Walliston Primary School
Kindergarten 2015
In a nutshell, a typical kindergarten program involves:

- an approach where teachers plan for intentional learning ensuring that play is central to the program.
- the focus being on the child, the whole child, with much emphasis on social and emotional development.
- children being guided towards interaction with other children in a socially co-operative manner.
- nurturing self-esteem and mutual respect.
- the child being central to what is planned, implemented and evaluated, the children’s ideas being valued.
- children being encouraged to express their ideas through art, movement, music, construction, dramatic role play, outdoor activity and discussion.
- open-ended and multi sensory experiences.
- the child actively engaging in exploring, investigating, thinking and communicating through play.
- children having opportunities to exercise free choice from a variety of activities.
- teacher directed mat sessions that are often language based such as discussions, music, movement, drama and stories.
- a strong partnership between parent and teacher.
- ongoing communication.
Kathy Walker, a Melbourne based Education Consultant and specialist in Early Childhood Education, has written a book called “What’s the Hurry?” She emphasises the need to embrace play in early childhood settings. Childhood is a precious and unique time in the life span and it is a time to nurture, guide and support children as they grow. The following quote from her book illustrates the importance of play at Walliston Kindergarten.

“Play is much more than just dressing up and acting cute and making mud pies. Play is a fundamental aspect of being a human being. Play is an integral part of learning literacy, numeracy, practising motor skills, co-ordination, sharing, negotiating and thinking laterally and creatively. Play needs to be re-embraced by our community, both in the home and at early childhood programs and schools. Play needs to be valued as not just the frivolous time of childhood, but as one of the most significant learning experiences throughout the early childhood years.”

Remember, time spent playing with your child is never wasted.
We would like to welcome you all to Walliston Kindergarten and a special welcome to those attending Walliston Primary School for the first time.

**Class Times**

Kindy students attend school for 2½ days per week.

The school has not yet completed the timetabling for 2015, so we are unable to provide you with what day your child will be attending Kindy in 2015 at this stage. We realise that with work commitments you will need this information as soon as possible. We will inform you as soon as the Kindy days have been finalised.

Kindergarten doors open at 8.40am in the morning and the mat session will begin at approximately 9.00 am. Children are not to use the outdoor play area until the kindergarten session begins.

**Term 1 - First Two Weeks**

During the first two weeks of Term 1 all kindergarten children will attend their sessions for half days only (8.40 to 12.00) starting from Monday 2nd February to Friday 13th February. Children will not need lunch, however they will need one piece of fruit to share and a water bottle with their name on, that your child will have access to during the day.

Parent interviews are conducted during the first 2 weeks in the afternoons

**Morning Routine**

On arrival at Kindergarten, after children have completed their morning jobs, we encourage parents to spend some time with their child either reading a book together, completing puzzles or perhaps completing a drawing. There are also coloured tables set up with a range of activities that children can attempt either independently or with parental help.

Your child may feel nervous, excited, scared or reluctant on their first day of school (or even on the second, third or tenth day!!) These are all normal and common feelings. When the bell rings, give your child a hug and kiss, say good-bye and then leave the classroom. If your child becomes upset as you leave, a staff member will gently take your child and comfort them until they are settled. The majority of children settle quickly after their parent has left the classroom.
We understand it can be upsetting for parents to leave a crying child but please be assured that we would always contact you should your child remain unsettled. You are most welcome to ring school and check on your child at any time of the day.

NOTE: Please ensure that the school always has your current address and phone number details.

We need to be notified of any changes immediately.

What children need to bring to school:

♦ A school bag that is able to carry all school belongings, some space for art pieces and box constructions!
♦ One piece of fruit or vegetable
♦ One water bottle (clearly named)
♦ A full set of spare clothes
♦ A hat
♦ A lunch box (from week 3)
♦ A pillow and rug for rest time (from week 3)

Note: Please clearly name ALL belongings.

I wondered and I wondered
When I could go to school.
They said I wasn't old enough
According to the rules.
I waited and I waited.
I was as patient as could be.
And now I'm all excited . . .
It's time for school for me!
**Fruit Time**

Children are asked to bring along a piece of fruit or vegetable to be shared during fruit time. This is placed in a basket at the beginning of the day. Children also place their water bottles on a tray at this time. We would like to encourage children to have a go at completing these tasks themselves. It is a wonderful opportunity to develop self help and independence skills.

**Lunch Time**

Once the full day sessions begin (in week 3) the children will need to bring along a lunch box (clearly named).

The children then go to outdoor play until the lunch bell rings. We strongly encourage the inclusion of healthy foods in lunch boxes, also, please make sure the containers of food provided are easily opened and manipulated by the children, again encouraging independence skills.

**Lunch orders**

Should children wish to order their lunch an order is placed in a lunch bag with correct money and room number then posted in the box near the junior covered area. Lunches are then delivered to the classroom at lunch time. Please note that lunches can only be ordered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
**Allergies**

It is vital that any allergy or health concern for your child is brought to our attention immediately. Please ensure that you provide us with any relevant contacts, information and medication that your child may require.

**Birthdays**

When it is your child’s birthday we would love you to bring along a cake or cupcakes to share with their friends. (Cupcakes are best.) We welcome your company on this special occasion! Please ensure that you also provide a list of ingredients.

**Rest Time**

All children have a half hour of quiet time after lunch where children rest quietly, some children do fall asleep and this is perfectly fine! During this time we will play music or listen to stories. Children will need to bring along a named pillow and a rug for rest time. These items will be kept at school and returned at the end of each term for washing.

**Uniform**

All kindergarten children are strongly encouraged to wear their school uniform. Once again please ensure all items of clothing are clearly marked. Please make sure your child has a hat. Our policy is “no hat, no play in the sun”.

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![Image of children in uniform]
**Uniform shop (see handout)**

The uniform shop, which is situated on the western side of the school oval, will be open on **Wednesday 12th November from 2.30 to 3.15 pm** to allow you to try clothing for correct sizing. Orders will be taken and can be picked up on **Friday January 30th between 9.00am and 10.00am** from the uniform shop. If you are unable to pick your uniform order up on this day the uniform shop will be open on the first day of school for Kindergarten to Year 6 on Monday February 2nd from 8.15am until 9.30am.

You can order uniform items at any time during the year. Just leave a completed order form (payment enclosed) at the front office.

**Parent roster**

Rosters will begin in week 3 and we look forward to having you join us at kindergarten. The parent roster chart will be displayed early in term 1 so pop your name on and come along.

Parents are encouraged and welcomed into the kindergarten class. Your parent roster time is a special and valuable time for you and your child to spend time together enjoying the kindergarten experience. For this reason we would like to encourage one parent on roster each day.

**End of session**

It is important that you let us know if someone different will be collecting your child. There will be a collection file on the table just inside the door for you to write the details in of the person collecting your child. Alternatively you can call the school on 9291 8099 to let us know.

**Equipment List**

When our equipment lists for 2015 have been finalised we will send a copy to your home address.

Items on the equipment list can be brought in to school during the first week of school and placed in marked containers outside the kindergarten building. Please name items before sending them to school. Please note that you are not required to name individual pencils, crayons etc.
**Tiredness**

The start of kindergarten can be an overwhelming experience and some children become very tired and it may be that your child would benefit from continuing with half days for a while. If your child’s tiredness becomes a concern for you then please don’t hesitate to talk with us so that we can discuss this matter with you.

**Absences**

If your child is absent from school for any reason we ask that you fill out an absentee slip on their return or provide a written explanation. If you are picking up your child from school early you must sign your child out. There is an early pick up/late arrival sheet you must complete which is placed near the door in the Kindy classroom. You must also sign your child in if they arrive late.

**Illness**

Please keep your child home if they are unwell not only so they can make a speedy recovery but also to curb the spread of infection. Parents or caregivers will be contacted to collect their child if they become unwell during Kindy.

If an accident occurs at school you will be notified either by phone or on the collection of your child depending on the severity of the incident.
**Treasures from Home**

The class teacher may invite your child to bring in a special treasure for News sometime during the term. However please do not send your child with toys/treasures/jewellery at other times as it is very upsetting for them if things are lost or broken whilst playing.

**Reports**

Reports are issued twice a year at the end of term 2 and term 4. This is just one of the many ways we report to you. Reporting to you is an ongoing process that includes regular communication between parent and teacher both informally and through formal interviews, collections of your child’s work, photos and portfolios.

You as the parents are the most significant and important people in your child’s life. You are your child’s first teacher and as teachers we very much value the importance of working with you. Your input and communication is appreciated and vital. Please don’t hesitate to talk with us no matter how trivial you may think an issue is. We are in this journey together and hope to make the kindergarten year rewarding, fulfilling and fun!

**Reading with your child**

We would like to encourage parents to read regularly to their children. Research shows that this time spent together developing a love of reading in a secure happy environment will provide a sound foundation for your child when they begin to develop their skills in independent reading later in their school life.
First day of school: Please send your child:

- Dressed in school uniform
- With a hat
- Wearing appropriate footwear to play and climb in
- One piece of fruit or vegetable to share
- A drink bottle
- A change of clothes (in case of toileting accidents, spills, etc.)

Morning routine:

- Hang bag outside on your child’s bag hook
- Place fruit or vegetable into fruit basket
- Place water bottle on the tray provided
- Locate your child’s name tag and place on your child.

The doors open to the kindergarten at 8.40 am. Children do not play on the outdoor equipment before school. Once inside the centre, feel free to read a book, complete a puzzle or a drawing with your child. Staying with your child at this time will help provide a smooth transition from home to school for your child. When the bell is rung, parents say their goodbyes and the children gather on the mat to begin the day.

Children are collected at 12.00 noon for the first two weeks of kindergarten.
Walliston Kindergarten