



St Denis Primary School

KINDERGARTEN

Parent Information Booklet

2024



WELCOME

Welcome to St Denis School and our world of happy, rewarding learning adventures of progressive discovery and achievement for primary students.

At St Denis, holistic education of the whole child is at the heart of our strategic vision. Working with parents as primary educators of their children, we are committed to helping students learn and develop their potential and share in the joys of Christian life with which God blesses us.

In an increasingly complex and challenging world, the education of our students, crucially, is grounded in Gospel values and spiritual and faith growth in synergy with academic achievement and development of social skills and confidence.

Positive and harmonious unity between students, parents, teachers and all members of our school community is promoted and nurtured through understanding, compassion, respect, love of others, and a shared love of God.

I warmly invite you to tour the St Denis website and discover more of how St Denis makes education an enjoyable and richly engaging experience for its students.

Mr Justin Tuohy
Principal



SCHOOL INFORMATION

Address:	2 Orchid Street Joondanna WA 6060
Phone:	(08) 9242 3422
Email:	admin@stdenis.wa.edu.au
Website:	www.stdenis.wa.edu.au
Principal:	Justin Tuohy
Assistant Principals	Casey Bakunowicz Eugene Potito

KINDERGARTEN STAFF

Classroom Teacher:	Mrs Nelly Maiden
Email:	Nelly.maiden@cewa.edu.au
Education Assistants:	Miss Katrina Salter Mrs Lisa Ciffolilli Ms Grace Allen

2024 TERM DATES

TERM ONE	Wednesday 31st January to Thursday 28th March
TERM TWO	Monday 15th April to Friday 28th June
TERM THREE	Monday 15th July to Friday 20th September
TERM FOUR	Monday 7th October to Friday 6th December

Please note: The dates may vary due to Pupil Free Days.
These will be advertised in the school newsletter, planner and website.

OUR PHILOSOPHY FOR THE KINDY PROGRAM

The Kindergarten program aims to create an environment where children learn through free play, discovery, hands-on activities and teacher directed activities, which are appropriate to their developmental level.



The Kindergarten environment aims to:

- Develop a sense of wonder about God
- Allow children to be children
- Provide rich experiences that are stimulating, hands-on, creative and challenging
- Foster in each child an enthusiasm and joy for learning
- Develop their pre-literacy and pre-numeracy skills
- Develop the ability to communicate verbally and non verbally their thoughts, ideas and feelings
- Encourage socialisation and positive relationships
- Develop their fine and gross motor skills
- Encourage a healthy moral awareness
- Make Kindergarten a place where children feel comfortable and valued, in a supportive and encouraging environment.

Our planning is guided by the Early Years Learning Framework and WA Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines and has strong links to the Australian Curriculum. This describes the broad parameters, structure, principles and outcomes required to enhance children's learning from birth to five. It focuses on: play-based intentional learning; the role of teachers in facilitating children's learning; five outcomes and seamless transition from learning in childcare to learning in school.

The Kindergarten program is developed through the interest of the children. During a year, one or more units of inquiry may be covered. Most of the activities, reading material and discussions focus on developing knowledge about the topic. The learning is led by the students, they are encouraged to explore, ask questions and share ideas.

The classroom is arranged into a variety of learning centres in which the children can visit during indoor investigation time. Learning Centres are areas in the classroom focusing on different subject areas and capitalise on the child's natural need to explore and investigate in a hands-on way. Children will also complete teacher directed activities during the sessions.

The outdoor environment is viewed as an extension of our classroom. A variety of equipment is set up each day to help to develop gross motor skills, promote social skills and provide opportunities for learning.

ENROLMENT DETAILS

Please make sure that the office and teacher have current details, such as address, telephone number, emergency contact numbers and any relevant medical information. Please notify the school office of any change to address, phone numbers etc. Enrolment details must be kept up to date.

THE PRE-KINDY DAY



8:45am	Children arrive Outdoor play Mat session/ learning provocations
10am	Morning tea Activities + provocations Library
12:30pm	Lunch Rest- quiet activities Outdoor play Story
2:45pm	Home time

KINDY DAILY REQUIREMENTS

1.BAG: A bag big enough to carry paintings, drawings and constructions

2.HAT: A hat. Please note that the school has a 'NO HAT, NO PLAY IN THE SUN' policy. We collect all the hats in a basket on the first day and keep them at school for the term. Please ensure that your child's hat is labelled.

Please ensure that you put sun-screen on your child every morning to promote sun-safe behaviour. The classroom has a supply of sunscreen kept at the door if you need some.

3.DRINK BOTTLE: A drink bottle that is clearly labelled containing water, so the children may help themselves to a drink throughout the day.

4. MORNING TEA & LUNCH

Please pack your child's morning tea and lunch in a labelled lunch box. They may be packed separately or together eg. in a bento box.

We encourage healthy eating choices to maintain optimal learning. Fruit and vegetables and a small snack eg. cheese or crackers are strongly encouraged as a morning snack.



Please pack food that your child would normally eat for lunch at home. We encourage the children to eat all of their sandwich or savoury food before eating other foods. Any uneaten food will be sent home so you can gauge how much was eaten and was liked and disliked.

Please be aware that there may be children that are allergic to nut products. Please avoid sending any foods that contain nuts or traces of nuts.

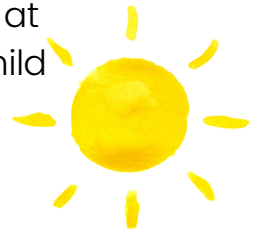
6.SPARE CLOTHES: A change of clothing (suited to the season) should be kept in a labelled plastic bag in your child's school bag to allow us to quickly attend to accidents or spills. Please label all items of clothing.

7.PILLOW CASE: Each child will be supplied a small cushion for rest time. We ask for a small labelled pillow case to cover the pillow. They will be stored at school and sent home for washing at the end of term. At rest time, the children will lie on a small mat and listen to stories or music.

8. LIBRARY BAG: The children will be visiting the school library and will have the opportunity to borrow a book for the week. Please supply a library bag to keep the books safe.

MORNING ROUTINE

The sessions commence at 8:45am and all children will be welcomed at the door. Before the commencement of sessions, please assist your child in placing their bag in the allocated cubby hole located outside the classroom.



Once you have put away your child's bag, please assist your child to:

- put their labelled drink bottle and lunch box in the shelves by the door
- encourage your child to go to the toilet
- put on their hat
- take off their shoes (if they would like to) and put them on the shoe racks provided outside.

Please join us in the playground with your child.

It is very important that each child feels happy and comfortable in the Kindy environment. Please feel free to stay with your child as long as he or she needs you. The Pre-Kindy staff will work closely with parents/caregivers to ensure that your child is given the best chance to settle at their own pace.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to ask the Pre-Kindy teacher.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCEDURES

Parents and children are asked to wait outside the gate when arriving in the morning. The doors will be opened at the session times indicated. Parents must remain with their child until they are admitted by the teacher.

It is important to arrive on time and to collect your child on time, as this will help him or her feel secure.

At the conclusion of our day, we will walk to the Orchid Street Gate for parents to collect their children. We will not release any child to another adult without prior arrangement. If you have arranged for your child to be collected by another family member or friend, please advise us via email. We realise that unforeseen circumstances may arise at times, therefore, if you are unable to collect your child or are running late, please telephone to advise the school's administration office.

If you need to collect your child early, please sign your child out at the school's administration office prior to collecting your child.

PARENT ROSTER

We love having parents assisting in the classroom, however as the children are very young and still adjusting to being away from their parents, we will evaluate when we will introduce a Parent Roster based on how the group is settled. This will be advised at a later date.



If you are staying for the session you will need to sign in at the school's administration office and receive a visitor's badge.

It is preferred that younger siblings are not brought into the classroom to ensure minimal disruption to teaching and learning. It is very important that anything you see or hear while on roster remains confidential. The teacher will inform parents of any incidents, accidents or concerns that may have occurred in the session. It is not the place of parents to pass on confidential matters to other parents as it can be misunderstood or taken out of context. If you have any questions or concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to speak with the Kindy teacher.

'WORKING WITH CHILDREN' SAFEGUARD LEGISLATION

The 'Working with Children' Act, introduced into schools in mid-2006, is aimed at limiting the risk of harm to children from adults entrusted with their care.

Criminal record checks must be obtained by all staff and school volunteers. Volunteers who are parents in the school are not required to provide Working With Children Clearances unless they are going on an overnight camp.

Volunteers over the age of 18 years who are not parents or legal guardians of children in the school may need to have a WWC Clearance – e.g. other relations and friends.

WWC Clearance are valid for 3 years. Forms are available from the school's administration office, or from Australia Post.

CLOTHING

Children need to wear comfortable play clothes that can get messy and that are easy to manage for quick dashes to the toilet. Many of our activities are messy and the children often get dirty or wet. Spare weather-appropriate clothes are essential. Please ensure your child's shoulders are covered, no singlets please.

TOILETING

It is preferable that children would be toilet trained before attending Kindy, however, if a child has an accident, the child will be respectfully cleaned and changed. The clothing will be sent home in a tub at the end of the day.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Please inform us of any condition that may affect your child's well-being, and equally of any circumstances that might affect his/her behaviour on a particular day. This helps us to cater for the needs of your child. Please do not send your child to school if he/she is unwell.

Should your child be unwell or involved in an accident, you will be notified. For this reason, it is important that telephone numbers and emergency contacts are kept up to date at all times.

SETTLING IN

One of the first things your child needs to learn is how to be away from his/her parents or caregiver. Children love coming to Kindy, however there may be an initial period of adjustment at the start and this will be different for every child. It is important that each child feels happy and comfortable in the environment. The staff will work closely with parents or caregivers to ensure that your child is given the best chance to settle in at their own pace.

Please feel free to stay if it is for the good of your child, otherwise be calm, confident and reassure your child. Direct him/ her to an activity or a staff member, say goodbye and then promptly leave. If your child remains distressed after a short while we will contact you and an alternative longer term plan will be implemented.

COMMUNICATION

We consider communication between home and school to be very important. Our first concern is the happiness of your child. Should anything happen at home to upset your child in any way, we would appreciate it if you could let us know.

We will keep you informed about the Pre-Kindy program through Seesaw, notes and a parent notice board. One of our main forms of communication is an App called Seesaw. Each family will be invited by the teacher through email to join the Seesaw group as your child begins the program. The teacher will send notes/ work/ photos and other information regarding the program through this medium, so please ensure you check the App regularly.



The school newsletter is available fortnightly on a Wednesday, on the school website www.stdenis.wa.edu.au and via a link sent through email.

If you have any queries, concerns or information regarding your child's well being, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to meet with the teacher.

MEDICATION

As a matter of general policy, we are not able to accept the responsibility of administering medications without the completion of appropriate forms. You are most welcome to come to the school to administer the medication yourself.

ALLERGIES

Please let us know of any allergies or medical problems, so that an Action Plan for your child may be put into place, if necessary.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

The children are asked not to bring toys or personal belongings to Pre-Kindy as items lost or broken often cause the children undue stress.



BIRTHDAYS

We love to celebrate birthdays in Pre-Kindy. Children are made to feel special on their day, but parents are advised that cakes and lollies are not permitted at St Denis Pre-Kindy as we promote a healthy and nutritious approach to food at school.

ART & CRAFT

Artwork is an important part of our program. Not only is art important for free expression, manipulation and creativity but socially, it develops cooperation with others and appreciation of other children.

From time to time, a variety of re-cycled materials such as egg cartons, greeting cards and fabric scraps will be requested for use in the program. Please check with the Kindy teacher for ideas on what to collect.

We look forward to welcoming your child and family into our
Kindy Program!

