

# Pre-Primary 2017

## Parent Information



**St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Pinjarra**

**[admin@stjoespinjarra.wa.edu.au](mailto:admin@stjoespinjarra.wa.edu.au)**

**[www.stjoespinjarra.wa.edu.au](http://www.stjoespinjarra.wa.edu.au)**

**Phone: 9530 5500**

**Teacher:**

Miss Amanda Gorman

**Teacher Assistant:**

Mrs Georgie Harley

**Specialist Lessons**

The children will attend 5 specialist lessons (50 mins each) per week.

**Sports** – Mrs Catherine Ziegelaar

**Science** - Mrs Catherine Ziegelaar

**The Arts** – Mrs Nila Poasa

**Italian** – Mrs Luciana Lewis (Signora Lewis)

**You Can Do It** - Mrs Luciana Lewis (Signora Lewis)

- **Homework folder (red) is required to be at school every day.** Notes and special work will also be kept safely inside.
- Please ensure your child is dressed in their Faction Sport Uniform (coloured shirt) on sport days - **Tuesday**.
- Each child is required to bring their St Joseph's library bag (blue) and return previously borrowed books the day before library day in order to borrow new books.
- **Before/After School Procedure** - Don't forget early close on Mondays @ 2:20pm
- In Pre-Primary we encourage the children to be independent thinkers and problem solvers. You are welcome to accompany your child into the classroom for the morning routine, however, please refrain from 'organising' them. It is their responsibility to know what is needed and to get ready. We appreciate your help with this matter.
- Please ensure that your child has:
  1. A good breakfast
  2. A drink of water
  3. Been to the toilet
  4. Blown his/her nose
- Please have your child at school before 8:30am each morning as it is very important that s/he is present for the beginning of the school day to carry out routines and set up for the day's learning.
- From 8:15am children are allowed to play on the Pre-Primary/ Kindy equipment under the supervision of a parent or caregiver.
- Children will enter the classroom through the door on the veranda side and **"Crunch&Sip" and homework folders come inside.** They are then placed in your child's pigeon hole. Lunch orders and notes are to be placed in the various baskets. **Lunch boxes and hats remain in the children's bags outside.**
- Students are then requested to wait on their 'magic carpet spot'. Children will then be ready for the day to begin.
- Children will be dismissed from the classroom at the end of the day when a parent/guardian is present to collect them. They are not permitted to leave the classroom under any other circumstances without prior arrangements. Please contact Christine in the office for further details.
- If your child is catching a bus, please notify the office. A bus buddy will be allocated and our records will be updated.
- **A communication diary for daily travel arrangements** is located near the PP entry for play dates etc. Please ensure that we are made aware of these arrangements at all times, and if your after school plans change throughout the day, please call the school in good time so that we (and your child) can be notified.
- **Please complete the permanent afternoon travel arrangements (e.g. day-care or bus) poster on the classroom window ASAP for our records.**

**Parent Contact and Communication** - **It may be hard to catch me before school.** As you can appreciate, it is very hectic in the mornings and I want to give you my full attention, however, any information that you think may affect your child at school that day is very important to me so please do not hesitate to tell me immediately of any concerns. *If you would like to speak with me in regard to an issue which may be more involved, please give me notice and make an appointment.* You may contact me through the school office.

**Crunch&Sip®** - is a set break to eat **fruit or salad vegetables** and drink **water** in the classroom. This 10 minute break allows the students time to 'refuel' with fruit or vegetables during the morning at approximately 9:30am. Each child has a *small* clear bottle of water in the classroom to drink throughout the day to prevent dehydration. Please ensure the fruit/veg is **cut, prepared and ready to eat**, and the water bottles are filled. If you are unable to provide fruit/veg for Crunch&Sip, please do not provide other snacks as a substitute – they will have to wait until recess. For more information go to <http://www.gofor2and5.com.au/> or <http://www.crunchandsip.com.au>

**Recess and Lunch Items** –Please provide your children with healthy recess/lunch items and minimal treats – packaged items are strongly discouraged and we do not consider lollies or chips to be suitable lunchbox items. One small and easy snack is required at recess, such as a piece of fruit, yoghurt or sultanas. We expect children to bring a sandwich (or similar) for lunch and we will ask them to eat it first before any other items. You may need to remind your child what to eat and when. Please consider that we are a nut and egg friendly school so do not give your child peanut butter or other items containing nuts and boiled eggs. Remember – go for 2 fruit and 5 veg every day!

**Canteen Orders** – The school canteen is open for lunch orders on Mondays and Fridays. Pre-Primary Students are able to order snacks (not ice-creams) at recess and lunch time which will be delivered to the classroom, however, siblings are not permitted to purchase for Pre-Primary students. The canteen menu will be sent home in Term 1.

### **Late Arrivals/Appointments**

**If your child arrives at school after 8:40am, you will be required to take him/her to the front office to sign in and receive a yellow slip and a visitors badge before bringing him/her to class.** We would appreciate notice of any prior arrangements, such as appointments, in advance please. If your child needs to be picked up during school hours, our school policy requires you to meet your child at the office in order to sign him/her out. Upon returning to school, you are required to sign your child back in at the office and receive a visitors badge before returning your child to the classroom.

**Absentees** – It is a government requirement that we keep daily records of children at school, therefore a written note is required for any absences on the day the child returns. This note accompanies the attendance register and must include your child's name, date absent, reason for absence and a signature. It is not enough that the school has verbal confirmation via phone or text; for legal purposes, a written note must be produced by the child's parent(s) or legal guardian. A pro forma is available for your convenience on the Pre-Primary pin-up board.

**Assembly** – Assemblies take place on Friday mornings at 8:45am. If your child is receiving a merit award you will be notified **via SMS messaging**. We will also perform an assembly item later in the year.

**Parent Helpers** – Your help is needed and appreciated in the classroom. In order to participate in the classroom, you must attend the 'Parent Volunteer Training' to be held at school. Your child and the classroom teacher LOVE to see you join in. Remember to visit Mrs Douglas in the front office and sign for a 'Visitors Pass' before coming to the classroom. A roster will be placed on the PP window. We prefer that siblings do not attend when you are helping in the classroom, as we would like your PP child to experience special time together with no distractions. If you are unable to make other arrangements for a younger sibling, please talk to us and we'll discuss it further. We certainly don't want anyone to miss out if we can help it!

**Uniform** – Pre-Primary students are required to wear the full sports uniform to school, including school socks, hat and bag. Enclosed sandals or sports shoes are compulsory. Please see the school handbook for further information – this is available from the office or school website.

**Spare Clothes** – It is a good idea to pack a spare set of underwear and shorts in case of accidents. These can be left in the school bag.

**Birthdays** - Parents are welcome to bring in individual treats to celebrate birthdays. Cooked egg products such as cupcakes are fine to bring to school. If unsure, please ask us. If you have birthday invitations to hand out, please be sensitive to the feelings of others and place them discreetly into the children's bags.

### **Pre-Primary Curriculum**

During the year we will follow the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), National Quality Standards (NQS) and cover the key learning areas at foundation level as instigated by the Western Australian Curriculum in the planning of programs and the assessment of the children's learning.

**Walker Learning Approach (WLA)** – 'Investigation time' takes place three mornings per week. The aim of the WLA classroom is to promote a sense of wonder, exploration, investigation and interest with a rich range of materials, resources and opportunities in which children can engage. Play and active investigation gives children opportunities to develop physical competence and enjoyment, to understand and make sense of their world, to interact with others, express and control emotions, and develop problem solving abilities. Research shows strong links between play and foundational capacities such as memory, oral language capabilities, self-regulation, social skills and success at school in general.

Children need to be provided with a solid foundation of skill acquisition in order to learn how to learn. We cannot possibly teach the content or knowledge of all there is currently to know in the world, or predict what information will be necessary in the future. We can, however, provide learning environments that offer lots of practise in how to make decisions, initiate ideas, persist, find out, try again, take risks, explore and research in a range of ways that relate to children's own unique interests and endeavours, and to balance this with the areas of content and information that we as educators wish to introduce and provide.

### **Religion**

The children will engage in daily Religious Education lessons based on the guidelines outlined by the Catholic Education Office of WA. Each of the twelve units covered in Pre-Primary runs for approximately three weeks. The children will also be involved in daily prayer, school masses, church prayer services, special feast days and the Fruits of the 'Making Jesus Real' program. It is aimed at encouraging positive habits in the way we interact with each other and enables children to see how easy and rewarding it is to express kindness, appreciation and love on a daily basis.

**Literacy** - During daily literacy sessions the children will be immersed in a variety of texts and will have the opportunity to be exposed to teacher modelling and independent reading and writing. We will be using big books, shared books, e-books and various other literature for Guided Reading and follow up activities. We teach spelling using a synthetic phonics program and explicit instruction in small groups. Children will have the opportunity to participate in 'Reading Doctor', an on-line reading program which allows the children to use the lap-tops and to engage in levelled comprehension activities on a weekly rotational basis. The children will also be exposed to using the iPads during this time. In handwriting we will be focussing on developing correct pencil grip, posture, size of letters and starting points. Please encourage your children to use correct pencil grip and starting points for letters. We will give you a copy of the 'Peggy Lego' formation rhymes for you to practise with your child. If you are unsure, please ask.

**Maths** - The new Australian Curriculum program covers Number and Algebra, Space and Geometry and Statistics and Probability. We will use concrete materials and real life experiences where possible to enhance the children's understanding of the concepts covered.

The other subjects covered are **Health and Physical Education, The Arts (including Music), LOTE (Italian) and integrated Science, Technology and Enterprise, Humanities and Social Sciences and Art.**

**You Can Do It!**

This Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) program is implemented at a whole school level. It is a mental health and wellbeing framework and forms part of the 'KidsMatter' program. It makes a positive difference to the lives of children by providing them with the proven methods, tools and support to nurture happy, balanced kids into the future.

**Homework** – Homework folders (red) are required at school every day. Notes and special work will also be kept safe.

• **Reading**

Term 1 - Semantic Scene (eg, beach, toys). Please follow the explicit instructions provided. These will be changed weekly. Please practise recognising the sounds (yellow – s, a, t, p, i, n) in the mastery folder nightly, and when your child is able to recognise each sound, new sounds will be given. Also, please continue to practise name writing using correct letter formations.

Term 2 - A story book will be sent home for *you* to read to your child each week. There is accompanying questions for each story which will help your child to develop oral comprehension – an essential pre-reading skill. Continue practising recognising sounds and/or blending segmenting sounds in CVC words.

Terms 3/4 - One reading book per week (at your child's level) for your child to read to you. Commence learning sight frequency words when s/he can blend and segment sounds into CVC words.

**Reporting to Parents** - If we have any immediate concerns we will contact you by phone or send a note home. Throughout the year St Joseph's schedules open nights, learning journeys and parent interviews. These are a valuable shared experience based on your child's learning. Two formal Pre-Primary reports will be issued at the end of Semester One and Semester Two.

**Behaviour Management**

In the classroom and the playground, appropriate behaviour is expected at all times. Children who exhibit good behaviour will be verbally praised and/or given an opportunity to earn a class reward (daily prize box).

The **classroom rules** are:

1. Put your hand up to speak.
2. Respect school and personal property.
3. Treat others as you would like to be treated (be kind with your words and actions).
4. Keep to your own space.
5. Listen when others are talking.

**1-2-3 MAGIC**

The whole school approach to discipline is the '1-2-3' MAGIC program. It focuses on the following principles:

- Start Behaviours - the emphasis is on encouraging good choices. Children will be offered praise and may be rewarded by moving up the classroom reward chart.
- If a child makes an inappropriate choice, his/her name will be moved onto 1 as a reminder. If the child continues to behave inappropriately, they will move their name to 2. If the child moves their name to 3, then s/he will be placed into three minutes 'time out' within the classroom to think about their choices. If this occurs three times within one day, the office will be notified and the parent/s will be contacted.
- Stop Behaviours – the emphasis is on keeping others safe and showing respect. They are:
  1. Not breaking things (on purpose)
  2. Not hurting others (physically or emotionally)
  3. Not doing as you are asked
  4. Being rude
- This program is aimed at providing each child with an opportunity to think about their choices in a non-threatening way and allowing them to make the adjustment necessary in order to participate successfully in classroom activities in a way that is fair to everyone.
- **Children engaging in serious stop behaviours such as hitting or kicking in the classroom or playground will receive an automatic and immediate time out.**
- The chart will renew each day.

School is only one part of the puzzle! We must all work together in order to achieve the best for your child. It is vital that every child has the opportunity to read with an adult on a daily basis as well as having suitable reading material available at home so that he/she is able to be exposed to literature for pleasure. We cannot over-emphasise the significance of reading to your child every day. We also recommend visiting the Pinjarra Library to borrow some 'talking books' for bed-time or in the car. There is a wonderful variety to choose from. The best way to improve your child's reading skills and attitude towards reading is by enjoying reading, being read to and understanding that 'my family thinks it's an important thing to do'.

Thank you for your time and support. We are very excited to be working together and with your children. We look forward to your support in the year ahead.