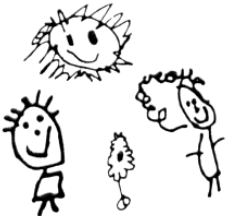


MARIBYRNONG  KINDERGARTEN

## Parent Handbook 2023



**Home Kindergarten**

and

**Bush Kinder**

Email: [enrolments@maribyrnongkinder.com.au](mailto:enrolments@maribyrnongkinder.com.au)

WELCOME TO MARIBYRNONG KINDERGARTEN	1
OUR CONTACT DETAILS	1
MARIBYRNONG KINDERGARTEN PHILOSOPHY	1
CHILD SAFE STANDARDS	2
REPORTABLE CONDUCT SCHEME	3
PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES:	3
<b>Why do we need guidelines?</b>	4
<b>Relationships with children</b>	4
<b>Relationships with the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, staff and others</b>	5
<b>In General</b>	5
STAFF	6
<b>Staff Members</b>	6
COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT	6
SESSION TIMES	7
POLICIES	7
FEES	7
<b>Fee subsidy:</b>	8
ENROLMENTS	8
<b>Central Enrolment System – Maribyrnong Council</b>	8
<b>Four Year Old Kindergarten</b>	9
<b>Three Year Old Kindergarten</b>	9
FIRST DAYS AT KINDERGARTEN	9
WHAT HAPPENS EACH DAY?	9

HOME KINDER	10
BUSH KINDER	10
Reminders	11
Bush Kinder Cancellation	11
When shouldn't my child attend?	11
Others in attendance	11
INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES	12
Communication	12
Skoolbag	12
Photography	13
Parent Involvement:	13
Personal Toys	14
Celebrations and Children's Birthdays	14
MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS	14
Illness and Infectious Disease	14
No Jab, No Play	15
Illness or Accidents during a Session and First Aid	15
Anaphylaxis Policy – including Allergies	16
Asthma	16
Action Plans	16
ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES	17
HOME KINDER	17
Late pick up policy and fees:	17
BUSH KINDER	17
Late collection fee policy	18
Emergency Evacuation	18

<b>Absences due to Illness</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Absences due to Holidays</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Punctuality</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>WHAT TO BRING/WEAR TO HOME KINDER AND BUSH KINDER</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>HOME KINDER</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Clothing</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>What to bring</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Bag</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Spare Underwear/Clothing (all articles must be named)</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Identification</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>BUSH KINDER</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Clothing</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>What To Bring</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>TOILETING</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>SUN PROTECTION</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>HEALTHY EATING AT MARIBYRNONG KINDERGARTEN</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>2023 TERM DATES AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS</b>	<b>25</b>

## Welcome to Maribyrnong Kindergarten

Welcome to Maribyrnong Kindergarten. The staff and committee wish you and your child an enjoyable and rewarding year. We hope that the following information gives you an understanding of the way in which the Kindergarten operates and ways in which you can be involved.

The kindergarten currently operates 2 four year old groups and 2 three year old groups per week.

We encourage you to play an active role in your child's education and their kindergarten year. We encourage you to provide information regarding your child's interests and things that they are curious to learn more about. Please let us know of any concerns you may have with regards to your child's development and progress.

## Our Contact Details

Maribyrnong Kindergarten Incorporated

5 Warrs Road, Maribyrnong VIC 3032

Telephone: 03 9317 9083

Bush Kinder Phone: 0477 812 342

Facsimile: 03 9317 9033

ABN: 76 131 979 546 IAN: A0019945D

## Maribyrnong Kindergarten Philosophy

Our Kindergarten Community endeavours to:

- be kind – to self, others and the environment
- be sustainable
- be connected to nature
- listen to each other respectfully
- be socially responsible
- honour each other's rights to feel safe, be heard and feel respected
- value and advocate for children's right to play
- see children as resilient, capable learners and respect different learning styles
- celebrate childhood and the joy of learning
- learn and grow together, recognising and valuing each other's contributions, skills, abilities, opinions and experiences.
- be culturally competent

- make brave decisions
- be grateful
- do our best

We believe that developing gratitude, love and responsibility are important virtues for social living and we keep these at the forefront of everything we do.

We are committed to providing a healthy, safe environment for all children, families and staff, where there is a sense of belonging and where our diverse kindergarten community is represented. We honour and respect childhood and the child's many unique ways of experiencing, communicating and learning.

The beauty of nature, animals, insects and plants is brought to the children with awe and wonder. Children are encouraged to appreciate the natural world in order to help them to value its gifts and to understand its processes and the patterns of the seasons. We create a foundation to care for our world, others and ourselves through gardening, recycling and in taking care of our immediate environment.

Our bush kinder program provides opportunities to experience nature and its elements across the seasons, recognising the place the bush has in Australia and the significance of the land in Indigenous Australian culture. Whatever the weather, children are encouraged to take the lead in playing, exploring and learning in a natural environment. Children are encouraged to share, work together, care for each other and respect the needs of others by engaging with others and by taking responsibility for their own decisions and actions.

Educators and parents work as partners, collaborators and advocates for children. The kindergarten's practices are evaluated regularly through critical reflection, team retrospection and informed decisions. Educator's continued professional learning is valued, promoted and supported.

## Child Safe Standards

Maribyrnong Kindergarten is committed to be a Child Safe organisation and embedding a child safe culture into our practices and processes to ensure that all children who are involved with our service are safe at all times.

All children regardless of their gender, race, religious beliefs, age, disability, sexual orientation or family or social background have equal rights to protection from abuse.



To create and maintain a child safe environment, Maribyrnong Kindergarten has developed:

- strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements

- a child safe standards policy and statement of commitment to child safety
- a code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children
- screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel
- processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse
- strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse
- strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.

The Commission for Children and Young People are the overseeing body for the child safe standards.

## Reportable Conduct Scheme

The reportable conduct scheme will require organisations to respond to allegations of child-related misconduct made against their workers and volunteers, and to report those allegations to the Commission for Children and Young People.

Under the scheme, the Commission for Children and Young People will have the power to:

- receive allegations and findings of reportable conduct
- assess an organisation's systems to prevent, notify and investigate reportable conduct
- provide oversight of workplace investigations
- investigate allegations in some circumstances
- refer findings to professional registration bodies and the Working with Children Check Unit
- build the capacity of organisations to respond to allegations of abuse
- report to parliament on performance of the scheme and trends.

The scheme will build on existing requirements including Victorian and National Professional registration, employee misconduct and reporting obligations. The reportable conduct scheme will not interfere with reporting obligations to police or with police investigations.

**Maribyrnong Kindergarten has ZERO tolerance of child abuse. All allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently. We have specific policies procedures and training in place that support our leadership team, staff and volunteers to achieve these commitments**

## Participation Guidelines:

Parents/guardians, family members, volunteers and students on placement are a valued part of our program. Below are some helpful guidelines to ensure your stay with us is enjoyable and fun.

## Why do we need guidelines?

The Education and Care Services National Regulations outline specific requirements for the protection of children from hazards, which includes providing adequate supervision at all times. Adequate supervision is defined as constant, active and diligent and involves educators keeping each child within sight or hearing at all times. In line with regulations, parents/guardians and volunteers are not recognised as educators and are therefore unable to be left alone with a child or children at any time.

Parents/guardians, family members and volunteers are encouraged to refer to the Maribyrnong Kindergarten Code of Conduct policy for guidance when attending or assisting at Maribyrnong Kindergarten. Below outlines some of the values and behaviours that will be expected for the year:

I commit to contributing to creating an environment at Maribyrnong Kindergarten that:

- respects the rights of the child and values diversity
- acknowledges the vulnerability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from a culturally and linguistically diverse background and children with a disability and has zero tolerance of discrimination
- maintains a duty of care (refer to Definitions) towards all children at the service
- is committed to the safety and wellbeing of each child at the service
- is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all staff at the service
- provides a safe and secure environment for all at the service
- provides an open, welcoming environment in which everyone's contribution is valued and respected
- is committed to communicating openly and honestly
- is committed to continually learning how to be inclusive and respectful of cultural needs
- encourages parents/guardians, volunteers, students and community members to support and participate in the program and activities of the service.

## Relationships with children

In our relationships with children, I commit to:

- being a positive role model at all times
- encouraging children to express themselves and their opinions
- allowing children to undertake experiences that develop self-reliance and self-esteem
- maintaining a safe environment for children
- speaking to children in an encouraging and positive manner
- giving each child positive guidance and encouraging appropriate behaviour
- regarding all children equally, and with respect and dignity
- having regard to each child's cultural values



- respecting individual difference including age, physical and intellectual development, and catering for the abilities of each child at the service.

## Relationships with the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, staff and others

In my relationships with the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, staff, other parents/guardians, volunteers and visitors I commit to:

- reading and abiding by the Code of Conduct Policy
- developing relationships based on mutual respect
- working in partnership in a courteous, respectful and encouraging manner
- valuing the input of others
- sharing our expertise and knowledge in a considered manner
- respecting the rights of others as individuals
- giving encouraging and constructive feedback, and respecting the value of different professional approaches
- respecting the privacy of children and their families and only disclosing information to people who have a need to know as required under the Privacy and Confidentiality policy
- following the directions of staff at all times
- treating the kindergarten environment with respect
- raising any concerns, including concerns about safety, as soon as possible with staff to ensure that they can be resolved efficiently
- raising any complaints or grievances in accordance with the Complaints and Grievances Policy.

## In General

- The centre and staff are responsible for the children who are enrolled and signed in; that is, those children attending the children's program.
- Adults are responsible for all children who accompany them — for example, while on duty and at drop-off and pick-up times — ensuring they do not inhibit or disrupt the program in any way.
- Staff may ask parents/guardians to remove children not enrolled and signed into the program if they are disturbing the program.
- Parents/guardians must clean up after their children following meetings and activities that are not part of the program, such as a working bee, and leave all areas as they were found.
- Parents/guardians will also be responsible for children's behaviour when attending other activities and the child is not signed into the program, such as working bees and centre events

## Staff

Our staff members are passionate and dedicated educators. Each member of staff has an early childhood specific qualification and participates in ongoing professional development. All members of staff have current First Aid Certificates as well as training in CPR and the management of Anaphylaxis and Asthma, OH&S and Child Safe Training.

### Staff Members

Teachers:	Claudia Cabrera-Del Campo	4YO Possums & 3YO Bilbies
	Simone Sciarrone	3YO Joeys
	Alison Fraser	4YO Willy Wag Tails
Co educators:	Younjoo Lee	Genevieve Jones
	Kai Lin Yang	Hong Nguyen
	Issy Edwards	Ehlana Bowe
Administration:	The office is staffed between the hours of 9.00am – 2.00pm on:	
Tuesday & Thursday	Fiona McIldowney	
Wednesday	Mai Nguyen	

### Committee of Management

The Maribyrnong Kindergarten is an incorporated association with its own constitution. A Committee of Management coordinates the running of the Kindergarten. The Committee of Management consists of volunteers. Every year an Annual General Meeting is held at the Kindergarten and all parents/service users are encouraged to attend. The Committee of Management gives an Annual Report at this meeting and elects new or continuing representatives. The Kindergarten requires a Committee of Management in order to operate. Please speak to staff or former Committee members if you are interested in participating.

Committee of management meetings are usually held monthly at the Kindergarten. The main responsibilities of the Committee of Management are: planning the budget and maintaining finances, appointing and supporting staff, fundraising, upholding government regulations and maintaining the viability of the Kindergarten to ensure a secure future for generations of children to follow.

Nomination/Interest forms are sent out with an AGM invite, but at any time during the year parents are welcome to join the committee or sit in on a committee meeting if interested in any agenda topics that will be discussed.

## Session Times

GROUPS	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Possums (4-year-old)</b>			11.45 - 4.45	8.00 - 2.30	8.00 - 11.30 Bush Kinder
<b>Bilbies (3-year-old)</b>				8.00 - 11.30	8.00 - 11.30 Bush Kinder
The Bilbies attend their sessions together with the Possums as part of a mixed-aged group.					
<b>Willy Wag Tails (4-year-old)</b>	11.45 - 4 .45	8.00 - 2.30	8.00 - 11.30 Bush Kinder		
<b>Joeys 30 (3-year-old)</b>	8.00 - 11.00 Term 2 Bush Kinder				12.00 - 4.00

For three year old kinder, **if your child has not yet turned 3** their start date will be delayed until the child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

## Policies

For all Maribyrnong Kinder policies please visit

<https://maribyrnongkinder.com.au/programs/policies-and-procedures/>

## Fees

Free Three- and Four-Year-Old Kinder will be available across Victoria at participating services in 2023. Free kinder means more Victorian children can have the best start in life, no matter where they live:

- For three-year-olds, this means from 5 and up to 15 hours per week of a kindergarten program
- For four-year-olds, this means 15 hours per week (600 hours a year)

Participating kindergarten programs will receive funding directly from the Victorian Government, so families are not out of pocket (and don't have to claim the savings back).

Maribyrnong Kindergarten acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.



### Fee subsidy:

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development provides funding to organisations to enable eligible children to attend Kindergarten for minimal cost. To be eligible you must hold at least one of the following concession cards:-

- Commonwealth Health Care Card
- Commonwealth Pensioner Concession Card
- DVA Gold or White Card

Also eligible are families with parents or children who hold:-

- Refugee visa (subclass 200)
- In-country Special Humanitarian visa (subclass 201)
- Global Special Humanitarian visa (subclass 202)
- Temporary Humanitarian Concern visa (subclass 786)
- Protection visa (subclass 866)
- Emergency Rescue visa (subclass 203)
- Women at risk visa (subclass 204)
- Bridging visas A - E

The subsidy is also available for:-

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children; and
- Triplets and quadruplets attending a Kindergarten program in the same year.

**Families wishing to claim this fee subsidy must provide a copy of the relevant document at the time of enrolment.**

## Enrolments

### Central Enrolment System – Maribyrnong Council

Enrolments for Maribyrnong Kindergarten are managed under the Central Registration Service run by Maribyrnong City Council. Places for three and four year old kindergarten are allocated through the Central Registration Service.

To enrol your child in 3 year old or 4 year old kindergarten, please enrol on line at <http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/CRS> or collect a form from Maribyrnong Council.

Specific enquiries can be directed to the Early Years Officer at [earlyyearscentralregister@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:earlyyearscentralregister@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au).

Please be aware that enrolment in our 3 year old program does not give your children automatic enrolment into our 4 year old program the following year. All enrolments are controlled by the Maribyrnong City Council and as such you must register your child with them as soon as possible.

## Four Year Old Kindergarten

To be eligible for four year old kindergarten a child must turn four years of age on or before 30th of April in the year of attendance.

## Three Year Old Kindergarten

To be eligible for three year old kindergarten a child must turn three years of age on or before 30th of April in the year of attendance.

## First Days at Kindergarten

The kinder year starts off with an orientation session and a transition to kindergarten intake. The first couple of weeks allow the children time to settle into the routine of kinder, to become familiar with staff and the other children, and for them to be happy and confident.

## What Happens Each Day?

The educational program offered at Maribyrnong Kindergarten is based on the Early Years Learning Framework with a strong emphasis on Belonging, Being and Becoming. Learning experiences are provided through play, promoting positive dispositions towards learning. The children's competencies and confidence will develop through their play and their knowledge, understanding, skills, attitudes and achievements will be extended.

Children are encouraged and supported to become self-disciplined and aware of their own feelings as well as the feelings of others. The program is designed to address the current needs, interests and abilities of each group and individual children.

We wish to create an environment where children feel they belong, can be who they are and become anything they aspire to. We believe that children learn through play. 'Play can expand children's thinking and enhance their desire to know and learn' (Being, Belonging and Becoming pg15)

When planning, teachers and educators take into account the interests, needs and skills of the children while also encouraging their development across all developmental domains. Intentional

teaching is an integral component of the educational program. The play based program will remain flexible to accommodate the needs of the group and the individual interests of the children as well as empowering them to take control of their own learning.

## Home Kinder

A typical day for your child at home kinder would include:

- **Morning introduction** - the children meet on the mat to start the day, greet each other and are given a brief outline of the activities for the session.
- **Discussion/group time** - the children are involved in an intentional group activity generally on the mat, gathering space in the garden or decked area. This is carefully planned according to the interests of the children with specific learning outcomes in mind.
- **Indoor/Outdoor Play** - this includes opportunities to self-select from a range of planned and spontaneous experiences in the indoor or outdoor environments. Children are provided the opportunity to spend extended periods of time in the learning environment of their choice, encouraging increased concentration and extending on their areas of interests.
- **Rotational Snack time** - children eat a nutritious snack/lunch brought from home at a time that is dictated by their own body clock, encouraging children to recognise when they are thirsty and hungry. During this time children have the opportunity for informal discussion with peers and educators. All children are reminded and monitored to ensure they have had sufficient water and don't forget to eat their snack/lunch.
- **End of session** - children pack up their activities and assemble on the mat. The Kinder door is then opened to welcome parents/grandparents/guardians into the room to collect their child

Parents and the wider community are encouraged to contribute and provide feedback regarding the educational program.

We believe the primary aim of education at the kindergarten level is to develop the skills necessary for children to become lifelong learners with an enquiring mind who participate in society as responsible and caring citizens.

## Bush Kinder

Maribyrnong Bush Kinder is a special part of a child's total kinder experience. It draws upon and extends on the existing philosophy and pedagogy of Maribyrnong Kindergarten to offer a unique educational program and recognises the place the bush has in Australia and the significance of the land in aboriginal culture.

No toys, No tools, No art supplies. The children and adults benefit from using only what nature has provided.

Outdoor spaces with plants, trees, rocks, mud and water invite open ended interactions, spontaneity, risk taking and a connection with nature.

Please ensure you have read all our Policies and are familiar with your responsibilities and our procedures. A hard copy of these can be located in the foyer and a digital copy on our website.

## Reminders

- Wear appropriate clothing (long pants, sturdy shoes and a hat)
- Apply sunscreen before the session
- Bring a drink and snack (lunch size as children get very hungry at BK)
- Encourage your child to go to the toilet before you arrive at the site (public toilets available near our site with parental supervision)

## Bush Kinder Cancellation

Bush kinder runs all year round and will only be cancelled in times of extreme weather.

If cancellation is necessary, you will be notified via Skoolbag (email and App Notification) and this may occur on the day of your session. PLEASE ENSURE YOU KEEP US INFORMED OF ANY CHANGES IN YOUR MOBILE NUMBER and EMAIL ADDRESS. Although cancellation is unlikely, the following information can be used as a guide to determine the possibility that a session may not be run.

In most instances, staff will also assess local conditions on site.

- Forecast temperature - 36 degrees Celsius or greater
- Forecast wind speed in excess of 45km per hour
- Forecast of electrical storm activity
- BOM weather warnings of extreme storm conditions and excessive rainfall

For weather details visit: <http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/forecasts/melbourne.shtml>

## When shouldn't my child attend?

We ask that parents/carers are diligent and exercise their own judgement in assessing whether it is appropriate for their children to attend Bush Kinder. Children should not attend Bush Kinder if they are ill, excessively tired or if parents are concerned about their wellbeing due to forecast weather conditions

## Others in attendance

To ensure our kindergarten children are given freedom to play and engage with nature we ask that adults are respectful of their space at all times. During Pick/up and drop off times if you

have siblings present please ensure that you are aware of where your child is at all times to ensure their safety and wellbeing.

## Information for Families

### Communication

We believe communication is a vital key to build positive relationships between parents, staff and children. The staff will endeavour to address your queries and concerns before and after a session, however, due to there being only a half hour turnaround between the finish of one session and commencement of another; it is extremely difficult to be able to do this.

### Skoolbag

Skoolbag is our main form of communication between the Kindergarten (Educators, Administration and Committee) and the families.

Please ensure you have downloaded the “SkoolBag: School Communication” App from the Apple Store or Google Play. Follow these easy steps:

- Open the app and follow the prompts to set up your account. You’ll need your email to get started.
- Click on the ADD/REMOVE icon to search for the organisation by name (Maribyrnong Kindergarten) and press enter. Tap the plus icon to subscribe to the kindergarten.
- You’ll be prompted to allow SkoolBag to send you notifications. Ensure you select allow so you don’t miss any crucial information!
- Click on our logo to navigate to our profile page. Click on the Groups tab to find and select your child’s group to receive news as a member of that group.

There are several ways we encourage communication: -

- A suggestion box is located in the foyer for parents to utilise;
- A Weekly Newsletter is published for each kindergarten group via Skoolbag which will contain information about what we have been doing, discussing, enjoying etc at Kindergarten. This discusses a variety of points including interests of the group for the week, the books we may have read any songs we have sung, games we played; we find this encourages the children's experiences to be shared between home and kinder.
- Skoolbag notifications promoting events in the Maribyrnong Community;
- Skoolbag notifications from the Committee promoting fundraising events within the kindergarten community;
- A Committee Newsletter published via Skoolbag reporting after each Committee meeting.



Furthermore, if you have any concerns, questions or just want to keep us up to date we encourage you to approach your child's teacher, either in person, via email or by phoning the Kindergarten, and we can arrange a time to have a chat.

## Photography

A professional photographer will attend the kinder during the year to take photos of the children individually and as a group. These photos will be available for purchase by families. You will be notified in advance of the dates for the Kinder photos.

From time to time, the children may be photographed or filmed by the committee or outside organisations such as a local newspaper, for the purposes of promotional, fundraising or community projects. Parents will be notified of these events, with extra permission notes signed before individual children are photographed.

Throughout the year, staff will take photographs of the children to use in the program, around the centre in displays and in the children's learning journals. Educators are sensitive to the religious and cultural beliefs and custodial issues for families.

## Parent Involvement:

Maribyrnong Kindergarten encourages support and involvement from its parents and service users. During the year there are opportunities to be involved in a variety of activities and events. These include:-

- **Stay Play and Learn Program:** The children really enjoy having their parent, grandparent auntie, uncle or carer stay at the kinder. Each session we invite one parent to stay to assist with the Kindergarten session. A roster is placed in the foyer during terms 2, 3 and 4 for parents to put their name down if they wish to stay. Younger siblings are welcome to attend with you; however, they are the responsibility of the parent, not the staff. We appreciate your help.

**All Volunteers and Parents or Guardians staying in the session will require a Working with Children's check.** Please make sure that during Term 1 you apply for a WWC by logging onto the link below, you will be required to have this check completed and a copy given to the office before you can attend a session.

<https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/individuals/applicants/how-to-apply>

- **Fundraising:** Due to government funding changes, Kindergartens are now relying on fundraising more than ever to make ends meet. Parents/Volunteers are encouraged to join the fundraising committee and become involved in a number of key fundraising events throughout the year. Parent participation and support is vital to continue the high quality of resources we have on offer.

- **Personal Skills:** Please let staff know if you or a friend has any specific interests or skills, which you could share with the children. For example, cooking, craft, musical or occupational skills, which will all contribute to an exciting and stimulating program for your children.
- **Junk/Recycled Materials:** Notes will occasionally be posted asking for donations of boxes, clean milk cartons, material scraps, paper scraps etc to be used by the children as part of their art and craft program. Please let us know if you are able to provide these, although we are unable to accept toilet rolls or any other food packaging that contained nut products.
- **Toilet Paper/Tissues:** It is appreciated to help keep costs to a minimum if families could donate a box of tissues and a few rolls of toilet paper to the kinder at the start of the year.

## Personal Toys

We encourage you to refrain from bringing toys to kindergarten as they often get lost or borrowed by other children. There will be opportunities throughout the year for your children to bring items from home to share with their friends.

## Celebrations and Children's Birthdays

Celebrations are an important part of community life. We encourage families to tell us about special cultural events and celebrations that they take part in.

At the beginning of the year, a birthday calendar is made for each group. To reinforce our Healthy Eating Policy, it has been decided that providing lolly bags, cakes or gifts to the children should **NOT** be the emphasis of any birthday celebration.

**For this reason, we do not allow any treats from home to be distributed to the children during a kinder session.**

We do however love making the children's birthday a special day by:

- playing your child's favourite group game or dancing to their favourite music
- having a few friends prepare and decorate a playdough cake with candles
- singing "Happy Birthday" & blowing out the candles.

## Medical Requirements

### Illness and Infectious Disease



Staff follow legislated procedures to promote children's health and minimise the spread of infection.

If your child has the following symptoms or illnesses, please keep them at home until they are completely well:

- high temperature (38 °C or above)
- vomiting (if less than 24 hours since the last episode)
- loose bowel motions (if less than 24 hours since the last episode)
- rashes – any irritation that cannot be identified
- red, swollen or discharging eyes
- if your child seems sick without obvious symptoms. For example, they are unusually tired, irritable, lethargic, not eating or drinking.

A list of all infectious diseases in the Children's Service Centre's exclusion table is available at: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/infection-control-guidelines>. This list also covers minimum exclusion periods.

If your child develops any of these symptoms or illnesses while at kindergarten, they will need to be collected. Educators will ensure your child is comfortable and observed until this time. Details of your child's illness will be written in the Illness Record, which you will need to read and sign.

Please inform educators as soon as possible if your child is diagnosed with an infectious illness. Educators will need to alert all families at the service. Your confidentiality will be respected at all times.

## No Jab, No Play

Under the No Jab No Play legislation, parents are required to provide services with an AIR Immunisation History Statement showing that their child's immunisations are up to date.

When children receive a vaccine or are due to receive a vaccine while attending the kinder, their immunisation status changes. When this happens, parents/carers MUST provide the kinder with a new Immunisation History Statement. Please email all updated Immunisation History Statements to [enrolments@maribyrnongkinder.com.au](mailto:enrolments@maribyrnongkinder.com.au)

This is a requirement under No Jab No Play legislation, and also under the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.

## Illness or Accidents during a Session and First Aid

When your child is ill, or has an accident, they will be attended to and made as comfortable as possible. We will telephone you or your emergency numbers so that collection can be arranged if needed.

If contact cannot be made and treatment is urgent, an ambulance will be called.

We will continue to make every effort to contact you.

All educators at the centre hold a current First Aid Certificate. If your child becomes ill or has an accident at the kinder, the staff are required to administer first aid and contact the parent depending upon the incident. An Incident, injury, trauma and illness form will be completed by staff, notifying parents of the particulars of the incident. Child resistant First Aid kits are located at the centre for emergencies.

## Anaphylaxis Policy – including Allergies

Maribyrnong Kindergarten has a policy specifically relating to Anaphylaxis – including information and actions for staff and families.

All Maribyrnong Kindergarten staff undergo regular training and updates with anaphylaxis.

**Upon enrolment, families will discuss information with staff, with a risk minimisation plan and communication plan formulated. Parents are also given a copy of our policy.**

The risk minimisation plan includes information on how the centre and staff will minimise the risk, as well as highlighting different scenarios, and how they will be handled by both staff and families.

**IMPORTANT:** Parents will be notified at the beginning of the year, of the types of allergies present within the kindergarten. Parents are requested to refrain from sending foods with these allergens present.

Parents, please note, in order to monitor foods at snack time whilst you may be assisting during a session, there is a list in the kitchen of all the children with allergies. This is for your awareness and the health and wellbeing of the children with allergies. In any situation regarding inappropriate snacks, please consult with staff immediately.

## Asthma

Maribyrnong Kindergarten has a policy specifically relating to Asthma – including information and actions for staff and families. All Maribyrnong Kindergarten staff are required to undergo regular training.

**Upon enrolment, families will discuss information with staff, with a risk minimisation plan and communication plan formulated. Parents are also given a copy of our policy**

## Action Plans

Any child with a diagnosed medical need is required to have an Action Plan (in colour). This details the information that educators need to follow in case of a medical emergency. This Action Plan needs to have a doctor's information and signature, the parents' signature, and a review date clearly labelled. All Action Plans (anaphylaxis, asthma, etc) need to be reviewed annually – as per centre Policies. Children are unable to attend kindergarten with out of date Action Plans and/or medications.

## Arrivals and Departures

### Home Kinder



The time of arrival and departure of each child must be recorded each day as per the Children's Services Regulations.

- On arrival, write in the time and sign beside it in the space provided. Exact time please; and

- On departure, fill in the time and sign.

It is essential that your child's teacher be informed either by email, letter or phone that a person other than the authorised parent/guardian will be collecting the child. **The child will not be released to any person not known by the staff. A list of people nominated by the parents/guardians will be obtained prior to the commencement of the kinder year.** This list can be added to throughout the year if your circumstances change. Please ask your child's teacher or email Fiona, our Administration & Enrolment Officer on [fiona@maribyrnongkinder.com.au](mailto:fiona@maribyrnongkinder.com.au) to request an Authorised Collection Notification Form.

On arrival please:-

- Inform staff of any new medication your child is taking;
- Inform staff of a new contact number or early pick up times;
- Inform staff of anything you feel may help in caring for your child that day;
- Please read the notice board at entrance for information and meetings, fundraisings etc; and
- Check named files for notices and newsletters.

### Late pick up policy and fees:

There are times when it is simply not possible to arrive on time but we would appreciate a phone call so we can reassure your child. If you are continually late, it will be necessary to impose a late fee. Late pick-ups mean that at least two teachers or educators need to remain with your child. They too have children that need to be picked up, meetings to attend etc so it imperative you arrive on time or inform the kindergarten in any unforeseen circumstances if you are running late.

### Bush Kinder

The drop off point is the home base as designated in the orientation session.

#### Drop-off

Parents and carers please ensure that you:

- Take your child to home base and wait for the session to begin. All children will assemble here with parents until Bush Kinder session formally commences (teacher will coo-ee to indicate the start of the session)
- Sign your child in using the attendance book and record the time of arrival
- Remind your child to place their bag/backpack in allocated area

### **Pick-up**

Parents and carers need to ensure they:

- Sign the child out using the attendance book and record the time.
- Wait for a staff member to dismiss your child.
- Be mindful of not distracting/speaking with staff until all of the children have departed.
- Be responsible for the supervision of your child once signed out, while still at the Bush Kinder site.
- Ensure your child has collected their belongings (bag, water, hat). Wet weather clothing provided by kinder are to be taken home.

***Please refer to main Delivery and Collection of Children Policy for full procedures relating to collection by authorised person, late collection and late collection fees.***

### **Late collection fee policy**

Parents/carers are asked to be at the bush kinder site by the session end time for collection of their child. At the end of the session, staff members are required to pack up the site and tend to other responsibilities; they are not paid to care for children after the end of each session. Late collection fees apply if parents/carers arrive late for collection of a child, as per Maribyrnong Kindergarten late collection fee policy. A copy of this is on our Website and in the Foyer.

### **Emergency Evacuation**

If an emergency evacuation is required, staff take the attendance book, enabling them to check that all children who have been signed in are accounted for.

Different evacuations are practiced each term, as per DET regulations.

### **Absences due to Illness**

If your child is not attending please notify staff by calling the office on 9317 9083 before 8:00 am.

### **Absences due to Holidays**

The kinder year follows the state school year with the same holiday breaks. There are four terms, each of approximately 10-11 weeks duration.

Families taking holidays out of school holiday times are asked to inform the staff in advance of intended absence of their child. Fees will still be payable for this period to ensure a continuing position for your child.

## Punctuality

We require an adult to stay with your child until the session begins as staff members are engaged in preparation and are not always available to supervise an early arrival.

In the interests of your child, please arrive on time at the beginning and end of each session. Children who arrive late to the start of the session can experience difficulties becoming involved in activities and those left late can become anxious.

When collecting children, we also ask that you stay outside the kinder room until the end of the session, unless you have otherwise notified staff of an early departure. Punctuality is very important to ensure staff have their allocated time to pack up and reset for the next session. This also gives staff their planning time which is important in maintaining a stimulating program essential for kinder children to learn, grow and develop.

## What to Bring/Wear to Home Kinder and Bush Kinder

### Home Kinder

#### Clothing

All clothing, coats, hats, shoes etc are to be clearly named.

Please:

- Send children in comfortable clothing;
- Take note of the weather. Children play outside every session regardless of the weather.
- Hats for summer and winter. When the UV levels are 3 or higher, children will only be able to play in the undercover area outside if they are without a sun hat;
- Sunscreen is provided by the Kindergarten for parents to apply. Sun Protection needs to be used from September to the end of April or whenever UV levels reach 3 or more.
- Coats are required in cold weather;
- No long dresses – these are dangerous when climbing;
- No thongs – these are dangerous when running or climbing; and
- Provide a spare set of named clothing for your child in their bag every day. If clothes are soiled or wet, children prefer to change into familiar clothing.

Items that are left at kinder will be placed in the Lost Property box in the foyer. We ask that parents regularly check this box. All items not collected at the end of every term, will be donated to the Salvation Army.

## What to bring

Your child needs to bring:

- A bag for personal belongings
- A coat and hat when it is cold
- A wide brimmed hat or suitable hat with back flap, and sunscreen applied (*to apply prior to the session and/or give staff permission to do so when necessary*), as per our Sun Protection policy.
- A change of clothes.
- A lunch and a snack. Ensure it is healthy; they will need lots of energy for the long days. Please clearly name containers and drink bottles.

## Bag

Children need a bag large enough for their belongings and work, such as paintings and pastings. Lockers are located inside the kinder entrance and your child will be encouraged to independently put their bag and store their belongings in it.

## Spare Underwear/Clothing (all articles must be named)

Comfort is the name of the game here. Remember these clothes WILL GET DIRTY. We want clothes that will move and not restrict the child in play. Tracksuits and leggings are great. Long skirts and tight short skirts can inhibit movement. Tight jeans, overalls or braces can make it difficult for toileting unless your child is used to them and can manage independently. Thongs, crocs, etc make climbing, running and turning difficult so should not be worn to kinder.

Please keep a spare set of underwear, socks and a change of clothes in your child's bag at all times and ensure that all your child's belongings are named. If your child needs to use spare clothing from the kinder supply, please wash and return them promptly.

Children are at kinder to have fun, explore and learn. Smocks and waterproof clothing are offered at messy activities however it is not always possible for children to keep clean (as you no doubt already know!). Please ensure your child comes to kinder in clothes that are easily washed, easily managed at the toilets and comfortable to play in.

## Identification

Ensure all items of clothing, tops and hats are clearly named. Check the lost property box regularly – you may find things you didn't know were lost yet!



## Bush Kinder

### Clothing

Parents are required to determine appropriate clothing based on the weather forecast appropriate to their session time.

Children will not be allowed to attend a Bush Kinder session if they arrive with inappropriate clothing and without suitable clothing to change into.

It is important that Bush Kinder participants wear appropriate and protective clothing and footwear which:

- allows children to move freely and undertake activities such as climbing, balancing, running
- keeps children warm and dry in cold/wet weather
- protects children from the damaging effects of the sun, UV rays in warm weather and high UV conditions.
- prevents sunburn, bites, scratches and stings. *(Even in warm weather, long sleeve tops and long pants are recommended - this clothing should be loose fitting and light).*
- Where possible, clothing should be made from natural fabrics which allow the body to breathe and is comfortable against the skin
- In the case of footwear, it needs to keep feet and toes covered and have a flexible sole to allow children to climb and balance on uneven surfaces

***\*The following table provides examples of recommended clothing, clothing which is not recommended and unacceptable clothing:***

	Warm Weather	Cold Weather / Rain
Recommended clothing and footwear	Light loose fitting long sleeve tops and long pants, broad brimmed hat*, closed toe shoes	Wet Weather Gear*, long pants, long sleeved top, beanie*, waterproof gloves, thermals in very cold weather
Not recommended	Short sleeved tops, shorts, skirts or dresses.	Skirts, dresses (incompatible with Rain sets)

<b>Unacceptable clothing and footwear</b>	Open toe shoes, sandals, thongs, crocs, singlet tops	Non-waterproof outer clothing. (A rainset on top of non-waterproof clothing is recommended).
---	--	--

**\*Change of clothes:** All children participating in Bush Kinder are required to bring a change of clothes and footwear as these may become wet and muddy. It is recommended that the spare clothing include:

- Spare top and bottoms of appropriate thickness/weight for the weather on the day
- Spare underpants (and singlet in winter)
- 2 pairs of socks
- 1 pair of gumboots (it is not recommended that gumboots are worn at all times due to the restriction of movement they impose, however, they are necessary during the winter months).

On high UV days, please ensure that you apply sunscreen prior to the session commencing. Sunscreen is provided next to the sign in book and will be available for re-application during sessions.

**\*Clothing provided by Kindergarten:** Wet weather clothing- light rainproof suit worn over clothing, which includes a jacket with a hood, and pants to wear over clothing (provided by the kinder on commencement of bush kinder program).

Bush Kinder identification with Maribyrnong Kindergarten contact mobile number will be provided by the Kindergarten. All children must wear the provided Bush Kinder identification bracelet. This clearly identifies them as belonging to the kinder, without identifying them to strangers.

## What To Bring

**Water** All participants are required to have a water bottle. Parents/carers are required to provide a bottle with fresh water each session. There will be access on site to supplement drinking water when required.

**Food** Parents/carers are required to provide a snack in a sealed container for each session for their child to eat. We ask you to consider the environment by not including any packaging. We also ask that you consider the importance of a Healthy snack/lunch (eg. Fruit / vegetable / sandwiches).

*Parents and children are asked not to bring toys along to Bush Kinder to better enable children to engage in the natural surrounds.*

## Toileting

We understand that some children attending kinder may not be fully toilet trained on their commencement. We encourage all children to attend kinder wearing underwear. If your child is having difficulties with toilet training we request parents speak with your child's teacher to discuss strategies to help the transition with toilet training.

Educators remain very aware of the toileting needs of all children and regularly remind the children to go to the toilet throughout the session. We encourage all parents to pack a spare pair of clothes for their child should an accident occur.

Please speak to your child's teacher if you have any questions.

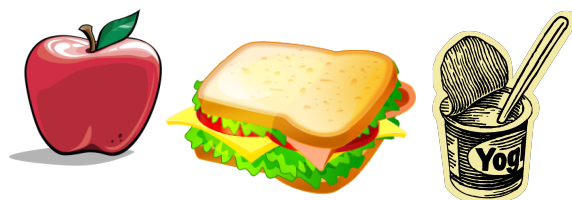
## Sun Protection

Maribyrnong Kinder is SunSmart centre. This means that on days with a UV reading of 3 or above, all children need to wear appropriate clothing and a named sun hat each day as per the kindergarten *Sun Protection* policy and SunSmart recommendations. We highly recommend your child has a hat which covers their neck and ears as well as their face (baseball style caps are not recommended). Children without a hat will not be able to access the same outdoor play activities as their peers. As per the Sun Protection policy, children are asked to wear clothing that covers their shoulders, i.e. no singlets, strappy dresses, etc.

Parents are requested to apply sunscreen to their children each day prior to attending kinder. Please speak to staff if you have any concerns or requests regarding the application of sunscreen to your child.

## Healthy eating at Maribyrnong Kindergarten

Snack/lunch time for the children at kindergarten should be an enjoyable experience. As we have a healthy eating policy at our kindergarten, we ask that you please assist in this process by making wise and nutritionally healthy food choices for your children.



**Rotational Snack time** - children eat a nutritious snack/lunch brought from home at a time that is dictated by their own body clock, encouraging children to recognise when they are thirsty and hungry. During this time children have the opportunity for informal discussion with peers and

educators. All children are reminded and monitored to ensure they have had sufficient water and don't forget to eat their snack.

Children are required to bring a healthy snack/lunch from home. These need to be sufficient to keep your child going until their next mealtime. For longer sessions some fruit and a sandwich are usually enough.

Please include a drink bottle with water. Children are able to refill their water bottles throughout the day.

**Please note: Nuts or nut products cannot be consumed while at kinder. If your child brings nut products as a snack these items will be sent home for the safety of other children.**

**Please let staff know of any food allergies or intolerance. Once staff are aware of all known allergies, all families will be informed of any other items that cannot be consumed at the kinder for the safety of all children.**

## 2023 Term Dates and Public Holidays

Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Australia Day Holiday
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Teacher Planning and Set Up Day
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Student Free Day
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Willy Wag Tails Orientation Group 1: 8.30am – 11.30pm Group 2: 12.15pm – 3.15pm
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Willy Wag Tails Orientation Group 3: 8.30am – 11.30am
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Possums Orientation Group 1: 8.30am – 11.30am Group 2: 12.15am – 3.15pm
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Bilbies Orientation 8.30am – 11.30am Joeys Orientation Group 1: 12.15pm – 3.15pm
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Joeys Orientation Group 2: 8.00am – 11.00am Willy Wag Tails 1 <sup>st</sup> Session 11.45am – 3.45pm
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Willy Wag Tails Bush Kinder Orientation Sessions Possums 1 <sup>st</sup> Session 11.45am -3.45pm
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Bilbies Stay & Play Session 8.00am – 10.00am
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Possums & Bilbies Bush Kinder Orientation Joeys Orientation Group 2: 12.15pm – 3.15pm
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Joeys Stay & Play Session Group A Group A: 8.30am – 10.30am
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Joeys Stay & Play Session Group B Group B: 12.00pm – 2.00pm
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Labour Day Holiday
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	Term One Ends
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Good Friday

Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Monday
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Term Two Begins
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Anzac Day Holiday
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> -Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Kinder Photo Week
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Queen's Birthday
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Term Two Ends
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Term Three Begins
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Term Three Ends
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September (TBC)	Melbourne Grand Final Eve
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Term Four Begins
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Melbourne Cup Day
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Term Four Ends

\*\* Child Free Days to enable staff to undertake professional development will be confirmed in 2023