



St Benedict's Primary School

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Junior Primary (Kindergarten to Year Two) Parent Information 2017

Welcome to the 2017 school year!

We have been enjoying getting to know each of the students and focusing on setting up the year so as to experience as much success as possible. We look forward to making the 2017 journey with you and your child.

The information provided below is designed to help you understand some of the things that will be happening in Junior Primary this year.

Current Timetable

- Our English block is in the morning until recess. Mathematics takes place after recess followed by Religious Education. Our afternoon sessions include History, Geography, Science, Physical Education, Health and Art.
- The first two weeks focus on developing a positive classroom environment and skill building, in particular, fine motor skills and social skills. This is important in establishing expectations, effective group dynamics, routines and trust as we begin our journey together.

Religious Education and Sacraments

- Religious Education (RE) is taught in every class, with the content based on the curriculum document *Treasures New and Old*. RE lessons are sometimes about the masses and liturgies our classes are preparing.

Reading

- As in the past we will run "Parent Reading Workshops" during which we will address how you can help your child with reading at home. These workshops will be held in the school library and the same content will be presented at each. The dates for these workshop are;
 - Week 4 Thursday 23rd February 3:30pm – 4:15pm
6:15pm – 7:00pm
- Your child should be reading for 10 - 20 minutes 3 – 5 times a week.

- They should read a mix of levelled books from school ('readers'), library books and their own books from home.
- Readers should be **returned to school each day** for paired reading in the classroom.
- The students will change their readers each day and choose these themselves in order for them to maintain an interest in what they are reading.
- Reading at home should be fun and involve a parent reading to the child in order to model reading skills. This time can be the best 10 minutes of your day!

Writing

- Writing continues to be a major focus for the school this year. The children participate in daily free writing sessions where they are encouraged to put their thoughts on paper in order to become creative and independent writers.
- Each of the children have an 'author's notebook' in which they explore writing and their role as a writer. This book allows the children to write without the pressure of perfection.
- During the writing process the teachers will conference with the children about their writing but will not mark the page. These conferences also involve the children setting goals for their writing.
- Your child will regularly choose pieces of their writing to edit, publish and celebrate for their 'Publication Celebration'.

Mathematics

- Mathematics is a daily experience. Students are encouraged to make links between Mathematics learning and their everyday life and environment.
 - 0 – 20 is the focus in Number in Kindergarten
 - 0 – 100 is the focus of Number in Year One
 - 0 – 1000 is the focus of Number in Year Two
- In Kindergarten and Year One Mathematics lessons are based on programs such as 'Count Me In Too', with Year Two making the transition from 'Count Me In Too' to 'Working Like a Mathematician'. These programs support the implementation of the Australian Curriculum.

Homework

- Homework will be a revision of what is taught in class.
- Kindergarten students will receive sight words as needed as part of their homework.
- Year One and Year Two will receive 30 minutes homework **a week**, made up of literacy and numeracy activities.

Gross Motor / Gym / Dance

- Gymnastics will run on Mondays in Term One.
- Gross Motor, a perceptual motor program, will run from Term Two.
- Dance will run in Term Two from Week One.

Parent Representatives

We enjoy working with the Parent Representatives in our class.

- The role is to assist the teacher in developing a school / home partnership and developing community within the class group.
- Parent Representatives will ask for assistance from all parents to help with such activities as morning teas, class social events, beginning and end of term cleaning, in-class helpers / roster, class contact list, class excursions etc.
- Please feel free to talk to the Parent Representatives or your classroom teacher if you have a skill, talent or desire to assist in any way.
- For contact purposes the Parent Representatives will require email addresses and will make a request for this in the near future.

Parent Helpers

Parents are always welcome and encouraged to help in the classroom. Please feel free to help when you are available. This does not have to be a regular timetabled event. Any help, big or small, is appreciated and valued. Under ACT Legislation, a current **Working With Vulnerable People** card is required (details on how to obtain this available at the front office) to work with children. This card must be presented to the front office in order for a copy to be kept on file. If you are able to help on a one-off occasion (i.e. carnivals), a statutory declaration is acceptable. These are also available at the front office.

Items to bring in

We ask that every child brings in a paint shirt/smock (if they haven't already done so), a box of tissues, play dough (kinder only) and a range of magazines.

Thank you for your on-going support. We are looking forward to a wonderful year at St Benedict's.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any concerns or queries.

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