THE HUTCHINS SCHOOL
PRE-KINDER/KINDERGARTEN
Additional information for parents of 3 and 4 year old boys
hutchins.tas.edu.au
Welcome to The Hutchins School and our Early Learning Centre

Our constant purpose is to foster and maintain a tradition of developing young men prepared for today’s world and that of the future who are balanced in intellectual, spiritual, emotional, social and physical skills; are in possession of knowledge and attributes and a love of learning for life, and willing to serve their contemporaries and the wider community.

**OUR VISION** Hutchins provides an inspirational education where each boy strives to achieve his personal best and is willing to serve his community as an informed and active citizen; locally, nationally and globally.

**OUR MISSION** Hutchins is an Anglican school whose supportive learning community works together to build character of boys.
Kindergarten Philosophy

Our programs are built upon the foundation of learning through play. The programs that are implemented in Kindergarten and Outside School Hours Care are designed not only to be fun, but to provide interesting, diverse and challenging experiences that encourage children to be who they are, to learn more about themselves, and to develop self-esteem, independence and confidence through play.

Our programs are inspired by the Reggio Emilia Philosophy. Our Kindergarten features a curriculum created around The Hutchins School objectives and Belonging, Being and Becoming – The Early Years Learning Framework, and My Time, Our Place – Framework for School Age Care in Australia. Children are actively involved in the program planning process, either through direct initiation of activities or through staff-guided experiences designed in response to the needs and desires of the children. We also provide a wide range of free play activities designed to allow children to express their creativity, use their energy, and engage with one another actively and appropriately.
Arrival and departure

- Our 3 and 4 year old program is between 8.20am to 2.30pm.
- Your son must be dropped off and collected from the classroom by a parent or carer over 18 years of age.
- The daily attendance book needs to be signed on arrival and departure.
- If changes are made during the day in relation to the person collecting your son, staff must be notified before departure.

Parking

The Early Learning Centre has limited parking spaces for Kindergarten parents to quickly escort the boys to and from the classroom for signing in and out. These parking spaces are not for long term parking.

Absences

If your son is to be absent please notify Early Learning Centre Reception on 6221 4313 before 9.00am each day of his absence.

Illness or injury

Any illness or injury that has occurred with your son should be communicated to staff at drop off time.

What to bring

- A Hutchins school bag
- Spare uniform – all boys need to have one set of spare clothes. Hutchins gold polo top, shorts and tracksuit trousers, spare socks and underpants.
- Recess and lunch in a lunch box
- Early morning sugar-free, healthy snack
- Drink bottles – we prefer the boys to have water
- 3 year olds are to have black Velcro runners and gumboots
- 4 year olds are to have black Velcro runners and black school shoes
- Legionnaire hat as per school uniform (worn in Terms 1 and 4)
- Any security items your child may need are welcome
- Two packets of wipes and tissues

Naming items

Please ensure clothing, drink bottles, lunch boxes and any other personal belongings are clearly named.
Hutchins is a busy school community with many things happening throughout the year. Email forms part of our communication, along with Rory, our school communication portal. There will be times when you will receive school notices in your son’s bag – please look out for them.

Excursion forms will be sent home in the front pocket of your son’s school bag and must be signed and returned to school.

A regular newsletter will be emailed to you with highlights of your son’s week at school.

Please visit our school website for general information and to learn about our many annual school events.

**Contact details for our Kindergarten teachers**

**Mrs Maria Blight**
Pre-Kindergarten – 3 year olds
maria.blight@hutchins.tas.edu.au

**Mrs Lee Burman**
Kindergarten
lee.burman@hutchins.tas.edu.au

**Mrs Stella Daglas**
Kindergarten
stella.daglas@hutchins.tas.edu.au

**Early Learning Centre Reception**
6221 4313
8am–4pm Monday to Friday
‘The first five years have so much to do with how the next 80 turn out’

– William H Gates Sr (Co-Chairman of Thrive by Five)
Health and safety

Sunscreen
Hutchins is a SunSmart school and we provide sunscreen for the boys. If you prefer your son to have a particular brand of sunscreen we are happy to use the sunscreen you provide. If for medical reasons you wish your son to not have sunscreen protection please inform staff.

Toileting
Boys need to be toilet trained. We are prepared for accidents but do not have facilities for nappy changing and therefore expect all boys to have graduated to wearing underwear before attending school.

Medication
If your son requires medication to be administered during the day you will need to complete a medication form and give the medication to the classroom teacher.

Medication will only be administered if it is in its original, labelled container and accompanied with a completed medication form.
Allergies, asthma and diabetes require an Action Plan from your son’s doctor before commencing school. Medication must be in its original container with a chemist’s label stating your son’s name and dosage and must not be left in your son’s bag.

Non-prescription medication will only be administered according to the label.

**Illness**

If your son is unwell and displays any of the following symptoms you will be required to collect him from school as soon as possible: diarrhoea, vomiting, head lice, discharge from eyes or ears or a temperature over 38 degrees.

**Infectious diseases**

In the case of infectious diseases you will be advised of applicable exclusion times.

Please note: in most of these cases there is a minimum 24 hour exclusion period.

**Immunisations**

On first enrolling at Hutchins an immunisation certificate (Health Record Booklet) or other proof of immunisation must be produced to the School. All subsequent immunisation information must also be provided.

**Day-to-day**

**Rest time**

Both 3 and 4 year old boys are offered a rest. We have compulsory quiet time in the afternoons when the boys are encouraged to listen to stories or music. They can choose whether they sleep or not at this time. If you have specific requests regarding sleeping please speak to us.

**Birthday celebrations**

We are happy to celebrate your son’s birthday at school with his friends. Please check with your teacher regarding any allergies before providing cakes or treats to share. Hutchins is a nut safe school.

**Excursions**

Excursions are a valuable part of our program providing opportunities for the boys to get out and about, and explore our wider community.

**Lunch orders**

Lunch orders from the School canteen are available daily for your convenience.

**Stationery**

All classroom teaching supplies are ordered and delivered to the School before your son begins the school year. These will be charged to your account.
Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)

Our Outside School Hours Care is located upstairs in the Early Learning Centre. We cater for boys (and girls during Vacation Care) between the ages of 3 and 12 years, and operate on ratios of one staff member per 10 children for ages 3–5, and one staff member per 15 children for ages 6–12. The service is operated by a team of staff with both qualifications and years of experience in Children’s Services.

Our program aims to help children feel our centre is a place where they belong; a place where they can be who they are and become who they want to be.

Our free play resources include Lego; police, fire and ambulance Duplo sets; hama beads; zoobs; toy pirate ships; train sets; a marble run; table tennis, pool and air hockey; puzzles; games; a puppet theatre; dress ups; a home corner, outdoor games and sport, two playgrounds and much more.

During Vacation Care, we offer a combination of these activities, and excursions for 3–12 year olds. Excursions are undertaken as often as possible and form an integral part of the service we offer. We believe holidays should be a time for children to relax, have fun and engage with new and exciting experiences every day.

For more information on our OSHC or Vacation Care, please contact Mr Benjamin Searle on 03 6221 4212 or oshc@hutchins.tas.edu.au.