

Dear Parents

Welcome to Holy Spirit Pre Primary. We hope that this year will be a happy and rewarding beginning to full time schooling, for both you and your child. The first few weeks of Pre Primary are a time for establishing routines and expectations. During this time the children will also be observed and assessed to allow us to find out their interests, strengths and needs. We will then use this information to plan relevant and purposeful learning experiences.

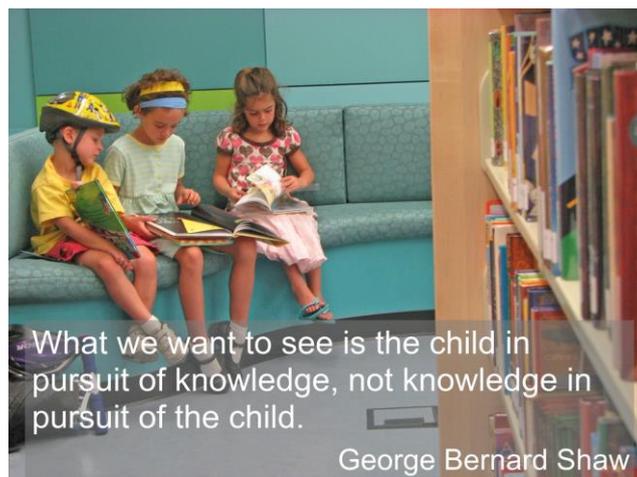
THE PRE PRIMARY PROGRAM:

Our Pre Primary Program is guided by the principles of the Early Years Learning Framework as well as the National Curriculum.

Our program will provide the opportunity for each child to develop at their own rate in the spiritual, cognitive, social, emotional and physical domains. Our work with the children will be based on the best available theoretical and practical general knowledge of Early Childhood Education and in particular the knowledge of child development.

The aims of Pre Primary are:

- a) To help each child develop a positive self-image.
- b) To foster an enjoyment for learning.
- c) To develop the awareness of God in all aspects of every day life.
- d) To promote the development of the whole child; spiritual, physical, emotional, social and intellectual.
- e) To develop early reading, writing and mathematical skills as a foundation for ongoing learning.
- f) To encourage children to become self reliant and to be able to make good choices.
- g) To encourage the participation of parents in all aspects of the Pre Primary program.



What we want to see is the child in pursuit of knowledge, not knowledge in pursuit of the child.

George Bernard Shaw

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY EXPERIENCES:

We believe that play experiences provide rich opportunities for children to learn.

- In **physical** play, a child uses a wide range of body movement skills that is the foundation for more advanced sporting and learning activities.
- In their **cognitive** development, play provides children with meaningful, first-hand experiences that will help them to reinforce their learning and develop their oral language skills.
- In our **social** world today all children need to understand the importance of rules, routines and communication. Through play, children learn how to negotiate and co-operate with others.
- Play provides an avenue through which the **emotional** development of the child can flourish. It helps to build a child's confidence which will give them the resilience to tackle further problems.

Literacy

Literacy development is embedded in all of our Pre Primary learning.

Children will be given a picture book with an accompanying comprehension card each week.

Books can be held for longer than a week if more time is needed.

Parents are asked to read the book two or three times until their child is comfortable with the content then begin asking the questions outlined on the question card. Criteria for appropriate responses are outlined. Tips can be found at the base of the card if your child is having difficulties answering the question appropriately.

Reading books and sight words will be distributed later in the year.

Last year, the school implemented The Sound Waves Program from Pre Primary to Year 6. We will continue to use this program but will complement it with other literacy activities that support this program.

News Roster

As part of our oral language program we will be having different news activities throughout the year. This roster will change to suit your child's development.

Mathematics

The whole school will be using a resource called iMaths to support the implementation of the Australian Curriculum. Investigations and problem solving are at the core of the iMaths program. iMaths investigations build and develop students' understanding of maths concepts, improve their mathematical fluency and problem solving skills, and provide real-life contexts in which they can develop higher-order reasoning.

Outside Play

Through outside play, children have the opportunity to develop their gross motor and social skills as well as reinforcing other skills and concepts taught in the classroom, particularly in the areas of literacy, maths and science.

Specialist Teachers

The Pre Primary students will be involved with the school's specialist teachers in Library, Physical Education, Music and Italian on a weekly basis.

Assessment and Reporting

At the beginning of the year each child will participate in the On Entry Assessment Program. The results of this assessment will be made available to you during our first term parent interviews. Other ongoing observations and assessments occur regularly to assist us in our planning. A formal report will be sent home at the end of Semester One and Semester Two.

Behaviour

There are simple classroom rules that children are expected to follow so that everyone has an equal and fair chance to participate within a positive learning environment. All children will become aware of these classroom rules. We encourage parents to discuss with us any information that they feel will help us understand and help their child.

So often, children are punished for being human. Children are not allowed to have grumpy moods, bad attitudes, disrespectful tones, or bad days, yet we adults have them all the time. None of us are perfect, and we must stop holding children to a higher standard of perfection than we can attain ourselves.

fb.com/PositiveParentingToddlersandBeyond

OUR PRE PRIMARY DAY

Monday – Friday

8.30pm – 3.10pm

The classroom door opens at 8.30 am and we encourage you to come in, settle your child and share an activity with them. The class bell will then ring at 8.50am to commence our day.

Please ensure that you are on time as children become quite distressed when they miss out on part of their day and it affects the overall running of Pre Primary.

Absentees

If your child is unable to attend school, you must provide a written explanation.

Pick up authorisation:

If your child is to go home with someone else, please write the relevant details in our communication book and then sign it. We will not release a child to unauthorised persons.

What your child needs to bring to Pre Primary:

- A durable school bag to carry a snack, work, lunch, notes, etc. each day.
- A sun hat.
- A drink bottle containing water only.
- Morning snack – piece of fruit or vegetable and another healthy snack such as cheese and crackers, yoghurt etc. **Please no chips, biscuits, nuts etc.**
- Lunch – healthy sandwich or similar and maybe a small snack.
- A spare change of clothes (suited to the season).
- In Pre Primary we encourage healthy eating habits and you can support us by packing healthy snacks and limiting ‘treats’ to afterschool. Please do not send any foods which contain nuts in them, including museli bars etc.

Please ensure all items are clearly labelled with their name.

On the first day please bring your **booklist items**, no need to name these, as they are shared within the class.

CLOTHING:

If your child is going to play and work productively, he or she must be comfortable. Please ensure your child wears *play* clothes and sensible footwear. Hats and sunscreen are necessary during the hot weather as we do spend time outdoors. We suggest that hats are kept in school bags due to our rule – **“NO HAT, NO PLAY”**.

PARENT HELP:

Help from both parents is welcomed and appreciated. This is a very important part of our program. We ask that only one parent per session on roster unless special arrangements are made with the teacher. The session, for parents, is from 8.30am to 11.00am approximately. Please fill in the parent roster calendar found at the entrance to Pre Primary. A parent roster will begin in Week 3, to allow the children time to settle into their new environment. When on roster, you will be allocated an activity to assist with.

If you have any special skills, talents, interests, or ideas that will enhance our Pre Primary programs, please let us know - e.g. playing the guitar, cooking, painting, sewing, woodwork etc. One of our aims is to involve parents as much as possible in the children's programs.

In the interest of child development, it is asked that when parents come on roster, they allow the children do the "activities" for themselves. The Pre Primary aged child learns best about the world around them by "doing". [Remember that all children will learn at their own rate. This may be faster or slower than others].

For the above reason, we make it a policy of the classroom that parents do not discuss other children in the Pre Primary environment. Comparison of children only leads to problems for parents and children themselves.

PARENT TEACHER COMMUNICATION:

We consider communication between Pre Primary and home to be very important. We will keep you informed about our class through our class newsletters, emails, noticeboards and the school newsletter.

If you would like to meet with us, please feel free to make an interview time to discuss your child's progress or any issues you may have. It is important that interviews are arranged so that we are able to give you our full attention and be well prepared.

LAUNDRY:

Pre Primary laundry needs to go home each Friday. There will be a laundry raffle each Friday and we ask you to please return the items on Monday.

MATERIALS SENT HOME:

Part of the learning which occurs in Pre Primary involves the children learning to be responsible. During the year certain items such as reading books or notes will be sent home with your child. We instil in the children that it is their responsibility to look after "things" and it is hoped that it will be carried through in the home environment. Please ensure that your child has their Holy Spirit school homework bag everyday.

EXCURSIONS:

Throughout the year the children may go on an excursion to explore the community and environment. Please make sure the school permission slips are returned quickly, so that we have your approval to take your child out of the school grounds.

BIRTHDAYS:

We will celebrate your child's birthday in class. Unfortunately due to allergies it is best that parents refrain from bringing in food on these occasions.

Could you please distribute birthday invitations yourselves, as it is difficult for us, if only some children are invited. Thank you.

Ways to help your child

Your child is a unique individual and our aim is to work with you in providing a stimulating and effective learning environment. Your participation in the following ways is valued:

- a) Listen to your child.
- b) Talk with, not at your child.
- c) Read to your child each and every night.
- d) Take your child shopping. Allow them to use money.
- e) Encourage curiosity and questions.
- f) Build their self-confidence.
- g) Look at signs and print in the environment.
- h) Allow your child to enjoy learning without undue pressures.

The Pre Primary Year in 2017 will be a very stimulating and rewarding year and its success will rely heavily on the good communication and support between school and home.

We look forward to a productive teaching and learning environment in 2017.

Many thanks for your support and co-operation.

Mrs Elisha Martinovich and Mrs Annamarie Willett

