BUNBURY
PRIMARY SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN 2026

Information Booklet

BUNBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL: Louise Cairns

Welcome to Bunbury Primary School Kindergarten.

Our learning programs each term are based around themes, ideas, interests and experiences that promote the development of the whole child - that is, the physical, social, emotional, intellectual and creative aspects of the individual child. Our learning program reflects the Early Years Learning Framework and the Australian Curriculum. We have a strong focus on literacy and numeracy skills.

We allow for each child's different interests and ability levels by structuring activities so that they are flexible and allow every child to succeed as well as to be challenged. We maintain a balance between structured experiences, which all children participate in each day, and self-directed activities. Play is an important part of our program because it helps children to discover and make sense of their world. It is the child's single most important tool for facilitating intellectual growth.

Our kindergarten allows plenty of space and time for free play in "constant areas", such as the block corner, home corner, puzzle area and book corner, as well as space to set up special play centres which reflect our themes. In all of our activities, we aim to develop in every child the skills and attitudes necessary for self-direction, independence and the confidence to choose and pursue their own interests and ideas. We also offer the opportunity to function in both small and large group situations. We use a "thematic approach" to provide the content through which we develop our literacy, numeracy, social and creative skills.

Each morning when the children arrive at kindy, we provide fine motor, literacy and numeracy activities for the children to participate in with their parents. This is a great opportunity for you to stay and settle your child in for the session each day. A child will ring the bell to signal the end of this time.

As parents, you are your child's first and most important teachers. Your participation in our centre is highly valued, not least by your child, and it is an integral part of our school life. Feel free to put your name on the roster to let us know when you will be coming to kindergarten as a parent helper.

We hope this booklet has all the information you need to ensure a smooth start to your child's Kindergarten year. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school or the Kindergarten.

We look forward to your participation in our program during the year.

Bunbury Primary School Expectations

- Be Responsible
- Be Respectful
- Be Caring
- Be Your Best

Contacts

Principal:	Louise Cairns
Associate Principal:	Adriana Palermo
Manager Corporate Services:	Joan Davies
School Officers:	Shona Lever

Address:	2-18 Lovegrove Avenue Bunbury WA 6230
Phone:	9796 3050
School Email:	bunbury.ps@education.wa.edu.au
Website	www.bunburyps.wa.edu.au

Regional Education Office:	Southwest Education Office 5th Floor, Bunbury Tower 61 Victoria St BUNBURY WA 6230 Phone: (08) 9791 0300

School Year 2026

These are the dates children attend school:

Term 1	Monday 2nd February – Thursday 2nd April
Term 2	Monday 20th April – Friday 3rd July
Term 3	Monday 20th July – Friday 25th September
Term 4	Monday 12th October – Thursday 17th December

School Development Days

Your child does not attend school on school development days. Staff will be involved with professional learning, school planning, review and school development. School development days for 2026 will be advised.

Public Holidays (that fall during the term)

Labour Day	Monday 2nd March (Term1)
Good Friday	Friday 3rd April (Term 1)
Public holiday for ANZAC Day	Monday 27th April (Term 2)
Western Australia Day	Monday 1st June (Term 2)

Starting Kindergarten

Kindergarten is an exciting place where teachers encourage children to explore, discover, improvise, create, question, discuss and build. Above all, our goal is to foster in your child a lifelong love of learning.

What to Wear to Kindy

Please wear play clothes, i.e. clothes that will not be spoiled by a bit of stray paint. Some activities are messy! Most paint can be removed by washing in cold water. Please make sure children can manage buttons, buckles, and catches on their clothes. Shoes, joggers or soft-soled shoes or sandals are best for play at kindergarten. Velcro fastening is best. Slippery sole shoes can be a hazard on outdoor equipment.

During Term 1 you are offered the opportunity to provide a t-shirt which, for a small cost, can be printed with the Bunbury Primary School Kindergarten logo.

What to Bring Every Day to Kindy

- A water bottle filled with water, labelled with your child's name.
- A large bag (big enough to hold a lunchbox, some paintings, and drawings). A large fabric or eco-friendly bag is recommended. **Please avoid backpacks**, as we do not have enough storage space, and they can be difficult for children to manage.
- A piece of fruit or vegetable, labelled and in a container.
- A labelled broad-brimmed or bucket hat to wear every day. As a SunSmart school, hats are required for outdoor play throughout the year.
- A spare set of labelled clothes, kept in a plastic bag inside your child's bag.
- Lunch for full days, which will be kept in the school bag.

Please note: We discourage children from bringing toys as they can be extremely distressed if they either become broken or lost.

Additional Items to Bring on the First Day of Kindy

- Stationery items as per the Personal Items Booklist (booklists were emailed out to parents)

What to Do on the First Day of Kindy

Your child's first day at kindergarten can be a little nerve-racking and emotional for both your child and you. We hope that your child will feel comfortable about school and look forward to kindergarten, but children are all different, and we expect different levels of confidence in the first couple of weeks. Some children (and parents) may shed a few tears when you leave on the first day, but experience tells us that this is usually very brief, and they are soon busy and happy.

You can help us provide a smooth start to the year by following these steps:

1. Arrive on time with your child and wait out the front of Kindy until the teacher comes out to greet you.
2. Come inside and help your child to settle into the classroom.
3. Once they have put their fruit, drink bottle and bag away, you can read a book or do a puzzle together.
4. When the bell goes, say goodbye, have a kiss and a hug, and tell your child you will be back soon to pick them up and hear all about their day. **Please do not linger once you have said goodbye.** If your child becomes upset, we will give them lots of extra TLC. If your child is still upset later in the session, we will phone you to discuss the best possible action to take. Remember that this first experience helps set the foundation for your child's attitude towards learning. We want to make it a happy one!

Being Involved

Our school values a strong partnership with families. As the first and most significant teacher in your child's life, you have much to offer teachers. We invite you to be involved as much as possible.

You can write your name on the parent roster and help with classroom activities. You may like to help on a more regular basis, such as assisting the students with activities on the interactive whiteboard.

Your child's eyes will light up when you join them at kindergarten. Remember also that a solid parent–school relationship will help your child form a positive attitude to school.

Learning Really Does Begin at Home

The early years of your child's life are very important. As a parent/carer, you can have a positive impact by creating a loving and safe environment for your family.

We know from research that almost three-quarters of a child's brain is 'wired' by the time they are five years old. That makes it the fastest period of growth and development in life. It is also the time when the foundations are laid for all later development and learning.

How Children Learn Best

Children learn best when they are happy, feel safe and have interesting things to do and interested people to help them.

Children are naturally curious, full of ideas and keen to learn about the world around them. They learn by playing, watching, listening, asking, talking, having time to think, doing and trying new things, practising and repeating the things they do, and getting feedback.

Learning should be spontaneous and feel like fun. Natural, unrehearsed everyday experiences you have with your child provide interesting news items and conversation starters with their peers.

Did You Know?

A three-year old child's brain is twice as active as an adult's brain. By the time a child is three, their brain has formed one thousand trillion connections – twice as many as adults.

Play is a Child's Work

Play is a powerful and natural way for children to learn. Through play children develop physically, socially, emotionally, and cognitively (intelligence).

Play involves climbing, making cubbies, dressing up, pretending, dancing, writing, counting, doing puzzles, drawing, reading, imagining, building things, making choices, exploring materials, testing ideas, developing confidence and so much more.

What You Can Do

Allow children to play every day

- Help them make up their own activities and games.
- Give them such things as cardboard boxes, balls, buckets, cushions, hula hoops, and dress-up clothes.
- Create spaces that are inviting and fun to play in; provide choice and activity; spark learning; and are safe.
- Join in the play – let your child lead and be a follower.
- Know when to step away from the play – it is as important as stepping into the play.

Tips on helping your child

- Make learning fun.
- Follow your child's interests and choices – and build on them.
- Allow time for your child to solve problems and repeat things.
- Listen to your child and give them a voice.
- Be positive, patient and supportive.
- Teach them to watch, listen, think and question.
- Read books with your child.

For more information about kindergarten: www.det.wa.edu.au/schoolsandyou

The ZONES of Regulation®

To help children understand the relationship between their feelings and behaviour, we talk about the Zones of Regulation. The Zones of Regulation curriculum is designed to teach and foster self-regulation skills and emotional control. The strategies teach children about emotions, how these can impact on their behaviour and the tools they can use to get the best state of alertness for learning. The Zones of Regulation focuses on teaching children how to recognise and manage their Zone based on the situation and the people around them. The four zones are:

Red Zone: describes extremely heightened states of uncontrolled alertness and intense emotion. This covers emotions such as alertness, devastation, terror and over-excitement

Yellow Zone: describes a heightened state of alertness, but the person still has some self-control. This includes emotions such as frustration, worry, silliness, anxiety and excitement.

Green Zone: describes a calm state of alertness. This includes being happy, calm, focused and ready to learn.

Blue Zone: describes a low state of alertness and arousal, where a person may be sad, tired, sick or bored.

Attendance

Although kindergarten is not a compulsory year of schooling, it is expected that attendance will be regular, as it sets the habit for future years.

Parents/Carers are asked to inform the school on the first day of any absence by giving a reason for the absence and a likely date of return. Please inform the school by one of the following options (only one of the options is required):

- Using the Department of Education's Connect platform connect.det.wa.edu.au.
- Via E-mail: bunbury.ps@education.wa.edu.au.
- Contacting the school via telephone: 9796 3050.

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their child:

- Attends school regularly.
- Arrives at school on time for each session.
- Is picked up from school on time.
- Is well rested and ready to learn.
- Is only absent with reasonable cause and the school is informed on each occasion.

Bunbury Primary School takes school attendance and punctuality very seriously. Ensuring your child attends school regularly, punctually and is collected on time is an important part of our home/school partnership.

Attendance is recorded in half days. The school attendance register is marked at the beginning of each school session both morning and afternoon. Reasons for absence are recorded. Unexplained absences are followed up with a letter to parents to find out the reason for the absence. Parents/carers are contacted if their child is frequently late or absent.

Session Times

Tue and Thurs	8.50 am – 3.00 pm
Wed	8:50 am – 11:30 am

Permission Requirements

It is our school's practice that no child shall arrive or depart from a Kindergarten centre unless accompanied by a parent or other adult. Please inform us of your arrangements if they involve sharing lifts with other children permanently. We would appreciate a phone call or written note informing us of a change in the usual pick-up arrangements for a specific day. It is also extremely important that parents inform the school office of specific custody arrangements that may affect access to their child.

If you need to collect your child early, parents must first complete the sign-in/sign-out process on the iPad in the office.

Contributions & Charges

Public schools can ask parents for a voluntary contribution as well as charges associated with optional programs or activities, and personal use items (Personal Items List). Parents will be advised at the start of December about the actual amounts for each area.

Voluntary Contributions (Payable at School Office in Term 1):
Voluntary Contribution: $60. Contributes towards supporting curriculum-based programs and further playground development, outdoor toys and equipment.

P&C Voluntary Contributions (Payable at School Office in Term 1):
Dollars for Scholars: $28 per family/per year. Provides support for online learning programs.
P&C Voluntary Fund Contributions: three optional amounts - $50, $75 or $100 per family. Used to support school projects and programs.

Our preferred payment method is via direct deposit. Remember to include your child's name and the purpose for the payment in the description. The school's banking details are:

BSB: **066-040**
Account: **199 047 52**

Personal Items List

Personal items lists are costed and sent out each year to enable parents to ensure their child has the correct personal stationery items at the start of each school year. Personal Items Lists have been emailed out to parents and can be found on the school website.

Special Activity Charges

During the year, students have the option to participate in special activities. Costs for these will be advised prior to the activity taking place. Some examples of these activities include:

- Celebrations, including Mother's & Father's Day, Easter and Christmas
- Class Excursions/Incursions
- Kindergarten T-Shirt (optional)
- School Performances

Each special activity will be costed, and a note requesting payment will be sent home. Children whose parents choose not to pay the charge will be offered an alternative educational activity.

Parent Involvement

The time you spend at school is very precious to both your child and to us. You can choose to help with activities, join in with the regular routines and sessions, observe your child interacting with others and just enjoy playing with your child and their friends. A voluntary help roster will be put up early in Term 1. Please write your name beside a day that suits you. Younger siblings are welcome to attend whilst you are on roster; however, they can be distracting for the kindergarten children, particularly during mat time sessions. We ask you to be aware of this when attending with younger siblings.

If you have any special skills, interests, supplies, talents, contacts or ideas that might enrich our program during the year, please share them with us and let us know.

Please sign in using the iPad in the office if you attend as a parent helper. All helpers will need to complete a Parent & Child Volunteer Declaration Form, which is available through the office. If anyone other than parents/guardians would like to help on the kindy roster, it is Department of Education policy that they must also hold a current Working with Children Card.

P&C Meetings

Our Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) actively support the school through fundraising for specific projects and advocacy (in association with the School Board). These meetings also provide a forum for parents to find out more about our school. The P&C meets each term at 7.00 pm on a Wednesday in weeks 3 and 8 in the Staff Room. New members are always welcome. Membership costs $1.00.

Birthdays

Birthdays are a wonderful time for children, and most children enjoy a small celebration at school. Of course, this is not compulsory. Parents can inform us of any religious or other factors that may conflict with the celebration of birthdays. The easiest way to celebrate a birthday is to bring in cupcakes to share for morning or afternoon tea (the teacher can tell you how many to bring and inform you of any allergies).

Medical

When asked to complete a student information sheet for our records, please ensure that you include **all** relevant information that we may need to deal with long-term medical conditions such as allergies, asthma or epilepsy.

Some parents may need to complete a Medical Care Plan signed by your GP and sent through to the school office (e.g. Asthma Plan, Anaphylaxis). Please let us know about any relevant infectious diseases that may affect your child or other family members over the year. Current Health Department policy requires schools to temporarily exclude children who have not been immunised against measles in the case of an outbreak.

Coughs, colds, and stomach upsets often occur in cycles, and to help prevent the spread of illness, we ask that unwell children stay at home. We understand that children may want to come to school even when they are not feeling their best, but for their health and the well-being of all students and staff, please keep them home until they are fully recovered.

Our School Health Nurse will also screen children's hearing, vision and general health during the year. Parents will be asked to complete the relevant forms. There will be an Information session early in Term 1.

Medication

If your child requires medication while at kindergarten, please complete an *Administration of Medication* form at the school office. The form includes details about dosage, times and any other relevant information. Once filled out, the form will be passed to the classroom teacher, who will administer and store the medication safely. Please ensure all medications are in date and in their original packaging.

Nut Allergies

A number of children at our school have severe reactions to nut products. Parents are asked to help provide a safer environment by not sending nuts or nut products to school (e.g. Nutella). If your child has any type of allergy, please complete the appropriate documentation available at the school office (medical care plan) and notify your classroom teacher

Infectious Diseases Exclusion Information

Infectious Disease	Guidelines for Exclusion
Measles	Exclude for 4 days after the onset of the rash, in consultation with public health unit staff.
Whooping Cough (Pertussis)	Exclude for 2 weeks from the onset of illness or for 5 days after starting antibiotic treatment.
Head Lice	There is no requirement to keep children home from school or childcare if effective treatment begins before the next day of school or childcare.
Ringworm	Exclude until the day after commencing antifungal treatment.
School Sores Impetigo)	Exclude for 24 hours after antibiotic treatment commenced. Lesions on exposed skin surfaces should be covered with a waterproof dressing.
Chicken Pox	Exclude until blisters have dried and formed crusts, usually 5 days.
Conjunctivitis	Exclude until the discharge from the eyes has ceased.
Gastroenteritis	Exclude until symptoms have ceased for at least 24 hours.
Influenza and RSV	Exclude until acute symptoms (fever, sore throat, runny nose) have resolved.
COVID-19	Exclude and advise to stay at home for at least 5 days and until acute symptoms (e.g. fever, sore throat, runny nose) have resolved.

Road Safety

Road safety is a very important issue around our school. Traffic can become congested at school start and finish times. Please ensure that your child is always supervised by an adult in and around the school, especially in car parks. Holding your child's hand and modelling safe pedestrian behaviours will help educate them about the importance of road safety and keep our school environment safe. If possible, park away from the school and walk to school. **Do not park in the Staff Carpark located opposite the kindergarten door.**

Lost and Found

We encourage the kindergarten children to put shoes, jumpers, etc, into their bag as soon as they are removed, but it can be difficult to keep track of it all. Parents should label ALL items of clothing and footwear for easy identification. Please ensure that school bags and drink bottles are also labelled.

OSH Club

After-school care is available on-site through an external provider, OSH Club. If you need to pick them up after 3:15 pm, we encourage you to consider this service. To make a booking or find out more, please visit their website: www.oshclub.com.au.

Canteen

Children in kindergarten may order lunch from the school canteen, which operates Tuesday to Friday. Please refer to the QuickCliq information sheet for instructions on how to set up online ordering. Lunches will be delivered directly to the classroom. Please note that kindergarten children will not be able to order recess food from the canteen, as this is their fruit time.

We look forward to sharing a happy and rewarding year with your children.