

- Students learn five foundations of 'You Can Do It in' a motivating and positive environment.
- Students learn in an environment whereby social and emotional well being is valued by the classroom teacher and seen as an important part of the curriculum.

Students should connect the learning of five foundations of 'You Can Do It' to their every day lives and the world they live, especially the habits of the mind. These five foundations are:



1. Getting Along

2. Persistence

3. Confidence

4. Organisation

5. Resilience



Gabby Get Along



Connie Confidence



Oscar Organisation



Peter Persistence



Ricky Resilience

FIVE WAYS TO PREPARE YOUR CHILD FOR SCHOOL

1. Physical Preparation is Essential

Before sending your child to school for the first time, it is important to get him/her physically ready to meet the challenges ahead of him/her. A nutritious diet and frequent exercise in early childhood reduces the risk of health problems and lays the foundation for learning in school. Children who eat balanced meals demonstrate better concentration in the classroom. Healthy eating habits, that include fruits and vegetables when your child is two or three years old, will be easier to maintain when he/she reaches school age. Regular exercise encourages fitness and co-ordination. As a child's body develops activities such as jumping, throwing, catching, climbing, tumbling and dancing teach large muscle control. Likewise, dexterity and fine motor skills are acquired through activities like colouring, assembling puzzles, working with clay and learning to cut with safety scissors. Practise these skills at home with pre-school-aged children frequently.

2. Nurture Social and Emotional Skills

Social skills such as co-operation, sharing, conflict resolution and empathy, help children to get along with classmates. Give your child chances to interact with other children through play dates, classes or trips to the park. Encourage your child to solve conflicts independently and to see the perspectives of others. Emotional skills like confidence, independence, self-control, persistence and motivation are also important for success in school. Give your child the opportunity to make her own choices to build confidence and independence. Use positive reinforcement to encourage persistence and self-control, and motivate your child with incentives for good behaviour rather than just threatening punishment for bad behaviour.





3. Language Development and Comprehension Skills Begin at Home

Good language and comprehension skills are developed from birth. There are many ways to engage your child, but talking directly to them can help them learn to speak. Early on, narrating what's going on around a baby also is helpful. As a child gets older, parents should ask questions that require more than a "yes" or "no" answer. Reading aloud regularly can improve language skills, and discussing what has been read aids comprehension. Before your child is scheduled to begin school, get a list of the skills the school expects him/her to have mastered beforehand. Work on these skills at home when your child is one or two years old.

4. Establish a Daily Routine

Shifting from an unstructured home environment to a school environment can be jarring, particularly for children who did not attend either playgroup or day-care before Pre-Primary. Creating and sticking to a daily routine at home can help you both transition more smoothly. Establish a set time to wake up, get dressed and eat breakfast. Map out daily activities, such as art time, play time, nap time, lunch time and reading time. Getting used to a home schedule will prepare your child for the more regimented school routine.

5. Tour the School With Your Child

Visiting the Pre-Primary with your child before the first day may relieve the anxiety she/he feels about entering the new environment. Through the visit, stay positive about the school experience and all the exciting things she/he will get to do. Arrange to meet the teacher. Explain to your child what a teacher does and that the teacher should be treated with respect. The more information your child has about what to expect, the better they will handle the change.



Kinross Primary School Song....

In our community
We live in harmony
The best that we can be
You can do it!

Red, blue, gold and green,
No matter what our team,
We can achieve our dreams,
You can do it!

RAP

Kinross Community
We live in harmony
The best that we can be
You can do it!

Kinross Community
We live in harmony
The best that we can be
You can do it!

This is our school, it's up to you
We work and grow together
This is our song, so sing along
We work and grow together

We come from many lands
Together we will stand
Come on and take my hand,
Grow together... (clap x4)
And grow together, now!