

SECRET HARBOUR

PRE-PRIMARY



GENERAL INFORMATION

Secret Harbour Pre-Primary is located at the rear of the school near the oval and back car park.

Pre-Primary is considered a compulsory year of schooling. If your child is absent from school please provide a written note to the teacher, send an absence text to 0437286183 or ring the office on 9523 3900.

The Kindergarten and Pre-primary centre is surrounded by a fence with child proof locks. The locks are for the safety of the children and we ask that you remain aware of the following rules:

- Please do not open the gates for any children other than your own.
- Do not enter the compound area any earlier than 10 minutes before the end of school for your child.
- Remind your child and their siblings that they are not allowed to climb the fence at any time.
- Children are not to play with any outdoor equipment before or after school.



SCHOOL TIMES

Doors open at 8:35am. If a child needs to arrive at school before this time they are to head directly to the undercover area, where they will be supervised. Room 2-4 children enter and leave pre-primary through the main PP gate.

School concludes at 3pm. As we release children from the door it is essential that you let your classroom teacher know if a different adult or sibling will be collecting your child.

Recess starts at 10:40 and concludes at 11:10am

Lunch begins at 12:40 and concludes at 1:30pm

The children are given a slightly longer recess and lunch break than the main school. Eating can be a lengthy process as they struggle with packaging and time management skills.

Children can order lunch from the canteen but we do not visit the canteen at recess. Pre-Primary students are also not able to order slushies or ice creams from the canteen.

The Pre-Primary is a "Nut Aware Zone" and we ask that students do not bring products containing nuts to school. Please read food labels carefully as it is often surprising which items contain nuts.

Please ensure that your child comes to school wearing comfortable shoes, has a hat, water bottle and school bag. As we are a "Crunch and Sip" school it is expected that drink bottles will only contain water.



If your child is unwell in any way please do not bring them to school no matter how much they would like to come.

All children are expected to wear school uniform. The Uniform shop is open Friday mornings before school and both new and second hand uniforms are available.

The P&C are always looking for new members, the more Pre Primary parents who join the more cool stuff we can get for our area.

LITERACY AND NUMERACY BLOCKS

- All Pre Primary teachers implement Literacy and Numeracy Blocks at least three times a week. The block of time involves the explicit teaching of skills and knowledge through whole class activities, small group work and independent tasks. The block format and use of small groups assists us in providing tasks that match the various ability levels within each class; so each is participating in a lesson that is targeted at their level and aims to extend their learning.
- An essential element of the Literacy and Numeracy blocks is the warm-up. During this time children are given the opportunity to recall and practice previous learning through the use of flashcards, questioning and short games. This daily repetition and practise aids the children to move learning into long term memory and develop speed and accuracy in all areas of literacy and numeracy.
- Secret Harbour Primary School is well resourced in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy. Pre-primary children have access to a minimum of one small-group guided reading session per week for specific skill development. They also visit the library each week with their library bag and can borrow a library book. Home reading books are distributed from the start of term 2.
- Assessment, including the regular analysis of work samples, questioning, reading running records and more formal teasing like the On-Entry Assessment Program are completed to ensure that the children's progress is monitored and that we can meet individual education needs.
- Play based education is still an important component of all learning in Pre-primary. This play is planned and supported by teachers to extend the children's exploration and problem solving skills by adding to the environment and posing questions.



LITERACY

Secret Harbour Primary School uses the Jolly Phonics program as a tool for teaching the 42 sounds English, blending, sight words and spelling. It is however only one component of our Literacy program and supports the development of outer literacy skills such as reading, oral language, news telling and the development of the children's vocabulary.

To achieve a satisfactory grade at the end of the year a child is expected to achieve a reading level of 3, read 30 sight words and demonstrate the ability to spell simple consonant-vowel-consonant words and around 10 sight words.

Throughout the year the children get to join in lots of great literacy experiences including Literacy Stars, Bookweek and the Great Book Swap.

Each term in week five, children undertake the Week Five Writing Task. This allows us to monitor and support progress in early writing skills. We teach the NSW foundation font handwriting – please see the attached letter sheet.



NUMERACY

The numeracy focus during the Pre-Primary years is largely on number, this includes not only being able to count socially but also demonstrate "number sense" including:

- An understanding of the importance of mathematics and how it relates to our everyday life, including using everyday items in mathematics tasks.
- Counting skills including knowing that each item is counted once, the final number said represents the number of a group and that no matter where you start counting a group the result will be the same.
- Reading numbers and understanding what they mean.
- Writing numbers and understanding what they mean.
- Ordering numbers and recognising patterns in number.
- Developing the ability to count forwards and backwards from any point, as well as skip count by 2's, 5's and 10's.
- Subitising, being able to look at a small group of objects and knowing how many there are without counting.
- Completing basic addition and subtraction sums.



It is expected that by the end of Pre-primary children will have a solid understanding of numbers up to at least 30.

Throughout the year the children get to join in lots of great numeracy experiences including Numeracy Stars and Money Smart.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Pre-primary is a crucial time in the development of children's gross and fine motor skills. Here are some important components of our physical development programs:

- We encourage bigger sized crayons and markers to develop control.
- Complete fine motor activities in a range of settings (both indoors and outdoors) and on different surfaces (horizontal and vertical). This improves wrist position and control.
- Use play to develop the children's fine and gross motor skills. Helping children to learn about where their bodies are in space.
- Ensuring that before children commence formal writing they have a comfortable grip, body position and can produce straight and curvy lines.
- Implement a Fundamental Movement Skills program that explicitly teaches the different forms of movement and object control.



SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- During Pre-Primary we continue to explicitly teach and develop children's social and self organisational skills.
- The school has an assigned School Psychologist who is available for both formal and informal meetings.
- Secret Harbour Primary School is a Kids Matter School, an initiative that aims to support children's mental health.

ON-ENTRY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

- Between weeks 3 and 6 of term one, all Pre-primary children participate in the On Entry assessment. This is implemented one on one with the classroom teacher and provides valuable information on each child's ability level which then informs planning.
- Each child completes a Literacy and Numeracy module, each lasting around 20 minutes. The test is very relaxed and most children really enjoy the opportunity to have one on one time with their teacher!
- Following the assessment you will be given the opportunity to meet with the teacher to discuss results and what they mean.

HAVE A FANTASTIC YEAR!



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