

Welcome to our School Community



We are kind. We are brave. We are proud of what we do.

2026 PARENT INFORMATION BOOKLET

8632 2226

Kingston Road, Port Pirie

<https://risdonpkps.sa.edu.au/>





CONTENTS PAGE

About Us	1	Information for Families	7
Our Virtues & Expectations	1	Materials & Service Charges	9
Parent Engagement & Partnership	2	Parent Engagement & Partnership	10
Learning Information	3	School Policies	11
Wellbeing & Inclusion	4	Stay Connected & Contacts	12
Student Agency	6	FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)	13

Welcome to Risdon Park Primary School

At Risdon Park Primary, we believe that *when we enrol a child, we enrol the whole family*. Together we create a safe, supportive and inclusive environment where every child can thrive.

Our vision is simple: Be Kind. Be Brave. Be Proud of What You Do.

We are committed to:

- High quality teaching and learning in literacy and numeracy
- Building confident and resilient learners
- Valuing every child's voice and wellbeing

We offer a wide and engaging curriculum including sport, The Arts, STEM, music, kitchen, garden, excursions and leadership opportunities.

Our dedicated staff, supportive Governing Council and vibrant grounds make Risdon Park a school where *every child matters — every day*.

Julie Petersen, Principal



VIRTUES AND EXPECTATIONS

OUR VIRTUES

At Risdon Park Primary School, our School Virtues guide everything we do:

- Be Kind
- Be Brave
- Be Proud of What You Do

THE 3 IMPERATIVES FOR ENGAGEMENT

All staff will ensure that...

- Students are safe, have trust, respect and feel valued
- Students have work at their level
- Students have friends at school

OUR GOLDEN RULES

At Risdon Park Primary School, we:

- Follow instructions immediately
- Keep our hands, feet and hurtful comments to ourselves
- Are a **one voice** school
- Have our eyes on the learning



BELL TIMES

8:40am	Classrooms open
8:50am	Lessons begin
11:00am	Lunch play
11:20am	- Lunch Eating - Lessons resume
1:00pm	Recess play
1:30pm	- Recess Eating - Lessons resume
3:10pm	Dismissal (Tuesday early finish: 2:20pm)

PAYMENTS

Payments for school fees, excursions and canteen orders can be made easily through the Qkr! app. Cash and EFTPOS payments are also accepted at the front office.



ANNUAL EVENTS

TERM

1

Welcome Evening
Induction Ceremony

TERM

2

Mid-Year Transition
Reconciliation Week

TERM

3

Book Week
Sports Day

TERM

4

End of Year Concert
Year 6 Graduation
End of Year Awards
Ceremony

TERM DATES

1

Tues. 27 January -
Fri. 10 April 2026

2

Mon. 27 April -
Fri. 3 July 2026

3

Mon. 20 July -
Fri. 25 September 2026

4

Mon. 12 October -
Fri. 11 December 2026

OUR APPROACHES

At Risdon Park Primary School, every child matters and every child thrives. Through high-quality teaching and a broad, engaging curriculum, we help every learner achieve success, with a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy.

CORE LEARNING

- Literacy and Numeracy are taught daily using evidence-based approaches such as Explicit Direct Instruction.
- Students build skills in reading, writing, spelling, problem-solving and critical thinking.
- Predictable routines and effective teaching create calm, focused learning environments.
- Individual progress is regularly monitored to provide targeted support and extension for all learners.
- Collaborative learning activities encourage teamwork and communication skills among students.

SPECIALIST LEARNING AREAS

- Science
- Health & PE (including swimming and SAPSASA sports)
- The Arts (choir, dance, music and visual arts)
- HASS (History, Geography, Civics & Citizenship, Economics & Business)
- STEM and Technologies (integrating Digital, Design, Engineering, and Mathematics learning)
- Students engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives within curriculum areas.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Children's University
- Kitchen (including cooking)
- Garden
- Camps, excursions and community events
- Flexible and alternative learning pathways, featuring hands-on experiences, life skills electives, and personalised online learning through IXL
- Student leadership programs foster responsibility and active participation in school life.



OUR APPROACHES

We believe children learn best when they feel safe, supported and valued. Wellbeing and inclusion are central to everything we do.

- **Berry Street Education Model** – supports regulation, resilience and readiness to learn.
- **Anti-bullying** – We have zero tolerance for bullying or harassment and use restorative practices to teach respect, empathy, and conflict resolution. Students and families are encouraged to report any concerns so we can respond promptly and appropriately.
- **Transition processes** – smooth pathways for children starting school, changing year levels or preparing for secondary school.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION & INTERVENTION

- Our Student Wellbeing Leader, Inclusion Leader and Aboriginal Education Team provide targeted support.
- Tailored support programs to meet diverse learning needs.
- Strengthening interventions for students who require extra help.
- Provide reasonable adjustments and flexible support so students with disability or additional needs can fully participate in school life.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

- Strong cultural connections through the Nukunu Language Project and Yarning Circle.
- Inclusive curriculum with Aboriginal cultural perspectives
- Support from our AET (Aboriginal Education Teacher) and ACEO (Aboriginal Community Education Officer)

CONTACT FOR SUPPORT

Parents and carers are always welcome to discuss their child's wellbeing or learning with our Student Wellbeing Leader, Inclusion Leader, or leadership team.

Please contact the front office to arrange a meeting or conversation.



Our commitment to student wellbeing extends beyond the classroom, providing a range of supports and activities to help students feel safe, included, and ready to learn.

OTHER WAYS WE SUPPORT AND ENGAGE OUR STUDENTS

Daily Check-Ins:

- Each day begins with a 'morning circle', giving students a chance to share how they're feeling, connect with their peers, and set a positive tone for learning.
- Follow-up daily check-ins help our staff spot students who may need extra care and support.

Wellbeing Programs:

- All classes participate in social skills and resilience lessons, strengthening caring relationships.

Learning Hub:

- A welcoming space for students to reflect, regulate emotions, and seek additional support when needed.

Celebrating Kindness

- We regularly recognise and reward positive behaviours with awards, certificates, and shout-outs at assembly.

Extra-curricular and engagement:

- Clubs, sports, arts, community projects ignite student interests outside the classroom.

Community and Family Partnership

- Families are invited to join wellbeing events (e.g., Harmony Day, VIP Day, Book Week) and stay informed through newsletters and the website.



OUR APPROACHES

At Risdon Park, we empower our students to take an active role in school life, helping them build a strong sense of belonging and ownership in their learning. All students are encouraged to get involved, take pride in their achievements, and have a voice in shaping their school experience. Our approach includes:

- **Leadership** – Student Leaders, House Captains, Thura Kungapa (ATSI) Leaders, Kids Co Representatives.
- **Assemblies & Events** – Students showcase achievements and participate in school assemblies, as well as in special events like Book Week, Sports Day, Reconciliation Week, and the End-of-Year Concert.
- **Learning Beyond the Classroom** – Excursions, camps, Children's University, Kitchen and Garden programs, and swimming all expand learning opportunities.
- **Sport & The Arts** – SAPSASA competitions & carnivals, choir, and dance programs foster team work and creative expression.
- **Clubs & Programs** – Breakfast Club, library activities, and lunchtime clubs encourage students to pursue their interests.
- **Student Voice** – Goal setting, student conferencing, and leadership roles allow students to actively contribute to school decisions and improvement.

Student Agency empowers every learner, building confidence, responsibility, and pride in our school community.



ASSEMBLIES

Whole School Assemblies are held in **Weeks 3, 6 and 9 each term**, on **Fridays** from **2:20-3pm**. They celebrate student learning and achievement. Classes take turns to host, and families are welcome to attend.

BREAKFAST CLUB

- Students are welcome to join us for a healthy start to the day at Breakfast Club.
- Held in the canteen **every morning before school from 8:30-8:45am**.

CANTEEN

- Open 5 days a week with healthy, affordable options.
- Lunches can be ordered via the Qkr! app before 7:30am or through direct.
- Open in the recess break for students to purchase foods.

EXTREME WEATHER

- In extreme heat, storms or rain, students remain indoors in air-conditioned classrooms.
- Families will be notified if bus times are altered due to weather or fire events.

LIBRARY

Our library caters for children from reception to Year 6. Children can access the library to borrow and return books which is done during class borrowing time. Please encourage your child to care for our books and to return them on time.

LOST PROPERTY

- Lost items are kept in the Breakfast Club room.
- Labelled items are returned to students.
- Unclaimed clothing is washed and reused.



TRANSPORT OPTIONS

Drop-Off & Pick-Up

- Supervision begins at **8:30am each morning**. Students can be dropped off from this time and collected at **3:10pm** (or **2:20pm on Tuesdays**).
- Please use the Koala Crossing on Kingston Road and observe the 25 km/h school zone speed limit at all times to ensure student safety.

Bus Travel

- Students who live more than 5 km from the school may be eligible to travel on departmental school buses. Contact Julie Smith at JPSS on (08) 8632 0400.
- Spencer Gulf Coaches (Kent's Garage) operates public transport buses within Port Pirie. For information on routes, timetables or fares, contact them on (08) 8632 2949.
- Transport from Risdon Park PS to afternoon OSCH services can be accessed via these buses.

Bicycles, Scooters & Skateboards

- Students are welcome to ride to school but must wear a helmet.
- Bikes, scooters and skateboards are to be walked within school grounds and stored in the racks behind the Activity Room during the day.



MATERIALS & SERVICE CHARGES

09

Each year, families are asked to pay a Materials & Services Charge to support the cost of resources that enhance learning at Risdon Park Primary School. This charge helps cover items such as stationery, art materials, ICT (computers and devices), and library books.

Materials & Services Charge:

Invoices are sent home at the beginning of the school year and payment is due by the end of Term 1. The cost for **2026 is \$306**. Payments can be made via the Qkr! app or in person at the front office.

Mid-Year Starters:

If your child enrolls at Risdon Park Primary School partway through the year, the Materials & Services Charge will be adjusted on a pro-rata basis. Please contact the office for details about fees and your specific invoice.

School Card Scheme:

Families who hold a concession card or are experiencing financial hardship may be eligible for government support through the School Card scheme, which covers the Materials & Services Charge. Please ask the front office for more information and assistance with your application.

Stationery:

All essential stationery items are supplied for students.

If you have any questions or require support regarding school charges, please contact our friendly office team.



APPLYING FOR A SCHOOL CARD

Government of South Australia
Department for Education

All types of School Card applications are now online.

You can access the online forms from any device that gets internet, including mobile devices, such as tablets and smart phones, as well as laptops and computers.

sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard



At Risdon Park Primary School, we believe that a strong partnership between families and our school is essential to student success and a vibrant school community. We warmly encourage you to become actively involved in school life, as your support, ideas, and participation help make RPPS a welcoming and inclusive place for every child.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

Governing Council

Join the Governing Council to help shape the future of our school. Members provide input on school planning, approve policies, and ensure the parent voice is heard in key decisions. Meetings are held twice per term, and all parents and carers are welcome to attend and participate.

Volunteering

Parents and community members can volunteer in a variety of ways, including reading support, helping in the canteen, assisting with excursions, joining fundraising activities, and more. All volunteers are required to complete relevant Department for Education checks; please contact the school office for details and to express your interest.

Special Events

Our annual events—such as Sports Day, Book Week, Harmony Day, and assemblies—provide memorable experiences for students. Family involvement strengthens our community spirit.

Supporting Your Child's Learning

- Read and talk with your child about their school day.
- Keep in touch with your child's teacher.
- Attend parent–teacher meetings and school events.

For more information about volunteering or joining the Governing Council, contact the Front Office or visit our website.



POLICY	WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW	WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION
BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT POLICY	Our Behaviour Support Policy supports a positive and inclusive school environment through our values, virtues and restorative practices.	For more information, visit our full policy: <i>currently being updated</i> .
ANTI-BULLYING POLICY	Our Anti-Bullying Policy fosters a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment, underpinned by our school values. We collaborate with students, families, and staff to prevent and address bullying through proactive education and restorative practices.	For more information, visit our full policy: RPPS Anti-Bullying Policy (PDF)
ABORIGINAL EDUCATION STRATEGY	Aligned with the Aboriginal Education Strategy 2019-2029, we are committed to creating a culturally safe and respectful learning environment for Aboriginal students and their families	Visit education.sa.gov.au for more information.
ATTENDANCE POLICY	Regular attendance supports learning success. Notify absences by 9am via phone, email or Class Dojo.	For more information, visit our full policy: Attendance At School Policy
UNIFORM POLICY	Our School Uniform Policy encourages all students to wear practical, safe, and school-coloured attire, fostering pride, belonging, and respect for our community. Families can purchase new or donate second-hand uniforms through the school.	For more information, visit our full policy: RPPS Uniform Policy .
SUN SMART POLICY	Our "No Hat – No Play" policy ensures all students wear broad-brimmed hats outdoors during school terms to stay safe in the sun. Students without appropriate hats are required to use designated shaded areas.	For more information, visit our full policy: <i>currently being updated</i> .
GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES	We aim to resolve concerns quickly and respectfully. Speak with your child's teacher first, then leadership if needed.	Visit education.sa.gov.au for more information.
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY	Students use technology safely and responsibly under our Digital Use Agreement.	Visit education.sa.gov.au for more information.
MOBILE PHONE POLICY	Phones must be off and stored securely during school hours. Smartwatches on school mode. Contact the office for urgent messages.	Visit education.sa.gov.au for more information.

STAY CONNECTED

At Risdon Park Primary School, we value strong connections with our families. Here's how you can stay in touch and find the information you need:

Key Contacts

- **Principal:** Julie Petersen
- **Office Phone:** (08) 8632 2226
- **Email:** dl.0685.info@schools.sa.edu.au
- **Website:** risdonpkps.sa.edu.au

Absences

Please notify the school of absences by 9:00am via:

- Phone call to the office
- Class Dojo message
- Email or diary note

For extended absences, please contact the Principal for an exemption form.

Payments

- School fees, excursions and canteen orders can be paid easily through the Qkr! app.
- Cash and EFTPOS payments are also accepted at the office.
- Families may be eligible for School Card assistance — please see the office for details.

Apps & Online Platforms

- **Class Dojo** – classroom updates and quick messages
- **Facebook** – news and celebrations
- **Online Newsletter** – fortnightly via Sway
- **Qkr! app** – school payments and canteen orders

CONTACT HOURS

The administration office is open:

- **Monday to Friday, 8:00am – 4:00pm**

Our friendly staff are here to assist with questions about school life, events and programs.



FAQS (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

What time does school start and finish?

School starts at 8:50am and finishes at 3:10pm. Yard supervision is available from 8:30am. We do have an earlier finish on a Tuesday afternoon at 2:20pm.

How do I report my child's absence?

Please call the school on (8632 2226) or notify us through (Class Dojo) before 9:00am if your child will be away.

What should I do if we are running late?

If your child arrives after the bell, please sign in at the Front Office before they go to class.

How do I communicate with my child's teacher?

You can contact teachers via (Class Dojo), or arrange a meeting through the Front Office.

Can I volunteer at the school?

Yes! We welcome parent and carer volunteers. If interested, please contact the school and ensure your Working With Children Check is up to date.

What uniform does my child need?

School uniform details, including ordering information, are available on our website or from the Front Office.

Are there after school care options?

Yes. Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) is provided by YMCA at the Airdale Primary School site. Please contact (08) 8200 2516 for more information.

How will I know about upcoming events?

We keep families informed through regular newsletters, our website, Facebook page, and the school communication app (Class Dojo).

How are allergies and health-care plans managed?

Please provide up-to-date Health-Care Action Plans to the Front Office and classroom teacher. Contact the school if there are any changes to your child's medical needs.

Who do I speak to if I have a concern?

Start by speaking with your child's teacher. For further assistance, contact a member of the Leadership Team.





OUR VITUES:

WE ARE KIND.

WE ARE BRAVE.

WE ARE PROUD OF WHAT WE DO.

OUR VISION:

"To achieve a school of excellence where children are nurtured and academically challenged to enable them to pursue their aspirations."

When we enrol a child, we enrol the whole family.



Government of South Australia
Department for Education



<https://risdonpkps.sa.edu.au/>



dl.0685.info@schools.sa.edu.au



08 8632 2226



Kingston Road Port Pirie SA 5540

We are kind. We are brave. We are proud of what we do.