Kindergarten 2016

Welcome
We want the start of school to be an enjoyable and positive experience, giving children (and their families) the opportunities to make new friends and enter into new and exciting experiences.

In our classroom we acknowledge that all children are different; that they learn in different ways and at different rates. We therefore avoid making comparisons. Each child is on his or her own learning journey. We also know that your child’s learning and self-confidence will grow with consistency, structure and positive, meaningful feedback.

We aim for our students to:

- Feel safe and know they belong to a class, school and parish,
- Embrace a love of learning that will continue for their whole lives,
- Develop confidence and independence, become self-directed learners who are curious and take risks,
- Value friendships that are based on mutual respect and our school values,
- Participate in learning experiences that assist them to grow socially, emotionally, physically, cognitively and spiritually, and
- Communicate effectively.
Supporting Your Child's Learning
You can assist your child prior to the start of school by helping them with some of the following:

- Recognising their name. Write a few different names and get them to circle their name. Make it harder by writing ones that start with the same letter,

- Practice writing their name. Get them to trace over your writing if not confident yet. Use a capital at the start and lower case letters, not all capitals please,

- Talk about letters as sounds as well as letter names,

- Continue to read to your child at every opportunity,

- Get them to help you write shopping lists, cards, notes to family, etc.,

- Count at any opportunity, e.g. going up or down steps. Point to things to count e.g. eggs in the carton, legs on a picture of a dog, etc.

Preparing for School
The following activities are designed to help your child feel more comfortable in the first few weeks of school:

- Talk about school in a positive way, especially as the first day approaches,

- Wear new school shoes for a period of time to get used to wearing them,

- Practice opening and closing lunch boxes and drink bottles. Practice packing items back into your bag and zipping up the bag,

- Build expectations of own responsibility,

- Talk about toilets and hygiene (independence when using the toilet).

Useful tips and activities can also be found at these websites:
http://www.nlnw.nsw.edu.au
www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au
Orientation Morning, Monday 2nd November

- In your child’s bag please pack a hat, a labelled drink bottle and a labelled container with a piece of fruit and a snack for recess,
- Come to school before 9am. Please come straight to the Kindergarten classroom,
- Leave your child’s bag on the bag rack,
- Join in with a group playing in the room. Give a cheery farewell and let us know you are leaving,
- We ask that you return to the hall at 11:45 for a short prayer. The children will sit in a circle with their buddies. You are welcome to sit behind your child on one of the chairs provided,
- At the conclusion, please collect your child and return to Kindergarten to collect their bag and head home.

Best Start Interview

The Best Start Kindergarten Assessment helps teachers identify the literacy and numeracy knowledge and skills each child brings to school as they enter Kindergarten. This will inform the development of quality teaching and learning programs.

Between Thursday 28th January and Wednesday 3rd February, Kindergarten students will meet with their teacher for an interview lasting approximately 40 minutes. Parents will be provided with the interview time prior to the end of the current school year.

During the interview the teacher will ask your child a series of questions using pictures, a book and counters and record their responses. Parents may wait just outside the room or return at the appropriate time.

Please bring all labelled and covered books and items for the classroom on this day. Your child’s teacher will take them and have them ready for use when school begins.
The First Day
School begins for Kindergarten on Thursday 4th February. Please arrive between 8.30am and 8.45am. Come straight to the classroom and place a healthy snack (fruit or vegetable only) in your child’s home tub inside the room. Please leave all other food and drink and hat in their bag.

Encourage your child to start one of the activities set out in the room. Let the teacher know how your child will be travelling home. If your child is catching a bus or going with another parent please give your teacher written details of the bus number or the name of the other adult who will be collecting your child.

Say a cheery farewell and let the teacher know you are leaving.

At the end of day please wait in the area between the library and the hall. The children will be brought to you by their teacher. Please do not come to the room or window as this can get distressing for other children who can’t see their parents.

The teacher will start encouraging personal responsibility at this point by getting each child to pack their bag successfully and carry it over to you.

Book Packs
Books and other equipment will be ordered for the children. These can be collected at your best start interview at the beginning of the year. The pack will contain scrap books and labels, pencils and crayons. Each scrap book will need a label attached and then need to be covered in clear contact. Please label all belongings in the book pack clearly with your child’s name. Also label their lunchboxes, water bottle, hat and inside shoes and socks.

Extra Items Needed for School
The following items are not included on the book pack but are also required:

- Paint shirt – labelled (a used adult shirt is good),
- Library bag (A3 size),
- Labelled spare underpants inside a ziplock bag,
- A bottle of liquid soap,
- One box of tissues.

Please bring all these items inside your child’s library bag on their first day.

We are looking forward to getting to know you and your child and welcome you all to our wonderful school.