



The Nest: Information for Families

Welcome

Welcome to the Nest at Alberton Primary School. The Nest includes all preschool and reception children. We provide an exciting and engaging indoor/outdoor learning environment for children aged 3 to 6 years of age. Learning is hands-on, active and based on the individual needs and interests of each child. Educators actively engage with individuals, small groups and some large groups to ensure the needs of all children are being met.



Learning Program

The Nest provides a high quality learning program that is inclusive, responsive, diverse and engaging for children. The program is aligned to the Early Years Learning Framework and Australian Curriculum. Educators reflect on the interests and development of the children and use this knowledge to plan learning experiences and set up the learning environment.



Throughout the day children will have opportunities to play in the expansive learning spaces, and participate in home group Literacy, Numeracy and inquiry based learning activities. Children in the Nest also connect with our specialist teachers who provide learning opportunities in the areas of Environmental Science, Physical Education and The Arts.

Literacy learning is promoted through authentic play experiences, story tables, intentional teaching and games. Children have daily opportunities to participate in reading activities, singing, oral language experiences and intentional phonics and phonological awareness skill building activities. Numeracy is promoted in real life situations, through play, and intentional learning experiences.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

We aim to support the children in accepting responsibility for their own behaviour. We discuss and establish rules to ensure a safe environment for everyone, and regularly reflect on those.

Children and adults in The Nest:

- Care for themselves
- Care for others
- Care for this place



Curiosity

Connection

Respect

Wellbeing



We understand that young children of this age are learning about working in groups, developing their communication skills and ways to solve problems. When issues arise, they provide an opportunity for all children to learn what is expected of them and to develop skills to respond to situations in a safe and respectful manner. Educators' model and coach children in how to develop positive relationships, communicate effectively and cooperate.

What to wear:

Reception Children: Expected to wear the navy blue Alberton Primary School uniform and hat. School uniforms can be order online through Belgravia Sports.

Preschool Children: Children are asked to wear comfortable sun smart clothes and shoes that they are able to wear while exploring mud, water, paint, as well as climb, swing and balance. The Alberton Primary School uniform is optional for Preschool children.

All children must wear an appropriate wide-brimmed hat in Term 1 and 4.

Shoes: Children enjoy and need to experience different surfaces and textures through their feet. In The Nest children will sometimes take off their shoes and we will try very hard to ensure they put them in a safe, easy to find, place. Children are required to wear shoes when they are outside of the Nest (e.g. school playtimes, visiting the library).



What to bring:

- A drink bottle - filled with water only
- A spare set of clothes
- A piece of fruit, morning snack and lunch in a named lunch box.
- *We request that only healthy food be packed. For example: fruits, vegetables, sandwich, wraps, cheese, and yoghurt.*

*****As we have children enrolled with food allergies please do not pack food containing nuts***

Children are able to order and purchase from the canteen at break times.

Ensure all personal items (e.g. hats, drink bottles, lunchboxes, and clothing) are clearly labelled.

We ask that personal belongings (e.g. toys, collectables) are left at home. If your child has a particular attachment item or sensory toy, please speak to your child's home group teacher to make individual arrangements.



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Home Groups

We have a group of highly skilled early childhood teachers and co-educators in the Nest. Each child has a designated Home Group (Coral, Yellow, Ochre 1, and Ochre 2) which is led by a teacher. Your child's home group teacher is your first point of contact.

Communication:

Information is communicated with families via:

- Seesaw – Used by Home Group Teachers to share learning stories and photos, provide information about the learning program and special events.
- School Bag App – Whole of school newsletters and information is sent out via the app on a regular basis.

If you do not have access to online platforms please let your child's home group teacher know so hard copies can be sent home.



Attendance

Nest Times: 8:45 am – 3:00 pm.

Reception children attend 5 days per week.

Preschool attendance is organised into 2 groups as outlined below.

Group 1	Group 2
Monday & Tuesday	Wednesday & Thursday
Fridays in the odd weeks of term (Week 1, 3, 5, 7, 9)	Fridays in the even weeks of term (Week 2, 4, 6, 8, 10)

It is important for children to attend regularly to enable them to develop relationships with others and effectively participate in the learning program. If your child is going to be absent please advise the school.



Fees

School fees (Materials and Service Charge) are set by the Governing Council and invoiced at the start of the school year. Families can apply for School Card assistance for children in Reception.

Preschool fees are \$150 per term. Invoices are sent out each term to families. Please speak with the Finance Officer to organise a payment plan if required.

Fees can be paid at the school front office (cash or credit card), via online banking or QKR.



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Getting Involved



We consider our families to be a vital part of our program. Throughout the year we offer many ways for you to become involved in your child's education. We value your input into our programs and enjoy hearing your ideas or connections to enhance our work with the children. We welcome you to come and spend time in the Nest. You may like to come and share a special skill with the children, such as cooking, art, music, dance, sewing or gardening. When we go on excursions families are invited to come along and help. Helpers have provided very positive feedback about their own enjoyment of our trips out and about.

Library: Children in The Nest visit the Library each week in their home groups to borrow books.



Birthdays: We will celebrate birthdays by acknowledging and singing if that is what the birthday child wants. Due to food allergies and DfE Healthy Eating Guidelines we ask that you do not send cakes or food to share.

Additional Needs and Medical Conditions: We work in partnership with families to support children with health, developmental and medical needs. Upon enrolment educators will work with families to ensure support and plans are developed to document your child's developmental and health needs.

Further information on health support and management can be found on the department for Education Website.

<https://www.education.sa.gov.au/parents-and-families/health-and-disability-support/health-and-complex-needs-support-and-management>

Playgroup (0-5 years)

Playgroup is run on Friday mornings from 9:00am - 10.45am. The children have a wonderful time playing together while caregivers can enjoy some adult conversation and a cup of tea or coffee. Parents need to stay with their child. We ask for a gold coin donation to cover any costs for activities offered on the day.



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