

WELCOME TO

Kindergarten



2023

TEACHER: Miss Rebecca Hartwell

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Faith Family Friendship



Classroom Teacher: Miss Rebecca Hartwell

Teacher Assistants: Mrs Abbie Battye and Mrs Sonja Tomerini

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Dear Kindergarten Families,

Welcome to St Cecilia's Kindergarten. The Kindergarten Teaching Team are delighted to welcome our new Kindergarten students and their families to St Cecilia's. We are certain that Kindergarten will be a fun and exciting year for everyone.

Miss Hartwell (Early Childhood Educator) together with two Education Assistants (Mrs Battye and Mrs Tomerini) will make up the teaching team in 2023 and we are looking forward to lots of learning and fun. The Early Childhood Education approach focuses on learning through play and exploration to enable children to develop and acquire skills and information. We focus on the development of the whole child, engaging the children in the learning process as well as developing oral language skills, social emotional wellbeing, physical skills, literacy and numeracy skills, creativity and spirituality. We believe that all children have the right and ability to learn and grow, but also that every child is unique. We aim to foster a lifelong love of learning and provide a learning environment that allows children to feel safe, happy, stimulated and challenged.

One of the main ways in which children learn is through opportunities for them to engage in investigations of interest to them. The teacher plans or directs aspects of these investigations with the children and while it may look like they are doing anything they choose, their work is purposeful and linked to specific skills and outcomes. Aspects of Literacy and Numeracy are embedded into investigations, but skills will also be taught and reinforced through explicit instruction times that occur during the day.

Our main aim of Kindergarten is to socialise children. During the first term we will be focusing on familiarising the children with the learning environment, class routine and their classmates. An important and on-going part of this process will be developing the children's social skills to enable them to interact positively with their peers and participate fully in the classroom. We can assure you that learning all of these things is challenging and will take time. Your child will no doubt, be very tired after Kindergarten, especially in the term.

Throughout the year we will be focusing on developing the children's early literacy and numeracy skills. We use a pre-writing program called *'Writing in the Sands'*, developed by Occupational Therapists, to teach correct letter formation. We also use the 'PreLit' program which is designed to complement a play-based learning environment and provides children with a sound foundation for learning to read. The program is systematic, skills-based and taught in a hierarchical sequence and designed to complement a play-based learning environment. There are two main components; Phonological awareness and Oral language development through Structured Book Reading.

Yours sincerely,

The Kindergarten Team 



We would appreciate it if you would read through and keep this booklet for future reference. If you have any other concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to ask.

A little about me..

I originally come from Perth where I have 5 years' experience working at an Out of School Care/ Vacation Care. I have worked with children with special needs and have also spent some time working in long day care as the Early Childhood Teacher. After completing my Bachelor in Early Childhood, I began working at St Cecilia's in 2016.

I moved back to Port Hedland at the beginning of 2018 after spending the year overseas traveling the world and working relief in many different schools across London. I have a younger sister, Karla, who lives in Perth and an older sister, Chantelle, who lives in Queensland. I also have a rescue cat. As she was found on the school grounds, her name is Cecilia. 😊



Class Times

Full time children

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday: 8:30am – 2:45pm

Wednesday: 8.30am – 11.15am
(half day)



Part time children

Tuesday & Thursday: 8:30am – 2:45pm

Wednesday: 8.30am – 11.15am (half day)

**Please refer to the schools website for Term
Planners and updates**

Administration

School begins at 8:30am. The classroom doors will be open to students from 8:20am to allow the children time to organise themselves for the day. Should you arrive at school early, children are instructed to leave their bags on the hooks provided and wait until 8:20 in the undercover area. **NOTE:** No supervision is provided at the school before 8:00am.

The school day ends at 2:45pm when the children will be dismissed from the classroom. Children cannot be dismissed without an adult or older sibling.



All parents and guests entering the school between the hours of 8:30am and 2:45pm are required to report to the front office to receive a **visitor's badge**.

If for any reason you are running late to school, you as the parent are asked to accompany your child to the office and fill out the required **late** book/iPad and bring a **red 'late'** card from the office to the class teacher. Should you need to collect your child from school before the end of the school day, you need to sign them out at the office and collect a **green 'early departure'** card from the front office to take to the classroom teacher.

Allergies

We are an **allergy aware** school. Please notify the school and class teacher of any medical conditions or allergies your child has.



Birthdays

Birthdays are recognised in class and at Thursday morning assemblies. We kindly request that you do not send any cakes, lolly bags or treats to school to celebrate your child's birthday. If your child is having a party and inviting the whole class, please let me know and I can share invitations in black folders.

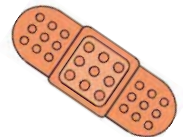


Accidents

Minor Accidents: Will be reported to parent/caregiver when child is collected. Alternatively, Seesaw message can be sent detailing what occurred.

Major Accidents: Parents/ guardians will be contacted immediately to take further action.

If your child comes home with an injury that you have not been informed of, could you please let the teacher know as soon as possible to follow it up.



Morning Tea/Lunch

Please ensure your child has morning tea and lunch packed daily, in labelled containers. A well-balanced diet is vitally important for helping kids grow and develop at the right rate through each life stage. Kids need a positive energy balance and the right range of different nutrients to support their immune system and promote overall wellbeing. Creating healthy eating habits early will help your kids eat well and allow appropriate concentration.



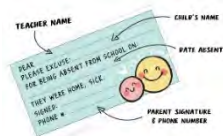
Absences

In the event that your child is ill or unable to attend school, please complete the online absentee form. <https://www.stcecilia.wa.edu.au/online-absentee-form/>

It must please include the following:

- Student name
- Year level
- Date of absence
- Parent signature

If the school has not received an absentee, a SMS will be sent to a family mobile phone notifying you of your child's absence.



Uniform

In Kindy, students are encouraged to wear school uniform. Please ensure students arrive to school with closed in shoes or sandals with a back.



Jewellery/ valuables

We ask that these do not come to school as they might get lost or broken. **Please note that no responsibility is taken for valuables that are brought to school.**



Spare Clothes

Please ensure your child has a spare pair of clothes packed into their bag daily for accidents and water play precaution.



Supporting Your Child's Development and Learning

Name writing

If children are already showing an interest in writing their own name then we greatly encourage this! We strongly encourage that you do teach your child to use lower case letters, except for the first letter, when practising names. Each morning the children will come into the classroom and practise writing their name.

Reading and Writing

Your child will begin bringing home a shared reading book during Term Two. They will receive a new book each week. Each book will have a set of questions relating to the book. These books are to promote and develop your child's love for reading and allow your child to learn that we read for meaning. Please note, these books are not home readers, your child does not have to read the book.

Things you can do to support your child in their reading and writing development include:

- Reading to your child daily.
- Pointing out environmental print when out and about (signs, posters etc)
- Supplying time, opportunity and equipment for drawing and writing experimentation.
- Accepting all attempts and encouraging reading and writing.
- Talk to you/family members about events that happened during the day.
- Complete tasks for you at home that encourage independence (eg helping to set the table)
- Count incidentally (eg when cooking, playing)
- Complete a variety of puzzles and simple matching games.
- Play with play dough, plasticine or modelling clay.
- Use scissors to cut on a variety of materials



Flexischools

All excursions and lunch orders are now placed through Flexischools. There is a website and an easy-to-use phone app. to register on if you haven't yet. The cut off for lunch orders is 8.30am each morning.





Drink Bottle

Individual & labelled drink bottle, to be supplied daily, filled with water only.



Encouraging Independence

In Kindergarten every opportunity is given to develop your child's independence, which develops their self-esteem. This includes things such as learning how to be responsible for their own possessions, dressing themselves and tidying up after themselves.



You can support us in working towards this goal in many ways, including dressing your child in shoes that they can put on independently (i.e. shoes with Velcro instead of laces) and encouraging your child to carry and unpack their own bag. We ask that you try to resist the temptation to do things for your child that they can do for themselves!

Hats

A labelled hat to play in the sun. Hats are left at school on hooks. They can be taken home at the end of each term to be washed and returned the following term.



Sunscreen

Please ensure your child has **sunscreen** applied before school. Sunscreen is available for students to reapply throughout the day. However, students with allergies must supply own sunscreen.



Shared Stationery

All stationery is shared in the classroom. If there is stationery left over at the end of the year then it will be distributed evenly amongst students.

Specialist Teachers

Sport(FMS): Mrs Kristine Lee-Gowland
Tuesday 9:30am – 10:22am



Science & Technology: Mrs Nicole Drysdale
Thursday 9:30am-10:22am



Library: Mrs Cynthia Gona
Thursday 1:05pm-1:55pm



Assemblies

Assemblies are held every second **Thursday morning**(even weeks) at **8:30am** in the Undercover Area. An additional assembly is held every second **Monday morning**(odd weeks) in the Undercover Area at **8:30am**. Kindy's will attend in Semester 2. All parents/caregivers are welcome to attend both assemblies.



Merit Certificates

These are presented to students at Thursday morning assemblies. I will endeavour to inform you the day before if your child is receiving a merit award.



Parent Help

Parent help will occur from 8.30am until recess at 10.22am, although if this time is not suitable I am more than happy to arrange an alternative time. A parent roster will be displayed outside the classroom once children are settled into the classroom routines.



Assistance may also be requested from time to time for excursions and Sport/Science activities.

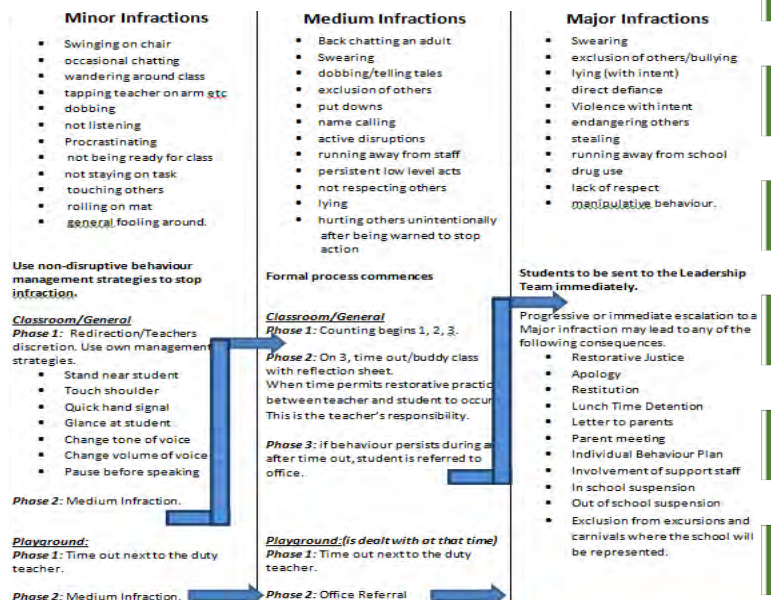
Behaviour Management

St Cecilia's has adopted a 'Restorative Practice' approach to behaviour management. This approach promotes the development of trust relationships between individuals. I use a '1 2 3' behaviour system in class. At the beginning of the year, students agree to follow our class rules that we create together and understand that there are consequences if they don't. Firstly, a warning is given. If behaviours continue, student moves their name to a 1. Then a 2 where students may be asked to go to our "Cool Down Zone" or have some time away in 'buddy' class next door. Next step is for students to move their name to a 3 and will need to spend some time in the office. Students also have the opportunity to work their way off the numbers if good choices are made.



PLEASE NOTE:

This is based on our School-wide Behaviour Management Policy



Positive Reinforcement

ClassDojo: When a child is engaging in a positive action including following an instruction given or using initiative to complete a task, a green dojo bubble may be given. Each child has a goal to reach 5 Dojo bubbles. Once this is reached, that child receives a prize of choice. Their bubble will then return to 0. This allows each child the goal and incentive to be a positive role model in and out of the classroom and to work towards a prize.



Saint Cecilia's Merit Certificates: Handed out at assemblies.

Stamps/stickers: For great behaviour/ great work.

Academic

Early Years Learning Framework: The Framework provides broad direction for early childhood educators in early childhood settings to facilitate children's learning with a key focus on 'Learning Through Play'. It guides educators in their curriculum decision-making and assists in planning, implementing and evaluating quality in early childhood settings. It is made up of five key outcomes: Children have a strong sense of identity, Children are connected with and contribute to their world, Children have a strong sense of wellbeing, Children are confident and involved learners & Children are effective communicators.



Religion: Two units of work will be covered each term. They are specifically designed to help your child understand and develop their relationship with God by drawing on their own experiences and existing relationships. With careful planning, children learn about God and how to live as God wants through all aspects of their environment. Through play-based learning, children are encouraged to understand and apply Catholic beliefs, values and attitudes in purposeful and meaningful ways.



English: The English program is made up of three strands: Language, Literature and Literacy. In Kindergarten, the English curriculum is predominately delivered using hands-on activities. PreLit is the literacy program that will be used in Kindergarten this year. PreLit is an evidence-based explicit model for teaching reading and related skills. The program incorporates daily lessons in phonemic awareness, reading and spelling as well as rich language instruction using children's literature. It also incorporates the key components necessary for early reading instruction – phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.



Numeracy: The Mathematics program is made up of three strands: Number and Algebra; Measurement and Geometry; and Statistics and Probability. In Kindergarten, the Mathematics curriculum is predominately delivered using hands-on activities. Therefore, the children will manipulate concrete materials to consolidate mathematical concepts and understanding.



“Young children whose parents read them five books a day enter kindergarten having heard about 1.4 million more words than kids who were never read to.”

The more that you read,
The more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
The more places you'll go.
-Dr. Seuss

Kindergarten

timetable

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

Educators set up outdoors while students play and assist				
8:15 am - 8:20 am	Class Door opens -Morning Activities-	Class Door opens -Morning Activities-	Class Door opens -Morning Activities-	Class Door opens -Morning Activities-
8:20 am - 8:30 am				
8:30 am - 8:40 am	Morning Mat Session. Say good morning, preview day, weather (date, roll and jobs)			
8:40 am - 8:50 am	Story Session	Story Session	Story Session	Story Session
8:50 am - 9:30 am	Literacy Exploration	Literacy Exploration	Literacy Exploration	Literacy Exploration
9:30 am - 10:22 am	FMS SKILLS with Mrs Drysdale		SCIENCE with Mrs Drysdale	
MORNING BREAK 10:22 AM - 11:00 AM				
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Numeracy Exploration	Story Session	Numeracy Exploration	Numeracy Exploration
12:00 PM - 12:15 PM	Religion Play	11:15 am FINISH	Religion Play	Religion Play
LUNCH BREAK 12:15 PM - 12:55 PM				
STORYTIME WITH MRS PADUA 12:55 PM - 1:05 PM				
1:05 PM - 1:20 PM	Quiet Time		LIBRARY with Mrs Gans	Quiet Time
1:20 PM - 1:55 PM	Investigation*		Investigation*	FUN Friday
1:55 pm - 2:30 pm				
2:30 PM - 2:45 PM	Pack Away + Story Time		Pack Away + Story Time	Pack Away + Story Time

*Investigation includes Health, Geography, History, Aboriginal Studies and any special topics