

Kindergarten Parent Information Night 2017



Teachers

KA Mrs Emma Atkinson and Mrs Mary-Lou Johnston

KT Miss Katarina Tomasic

Kindergarten at St Mary's

Kindergarten is a time for a child to adjust to school. Becoming a member of a class is a significant step for any child. A child cannot make the necessary adjustments, and settle into school with only the support of the teacher. Your child needs constant praise, encouragement and patience from you. Your role as a parent is vital.

Regardless of age, each child entering Kindergarten is an individual, bringing with them their own level of readiness for learning. While some children will be ready to begin formal learning, others may take longer to settle in. Each child will be given time to mature socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually. Our aim as Kindergarten teachers is to instil in all children an awareness of themselves as an individual and a feeling that they are a worthwhile and special person.

Kindergarten Rules

At the beginning of this school year Kindergarten children have looked at the rights and responsibilities of the members of our school community using our school motto:

Care Always Respect Everyone.

In the classroom we expect the children to follow the 6L's in order to enhance their listening and therefore their learning and the learning of others.

6 L's

Look at the speaker
Listen to the speaker
Lips stay closed
Legs stay still
Laps are where your hands stay

If we follow these rules then we will **Learn**

Classroom Rules

Always put your hand up
Walk in the classroom
Listen when people are speaking to you
Speak nicely to others
Keep your hands and feet to yourself
No hurting others
Always use your manners

2017 Kindergarten Curriculum

Religion

Your child will be led to discover their own uniqueness so they will appreciate their life as a gift from God. They will give praise and thanks to God for the special gift of life. They will attend Mass celebrations and learn simple prayers, both formal and informal. Children will also participate in a weekly meditation session.

English

Our English program addresses the learning outcomes stated in the early levels of the K-6 English Curriculum. It ensures that all students have access to effective early literacy instruction from the moment that they start school. It combines systematic instruction of critical concepts embedded in the context of children's literature. It incorporates shared reading, guided reading, independent reading, modelled and independent writing, reflection and the sharing of joint and individual work.

Mathematics

In Kindergarten children will experience hands-on activities which develop their understanding of Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, Statistics and Probability, and Working Mathematically. Through guided investigations, the children develop mathematical vocabulary and the skills necessary for working independently and in groups to solve problems or complete tasks. Mathematical learning is about children having the confidence to take risks and to construct ideas from their experiences.

Physical Education

Every Thursday children will participate in a sport lesson with a specialist teacher, Miss Vanessa Gonnet. Each Friday, both classes will also have a class sport lesson. During these sport times the children will develop gross motor skills (using whole body and limbs) by participating in activities such as walking, running, skipping, jumping, hopping, crawling, rolling, rocking, kicking and balancing in different ways. Ball handling skills, games and dance are also an important part of the sport program. Children will need to wear their school sports uniform every Thursday and Friday.

Personal Development and Health

During Health this year Kindergarten children will develop an awareness of how to keep healthy and safe. They will focus on topics and learning experiences such as the Positive Behaviour Program, The APEEL Program and Protective Behaviours.

Creative Arts

- **Music**

Every Thursday the children receive a formal music lesson with a specialist music teacher, Mrs Michelle Dennis. This is in addition to daily singing, listening, moving and playing activities in the classroom.

- **Drama/Dance**

Every Thursday (KA) and every Friday (KT), the children receive a formal drama/dance lesson with a specialist drama/dance teacher, Mrs Belinda Kirkness. Improvisations, movement, mime and storytelling are all included in the drama/dance program.

- **Visual Arts**

In this subject area children will participate in painting, drawing, modelling, moulding, photography/digital forms, using paper skills, cutting and pasting.

Science and Technology, History and Geography

Throughout the year the following topics will be studied:

Term 1: Personal and Family History (HSIE - HISTORY)

Term 2: Staying Alive (SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY)

Term 3: People Live in Places (HSIE - GEOGRAPHY)

Move It! (SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY)

Term 4: What Should I Wear? (SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY)

Developmental Play

During Developmental Play children will have opportunities to talk, listen, share, practise fine motor skills and cooperate with classmates. English, Maths, H.S.I.E and Visual Art outcomes will be incorporated into developmental play activities. Please note that we cannot run developmental play if we don't have adequate parental assistance. Developmental Play will commence in Term Two.

Library

Children will be able to borrow picture books from the library every Wednesday. Please ensure your child has their library bag as they will not be able to borrow without one.

Technology

Technology is used as a learning tool in our classroom. We have two interactive whiteboards, i-Pads, digital cameras and laptops for the students to use. All efforts are made to ensure the safety of your children when using the Internet and students have a procedure to follow if they encounter inappropriate sites or things that make them feel uncomfortable. It is very important that similar measures are in place at home. Students, with their parents, are asked to sign a contract for appropriate use of technology, which outlines their rights and responsibilities, and the consequences of misuse.

Crunch 'n' Sip

As a way of encouraging healthy eating habits, Kindergarten children will have a fruit and vegetable snack break at 10.00 each morning. Schools that have introduced this healthy morning snack have seen an increase in children's alertness later in the morning session and throughout the day. For children to participate in this healthy morning snack we would ask that each child brings to school a small piece of fruit that is cut up and can be eaten in ten minutes with hands only. Please do not send forks or fruit cups containing syrup.

Pick Up and Kiss

In the case of extreme wet weather, “Pick up and kiss” will be cancelled. Parents will be asked to park their car and collect their child from lines. There will be signs to indicate “Pick up and Kiss” has been cancelled.

Dismissal Procedures

Children are to remain seated until the second bell has rung at 3.10 pm. We ask that you collect your child rather than having them run to you. Please ensure that each morning your child knows how they are getting home or where they are going after school.

Punctuality/Absences

It is important that the children arrive on time each day as we begin our learning experiences as soon as we enter the classroom. The official school starting time is 8.50am and the dismissal time is 3.10pm. If you wish to stay for morning assembly please stand under the COLA.

Whenever your child is late to school or needs to leave early, an appropriate form from the office must be completed. This is a legal requirement.

While we appreciate phone calls to let us know that children are absent, it is **a legal requirement that we have a dated note signed by a parent or guardian** stating that the child was absent due to illness or family reasons. It would be appreciated if this could be handed to the teacher on the day that the child returns to school after their absence. You may wish to use the electronic absent note on the Skoolbag App for this purpose.

If you plan to withdraw your child from school during term time, for a holiday or for another reason, you must send in a note to Mr Blissenden indicating the dates and length of the time away from school.

Appointments

If you have any questions or concerns about your child we are happy to discuss them with you. Please send a note with possible appointment times or ring the office and we will phone you back as soon as possible. You are also welcome to email us with any questions or concerns and we will endeavour to get back to you via email or phone call as soon as possible.

KA - eobrien6@parra.catholic.edu.au

KT - ktomasic@parra.catholic.edu.au

School Uniform

It is important your child is in full school uniform at all times. This includes the school hat. Our playground rule is 'NO HAT, NO PLAY'.

All articles of clothing, especially hats and jackets need to be clearly labelled with your child's name. If your child is unable to wear any part of the uniform, please let us know in writing.

Community Events

During the year we have liturgies, masses and assemblies to celebrate special feast days and events in our school. We would like to invite you to attend these where possible, as you are also a special part of our community.

Parent Classroom Helpers

We are looking for some mums, dads, grandparents or carers who would like to volunteer their time to help in Kindergarten. We would like to allocate a regular time to assist in the classroom each week.

All helpers must have completed the Child Protection Course. If you have not yet done this course you can complete it online at:

<http://ceo-web.parra.catholic.edu.au/asp/volunteerscpmodule/index.asp>

Homework

As stated in the St Mary's Homework Policy please ensure that you read with your child each night and that they practise their sight words. Constant practise of sight words is essential for their progress with reading.

Reminders

- Lunch orders - Monday, Thursday and Friday.
- Sport uniform days –Thursday and Friday
- Library day - Wednesday
- No birthday cakes please.

Please remember we are an ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL.