

Welcome to kinder!



Alexandra Kindergarten Newsletter

A warm welcome to all our Kinder families. We hope that you have an enjoyable association with us and we look forward to working with you and your child.

We welcome all the children who are returning to our kinder or who are experiencing kinder life for the very first time. This year we have Rhiannon and Kate teaching in the Pre kinder room .

Tanya is our Lead educator and is teaching alongside Kate in the Year before school room– both teachers are well supported by their co-educators– Karen, Wendy, Kelley, Hayley and Rebecca.

We had a wonderful time meeting all our families during the interview/ information sessions. If your child is a little anxious next week you are welcome to hang around at drop off time or collect them a little earlier until they are comfortable.

During next week the children will begin to settle into the routine of hanging up their bag, finding their name tag, and learning about meeting time and the end of day story time.

We are all very excited about the 2024 kinder year. Please feel free to come to any of us if you have any questions or concerns.

Please also let us know via phone or email if your child will be away.

Tanya can be reached at alexandra.kin.tjones@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Kate can be reached at alexandra.kin.kateb@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Rhiannon can be reached at alexandra.kin.rhiannon@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Admin email (Sally & Sam) at alexandra.kin.admin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Some little Kinder Tips

- Please be sure to read the noticeboards near the sign in books when you are dropping off your child at kinder as it contains important information about that days session. Check your email /storypark and your child's file (located near the sign in book) for other important information from kinder.
- Please make sure your child has their **healthy** lunch and fruit snack, a bottle of water and a full change of spare clothes. It is important that your child is dressed in clothing that they can manage when they need to use the toilet.
- Please apply sunscreen on your child before kinder.
- Each child has a designated number in the sign in book– please make sure you are signing your child in and out on the right line. Our sign in book is a department regulation and must be accurate. Please only write the time in for sign out once you have collected your child.
- To access the kinder rooms you must input code **1387** into the key pad then press on/ok . You will hear a click once the code is entered correctly. This code is for kinder families only.

All of this information can be a little daunting to start with so if you are unsure of anything please don't hesitate to ask any of our staff for help.

General Photos are taken regularly of kindergarten happenings. These photos often appear in the children's portfolios and on storypark. It is possible that in many instances your child will be present in other children's photos. Please let us know if you do not wish your child to be present in other children's photos that are shared in the portfolios.

If you would like to take photographs or videos (with a camera or mobile phone) of our kindergarten children or within our kindergarten yard/playrooms, you will need to alert staff. We respect the privacy of all our families and staff and do not permit the use of photos/videos taken at kinder on social media sites.



Book Club

Twice a term the Scholastic bookclub catalogue will be distributed through your child's notice file. They often have wonderful specials on reading books and all sales generate a 20% voucher for kinder to use to update our library collection.

Orders can be placed online through the Scholastic website or by handing the order form and cash to Sally/Samantha in the office.

Books are delivered to kinder and put in your child's bag. If the books are a gift let the office know and they will email you when the order arrives to collect from the office.

Thankyou :

A Massive thankyou to all the families who came to our working bee in January. We got so many jobs done and it was so wonderful to see so many of our new and old families helping get our yard ready for a new kinder year.

Lunch Boxes

There are lots of healthy options you can send for your child's lunch— sandwich, yoghurt, salad, veggie sticks, fruit, wraps etc. During the warmer months we do encourage families to pop a little cold pack into your child lunch bag/box to keep their lunch cool.

Remember we are a nude food centre so sending your child's lunch with little too no packaging is encouraged.



Queries and Concerns

The staff and committee are happy to answer any queries you may have concerning children, equipment or kinder program. Any concerns regarding your child or the teaching program needs to be directed to your child's teacher or to our president—

Alexandra.kin.president@kindergarten.vic.gov.au . It is also beneficial to talk to your child's teacher about anything you feel is worrying or causing concern for your child. Our Teachers are available for Parent/Teacher interviews at the end of sessions, please see Sally/Sam if you would like to make an appointment.



4 yr old (Year before School) Bush Kinder sessions

The 4 yr. old's will attend their first Bush Kinder sessions on Wednesday Feb 7th at **Home kinder**.

For the first bush kinder session at McKenzies reserve on Feb 14th, parents/guardians will be required to stay for the first 1/2 hour with their child. During this time staff will 'walk the boundaries' of the bush kinder site. Both parents and children will then be familiar with the set boundaries. Additionally, staff, children and parents/guardians will be given the opportunity to attend dog and snake awareness talks through-out the year.

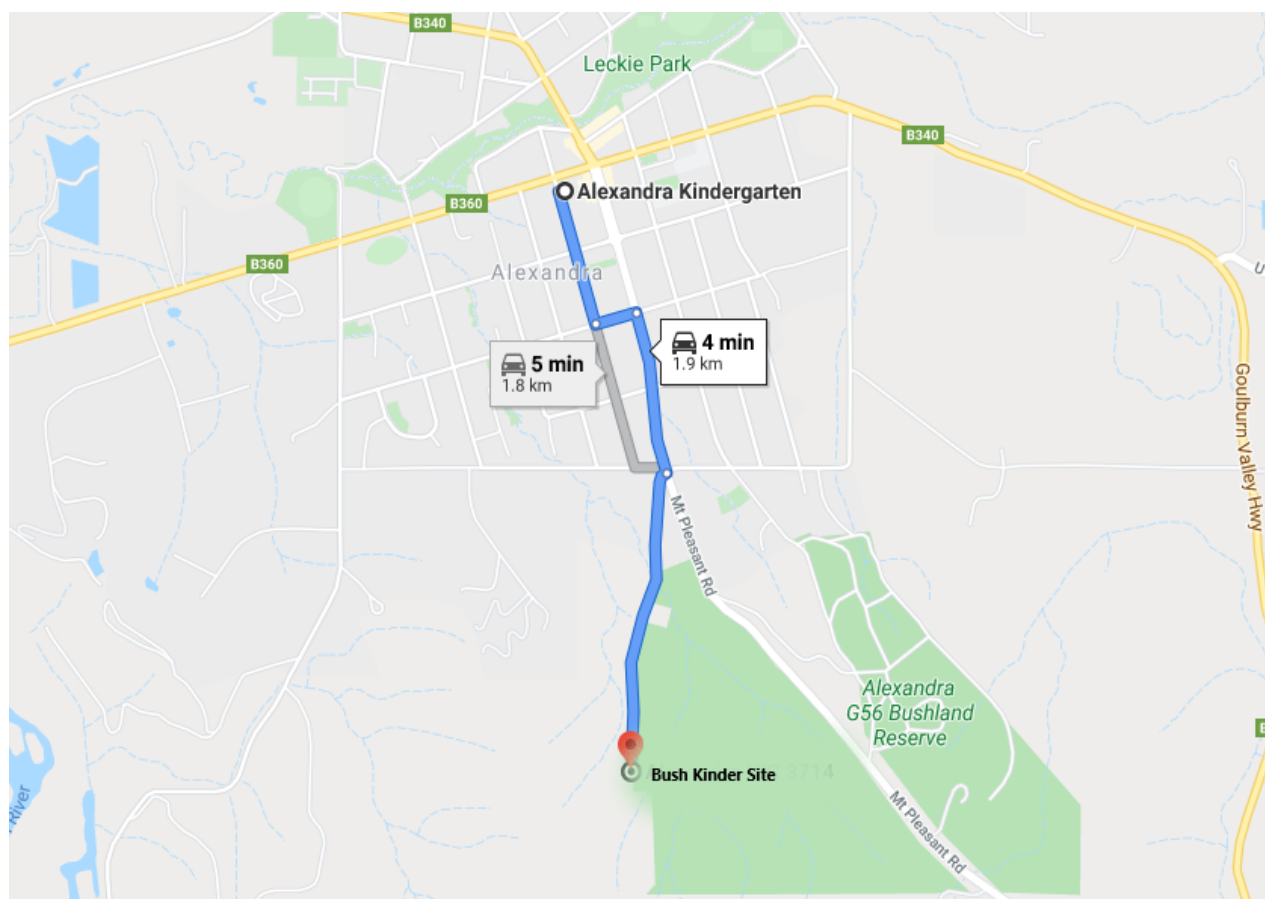
We ask that you keep your mobile phone on you and turned on during bush kinder sessions so we may be able to contact you easily if necessary.

We also ask that you put the kinder mobile phone number in your mobile phone. This number is only used on Bush kinder days so any messages sent will only be checked on a Wednesday.

Kinder mobile number: 0484 831 914

There is an camping toilet available onsite on bush kinder days so please send a small hand towel attached to your child's bag for them to dry their hands on after they have washed them.

Sessions may be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. If this occurs you will be notified by Storypark or email by 6pm the night before or by 8am on the morning of bush kinder if weather changes dramatically . If you do not have mobile coverage where you live, please advise us and we will make alternative arrangements to contact you.



Illness - If your child is unwell we ask you keep him/her at home, despite the desperate 'but I want to go' cry. Kindergarten cannot provide the comfort and attention that a sick child needs and sending him/her to kindergarten can be struggle for your child if unwell. Health department exclusion times are on display at kindergarten in the foyer and apply to children suffering from a contagious condition or infectious disease. For the wellbeing of our staff and all other kinder children onsite, we do prefer that you keep your child at home if they are showing any signs of illness. Please notify kinder immediately if your child becomes ill from a contagious condition/infectious disease .

In the event of your child becoming ill at kindergarten, you will be contacted and may be required to take your child home. If you are unable to be reached, your emergency contact will be notified – Please ensure that your child's contact numbers are **always up to date**.

Head Lice

Unfortunately head lice will occasionally be a problem at the kindergarten. If lice are noticed in your child's hair it is important to treat them immediately. Lice treatments are available at the pharmacy. It is helpful to tie long hair up or in plaits. Please notify the kindergarten if your child has lice as all families need to be notified so they can check their child's hair. This information will remain confidential.

Toileting Tips

Kinder is so new to some little people that they will forget where the toilet is or are just so busy playing with all the new things that they just forgot to go to the toilet. Children will be changed if they have an accident so be sure to have adequate spare clothes in their bag along with a bag to put wet clothes in.

It is important for your child to have similar experiences and routines at home and at kinder. Share your toilet training strategies with the educators at our kinder. Inform us about any signs that your child uses at home to tell you that they need to use the toilet. It may also be useful to find out from educators about your child's toileting experiences at the end of each day. You can also share your hygiene routines with the educators so your child isn't confused with different experiences between home and kinder. If you have any concerns , please speak with your child's educators.

Funded Kindergarten Declaration

The Victorian Government provides funding to kindergarten and long day care services to deliver high-quality kindergarten programs in the two years before school. This helps to ensure all Victorian children get the best start in life.

The Victorian Government also provides Free Kinder funding to our service so that you don't have to pay fees. This saves you and your family up to \$2,563 per year.

Your child can access one funded year in a Three-Year-Old Kindergarten program (between 5 and 15 hours per week) and one year in a Four-Year-Old Kindergarten program (15 hours per week).

Your child can only access one funded kindergarten program at a time. This means that only one service can claim kindergarten funding for your child so you can receive a Free Kinder program. If you accept a funded kindergarten place at more than one service and both services receive funding, you may be required to repay the funding and may lose your child's place in one program.

Please complete the funding declaration at this [LINK](#) to confirm your child is only claiming funding from the Alexandra kindergarten