

# Preschool Parent Handbook



**2025**

# WELCOME *to Preschool*

Welcome to Bakewell Preschool. We are looking forward to getting to know you and your child and enjoying a wonderful year of Preschool. Please take the time to read through this parent handbook before your child commences Preschool.

## 2025 Term Dates

### **Term 1**

Wednesday 29 January – Friday 4 April

### **Term 2**

Tuesday 15 April – Friday 20 June

### **Term 3**

Tuesday 15 July – Friday 19 September

### **Term 4**

Tuesday 7 October – Thursday 11 December



# Bakewell Preschool Philosophy

At Bakewell Preschool we appreciate the pivotal role that we play in laying the foundations for a rich love of learning within the early years. We acknowledge that through positive relationships and high expectations, we set our students up for an enjoyable school journey.

Developing strong relationships with our families and the wider community assists us to create ideal experiences that transfer between home, school and beyond. We value regular input from our community to ensure that our vision is shared. Student inclusivity remains at the forefront of our minds as we continue to learn from one another to raise culturally competent individuals. We recognise and respect Cultural Diversity from all walks of life and we strive to foster rich learning, acceptance and understanding of multiculturalism.

Bakewell students learn most effectively through **being** their authentic selves. Our students have the freedom to **become** whoever it is that they wish to be, within a space where there is a sense of **belonging**. With our holistic and child centered programming, we embrace individualism and nurture curiosity. To complement our curriculum and The Early Years Learning Framework, we cater to each child. Through careful preparation, time, and nurturing, our students are equipped with the necessary Growth Mindsets and transferrable skills to become successful lifelong learners.

We empower our students to have a voice and autonomy within their preschool life. Having a deep understanding of our students, their dispositions, interests, and developmental needs creates optimal outcomes in learning for the purpose of enjoyment.

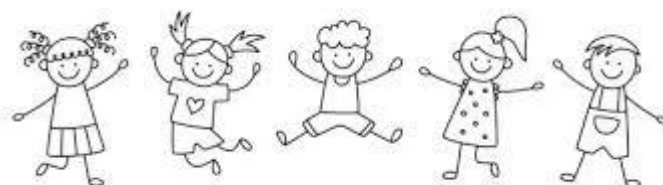
The synergy amongst our educators is maintained through our shared values, prioritised relationships, and open communication. As a team we consistently reflect and productively challenge our practices so that our approach and delivery remain optimal within our context.

We value child-led spontaneous learning and intentionally driven, play-based experiences through the implementation of explicit instruction. These opportunities evoke exploration, experimentation, and open-ended educational provocations, so that natural learning experiences occur. We allow the time for uninterrupted play and opportunities to problem solve, create, and learn through trial and error.

The Preschool physical environment is carefully arranged and ever evolving to ensure that it remains a welcoming, engaging, and safe space for children to grow and flourish. Our students have abundant opportunities to explore in nature, socialise with their peers and let their imaginations soar in the fresh air. We acknowledge that some of the best learning occurs while getting messy and having **FUN!**

Every child is welcome at Bakewell Preschool and has the right to a quality education. The decisions that we make are based around empowering our students to take risks, ask all the questions, both big and small, and to allow them to be immersed in the **magic** that is childhood.

“Childhood is a short season, to be **enjoyed** and not rushed”- Helen Hayes



# The Early Years Learning Framework

The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) is the National Curriculum Framework to support Early Childhood Education. It places an emphasis on play-based learning and fostering children in **belonging, being** and **becoming**.

There are 5 EYLF Learning Outcomes:

1. Children have a strong sense of identity
2. Children are connected with and contribute to their world
3. Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
4. Children are confident and involved learners
5. Children are effective communicators

The Northern Territory Preschool Curriculum is also used as a guide to support the EYLF.

## Play Based Learning

Play provides opportunities for children to learn as they discover, create, improvise and imagine. When children play with their peers, they create social groups and build new understandings about the world. Bakewell Preschool provides a rich learning environment that allows students to explore, engage in critical thinking, inquire and solve problems through intentional play based experiences.



## Explicit Instruction

Bakewell Primary School uses Explicit Instruction as a school wide approach to teaching and learning. Within the preschool, Explicit Instruction is incorporated into the daily routine to teach new skills and fosters active participation for all students.

# Preschool Hours

## Group 1

### Semester 1

Mondays and Tuesdays 8:00am – 2:30pm

Wednesdays 8:00am – 12:00pm

### Semester 2

Mondays and Tuesdays 8:00am – 2:30pm

## Group 2

### Semester 1

Thursdays and Fridays 8:00am – 2:30pm

### Semester 2

Wednesdays 8:00am – 12:00pm

Thursdays and Fridays 8:00am – 2:30pm

# Drop off, Pick up & Absences

Children must be accompanied by an adult to and from Preschool each day, at no time may a child enter or leave the Preschool on their own. **At the beginning of the day**, an adult must wait with the child until the doors open at 8:00am. **At the end of the day**, children are only dismissed to their collecting adult.

Please ensure your child is signed in and signed out each day at Preschool and you state on the sign in sheet who will be collecting your child at the end of the day.

Please be punctual when collecting your child to avoid any unnecessary worry or distress. If, for some reason you happen to be delayed in collecting your child, please contact the school to let them know.

When your child is unwell, it is important to keep them at home where they can receive the best care and attention needed. A decision should always be made in the best interest of the child, other children and the teachers. Please notify the school via phone, email or Seesaw if your child is absent from school.

# Wet and Messy Play

Group 1 (Semester 1, Wednesday 8am—12pm)

Group 2 (Semester 2, Wednesday 8am—12pm)

Wet and Messy Play provides students with the opportunity to take the lead, engage in their senses, build on fine and gross motor skills and explore their environment through a range of sensory resources. Activities such as sand play, goop, swimming, water play, shaving foam, painting and slime are just some of the experiences we have on offer during Wet and Messy play.



# Communication

Our main platform for communication is Seesaw. We use Seesaw to send out important notices or reminders, as well as share photos and videos of your child's learning. More information regarding Seesaw accounts will be sent out to families at the start of Term 1.



## Note Pockets

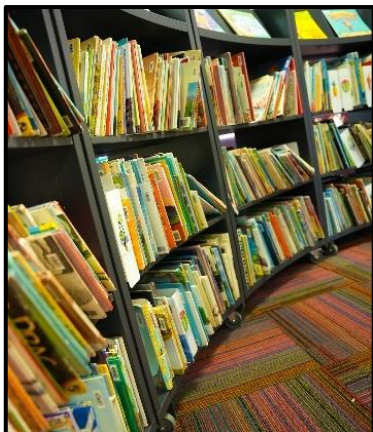
Children's individual note pockets are located outside the Preschool classroom. All important letters and notes from the Primary School and Preschool will be placed in children's note pockets. Please ensure you check your child's note pocket daily, so you don't miss any important information.

## Learning Journey Folders

Learning Journey Folders are used at Preschool to document children's learning throughout the Preschool year. They provide evidence of the ways your child is working within the 5 Early Years Learning Framework Outcomes and reflect the many ways that we observe and record your child's learning. Children have access to and ownership over their folders and can add samples of their own work. Children's folders can be viewed by families at any time throughout the Preschool year.

## Library

We visit the Primary School library once a week (beginning Term 1, Week 2) to borrow books and engage in reading. Students have the opportunity to take one book home for the week and return it the following week to borrow another book. A library bag is required to place borrowed books into.



## Medical Conditions/Allergies

If your child has a medical condition (e.g. Asthma or allergy), please ensure all relevant sections are completed on your enrolment form and you discuss this with your child's teacher. In accordance with our National Regulation it is a requirement that a Medical Health Care Plan is completed by you and Preschool staff prior to your child's starting day, this will ensure we support your child in the best possible way while at Preschool.

## Parent Participation & Communication

- We welcome families into Preschool to share aspects of their culture/background, special talents, hobbies or careers with the children. Please let the teachers know if this is something you wish to do.
- Please ensure you carefully read all notes and reminders sent home via note pockets or the Seesaw application.
- Please read the message board daily, located outside the classroom.
- Please inform the teacher of any issues concerning your child's health, wellbeing or changes within the home environment that may impact on their participation and learning at Preschool.
- You are welcome to make an appointment with the teacher to discuss your child's development, health, behaviour or any concerns you may have.
- Please ensure your contact details are always up to date by advising office staff of any changes to address or phone numbers. It is essential we have access to current phone numbers should we need to contact someone in the event of an emergency.



# Preparing for Preschool

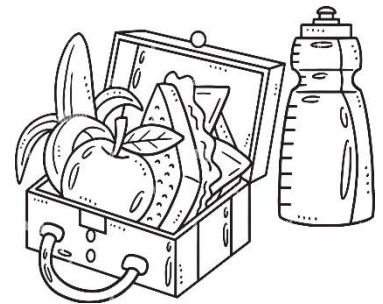
Beginning Preschool is an exciting and fun time. As your child eagerly awaits their first day there are several things you can do to help them prepare for the world of school:

- **Toileting independence** – Encourage and practice independent toileting, including managing clothing and wiping.
- **Uniform** – Assist your child in trying on the Bakewell school uniform to make sure it all fits.
- **Shoe skills** – Wear new shoes before the first day and practice taking off and putting on shoes independently.
- **School bag** - Choose a school bag that is comfortable for your child to carry and has enough room for their belongings. Practice zipping and unzipping and packing and unpacking the bag. Encourage your child to organise their belongings.
- **Lunch box management** - Choose lunch boxes or food containers that have easy-to-open lids. Practice opening and closing lunch boxes or food containers and opening food packets independently.
- **Name labels** - Ensure your child's name is clearly marked on all their belongings, including clothing, lunch box, drink bottle and school bag.
- **Positive communication** - Talk positively about Preschool and try to answer any questions that your child may have.



## What should my child bring to school each day?

- Wear the Bakewell school uniform.
- Wear suitable footwear such as sneakers or sandals. NO THONGS please.
- A school bag for all belongings.
- A water bottle filled ONLY with water. Water bottles can be refilled at Preschool throughout the day.
- A Bakewell bucket hat.
- A lunch box with a packed recess and lunch. At Bakewell we encourage healthy lunch boxes, at recess children eat fruit first, before treats, and at lunch they eat sandwiches or lunch foods first, before treats. Lunchboxes are stored in the Preschool fridge each day.
- A library bag (not necessary for the first week of school).
- A jumper/jacket for the cooler months.
- A change of clothes, including underwear and socks.
- A spare bag for any clothes that require washing. Repellant



## Contact

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**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/BakewellPrimary](http://www.facebook.com/BakewellPrimary)

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