



ST THOMAS' PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Pre-Kindergarten (Three year old program)



Parent information booklet 2017

ST THOMAS' PRE KINDERGARTEN 2017

Our program encourages children to explore, discover, create, learn and express their ideas while they play. We provide environments that are stimulating, relaxing, safe and open to the possibilities enabling the children feel safe and engaged in a vibrant classroom.

We aim to provide positive relationships and attitudes towards themselves and others. We present educational experiences which flow from indoors to outdoors - and back again – to increase and stimulate the exploration of the world around them.

Our program is designed to meet the children's interests and needs. Our aim is to learn through play, play to learn and have a lot of FUN!!

SESSION TIMES

Monday and Friday 9:00am to 2:45pm

WHAT TO BRING

- a named bag to keep your child's belongings
- morning tea in a named lunch box or bag
- a named drink bottle filled with water
- a named hat
- a set of spare clothes including 2 pairs of underwear
- a pillow with name on
- library bag with name on
- children to wear comfortable clothing that you don't mind getting a little paint, wet and glue on
- one box of tissues for the classroom and one box of wipes
- a A3 black display book / portfolio
- 1 Art Smock

It is preferable that children are toilet trained when commencing Pre-Kindy, but in the circumstance that your child is not, please advise staff and provide wipes and spare pull-ups.

SETTLING IN

For many children the three year old program will be the first time they are away from their parents. It may take some children a little while to settle in and feel comfortable in our class. The staff will work closely with parents to ensure your child is given the best chance to settle at their own pace in their own way. Please speak to a staff member if you are worried about how your child will cope with your departure.

OUR ROUTINE

At the beginning of each session we ask that a parent or accompanying adult complete an activity, read a book or share a puzzle with their child. They can do as many activities as they like, and can work independently or with others. The length of time you need to stay depends on your child and your schedule. When the pack up bell rings at 9:15am we encourage children to pack away and sit on the mat ready for the morning mat session.

We start with our mat session and inside play based learning activities. This is followed by morning tea and outdoor play. After morning play based learning. We then have lunch and outside play. After lunch we have rest/quiet time. Sometimes we visit the library or play sport games on the oval. We return to the classroom for story time/nursery rhymes before we pack away and head home!

COMMUNICATION

Our door is always open if you wish to chat about how your child is going. If you have any concerns or questions feel free to email at any time. Our teacher will check emails at lunch time and after 2:45pm.

Numerous photos are snapped during our sessions to catch magical moments on camera and love to share these and updates from our classroom with you through our blog. You will be invited to our blog upon the commencement of school.

If someone other than yourself is picking up your child, please write it down in the book by the door and notify staff at morning drop off.

We do not have a parent roster, however if you would like to join us for a session, you are very welcome. Please let us know in advance so we can plan activities for you to make the most of your time.

MEDICATION AND ALLERGIES

Please inform staff of any allergies or medical issues. If your child has a serious medical condition requiring urgent medical attention (eg. Anaphylaxis) you will need to contact the school administration and fill out the necessary documentation.

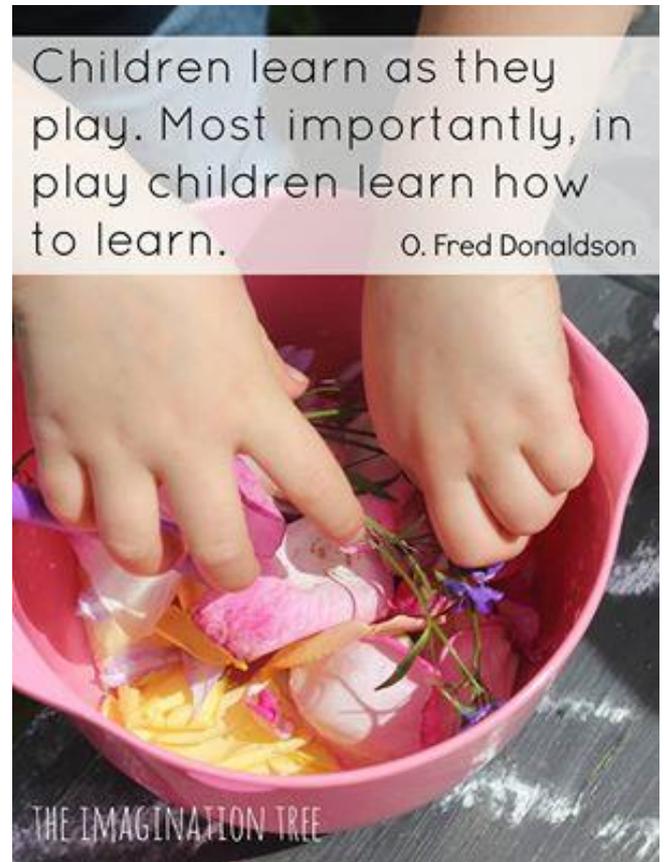
Any medication coming into the school must be accompanied with written instructions from the parent/guardian on a school medication form (available from the school office).

St Thomas is a nut free school. As there are children who are allergic to nuts, any item of food brought into the school must be free of nut products - eg. peanuts, peanut butter, nutella, biscuits and bars.

LEARNING AND PLAY

Play is the instrument for teaching in the pre-kindy program. It will be both spontaneous and planned. The following types of play will make up our program:

- sensory play
- construction play
- manipulative play
- exploratory play
- physical play
- creative play
- dramatic play



When children are playing they are:

- learning to represent their ideas in a variety of forms - talking about their thoughts, constructing, painting, building, drawing and taking on roles
- developing social skills - communicating, caring, negotiating, cooperating and sharing
- accessing and applying prior knowledge through exploration and recreation of events
- developing imagination skills
- acquiring new knowledge about themselves and their world as they play with others
- working at their own pace and at their own level
- building foundations for early literacy and numeracy
- experimenting and making discoveries in a non-threatening way