

Matthew Gibney Catholic Primary School
Pre-Primary Information Booklet

February 2024

*Dearest Father in Heaven, Bless us all and
bless this day of new beginnings. Smile upon
this school community, And surround us,
Lord, with the soft mantle of your love.
Teach this community to follow in your
footsteps, And to live life in the ways of
Love, faith, hope and charity. We ask this
through your name, Jesus Christ... Amen*



PRE-PRIMARY CURRICULUM AND CONTENT

Religious Education is taught daily as well as being a part of everything we do at school, from the way we speak to each other and incidental teaching moments through to formal Liturgies and Masses. Family members are always encouraged to join us at these times.

The Pre-Primary day is structured around a dedicated Literacy and Numeracy times, in which the children receive explicit instruction, take part in teacher-led small group activities and have opportunities to investigate through play.

The programme is an integrated one, meaning that much of the work we do may combine two or more subject areas. For example, illustrating a book character may integrate Literacy and Visual Art.

As in Kindergarten, a lot of the learning that takes place is not set down on paper. Playing Maths games, re-enacting stories, writing on whiteboards, using iPads, partner talk, etc. are all very valuable learning activities.

Please feel welcome to make enquiries about your child's learning and/or progress and well-being at any time. I am happy to make appointments before or after school to talk to you.

I am not able to give you my full attention after 8.35am when the classroom is open so please do make an appointment. (If you have something to let me know briefly, that is of course fine.)



Religion

(Topics as mandated by the Bishop)

Church, Lent & Easter, Confirmation, Eucharist, Prayer, Reconciliation, Baptism and Advent & Christmas

Numeracy

Counting to 20 and beyond, from any starting point

Reading and writing numerals to 20

Addition and sharing using concrete materials and pictures

Days of the Week

Measurement (length, mass)

Space -2D and 3D shape

Copy, continue and create patterns

Literacy

Listening and Speaking, Viewing

Recognise and name all upper and lower case letters (graphemes) and know the most common sound (phoneme) that each letter represents

Understand how to use knowledge of letters and sounds to spell words

Know how to read consonant-vowel-consonant words and some familiar words ("high frequency words")

Demonstrate comprehension of texts read aloud

History

Personal and Family Histories

Geography

People live in places

The Arts

MUSIC- to be taught formally by music specialist teacher
(Mrs Teresa Aldred) and informally in class

DANCE- Edudance in Term 4.

VISUAL ARTS- Elements of Design, The Principles of Art and Art
Appreciation to be taught in class.

Technologies

DESIGN TECHNOLOGIES – Using skills to design and produce
solutions to practical problems

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES – Knowledge of digital systems and data

Sport

To be taught by Physical Education specialist teacher

Italian

To be taught by specialist Italian teacher

Science

To be taught by a specialist Science teacher

HOMEWORK

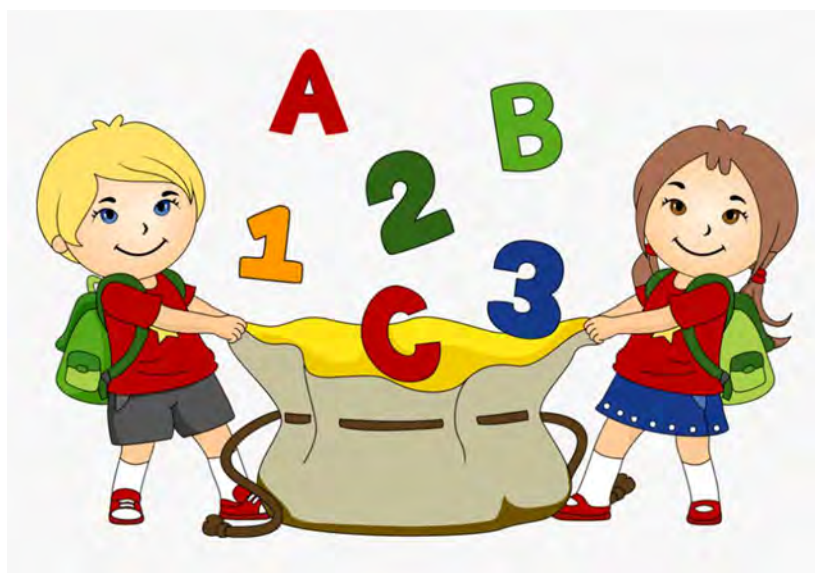
The most important thing for children to do at home is to interact
with family, play and rest.

Occasionally, specific ideas for play (such as numeracy and
literacy games) may be sent home.

Reading with your children as often as possible is our main focus:

Children will bring home books for you to read aloud to them. These are accompanied by cards to give you ideas for things to discuss with your child about each book. They are designed to be read at least twice or more often.

Later in the year, some children will also bring home books for them to read aloud to you, when they are ready to do this. (More information will be given later in the year.)



OTHER POINTS TO NOTE

Library is on a Tuesday and children must return their library book in their library book bag.

Sport will be on Thursday so please ensure that sports shoes are worn.

Arrival and Dismissal

The classroom is open each day from 8.35am from which time children may begin arriving. It is important that they arrive a little **before the siren sounds at 8.45am.**

If your child has not arrived in the classroom by the time the siren has sounded, you are required to go to the office to collect a **blue card before being bringing them over to the classroom.**

Pre-Primary children must be accompanied to the classroom door and handed over to one of the teachers each morning and collected from a teacher each afternoon. Only adults (not older siblings) may do this.



FOOD IN PRE-PRIMARY

Recess Snack

Unlike Kindergarten, the Pre-Primary children bring a snack for Recess (morning playtime) as well as their fruit, see below. We encourage healthy snacks or *small* treats. Many children bring fruit, cheese and crackers, yoghurt, muffins, etc.

Crunch and Sip

The children require a small serve of fresh fruit or vegetable for “crunch and sip time” in the classroom each day. Please note that as they may be eating this in the room, it needs to be something which is not messy (e.g. mango is not a good idea) and which does not require a utensil to eat it with.

*Please make sure this **is packed separately from lunch and recess** so that your child knows it is for Crunch And Sip and can access it easily.* Children bring their Crunch and Sip fruit into the classroom each morning but their lunchbox stays in their bag.



Toys

Children are encouraged not to bring toys of any description to school. Please reiterate this rule with your child if the need arises.

(A special comfort toy or blanket may be kept in your child's bag.)

News

We follow a Literacy programme which incorporates Speaking and Listening in a variety of activities. At times this may include “news” or “show and tell” for a week or two at a time. You will receive information about this when the time comes. In the meantime, children do not need to bring any news items to school.

Birthdays

It is acceptable to bring **one simple treat** such as a small chocolate for birthdays. This will need to be handed to Mrs Moore or myself first thing in the morning for children to eat either at recess or home time. Please remember we try to avoid foods containing nuts. We don't have knives, plates etc. in the classroom for big cakes but cupcakes are fine.



Year 5 Buddies

The Year 5 children help the Pre-Primary children at various times throughout the year. During the year the children are assigned a particular “buddy” (these may change sometimes) and the two classes work on an activity together. We also sit with our buddies for Mass at the Church.

Desks

Children do not have their own desk in Pre-Primary but will rotate through many different tables each day.

They will work in small groups for Literacy and Numeracy and these groups may change from time to time.



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Parent Help

Any parents who are able to help out for a short time once a week to change reading books, please let me know. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Parent helpers will be very welcome in the room later in the term and a roster will be placed on the whiteboard outside Pre-Primary. Please note that it is very distracting if you bring along a younger sibling so please make other arrangements for them.

There will also be other special occasions when parent helpers may be invited to assist either in the classroom (e.g. cooking) or at home (e.g. if costumes need to be assembled).

Pre-Primary Classroom Discipline Policy

I intend to provide an environment within the classroom that is safe enough for the children to feel confident and comfortable enough to take risks, to not fear failure in their learning and to have a sense of their own self-worth and dignity and to show respect for others.

Organisational skills will be developed as these are important in assisting children to feel confident and also to optimise their learning time at school.



I hope to provide an environment that will lead to a love of learning and a sense of belonging to the group by the use of collaboration and cooperation rather than too much use of competition or rewards. I would like the children to begin to develop the ability to self-regulate; to choose to behave in a certain way because they believe it is the right thing to do; and to think about the consequences of their behaviour before acting.

Developing a sense of belonging to the class group by being kind and helpful to each other ("Making Jesus Real") will be the best reward they can receive.

From time to time there may be tangible rewards (such as stickers) and we will also participate in the school Faction competition, in which children receive tokens for their faction when they are seen to be “making Jesus real”.

Included below are a list of classroom rules for Pre-Primary and the consequences for not following them.

1. Use kind words and polite words when talking to others
2. Be kind, caring and helpful to others
3. Take care of school equipment and the safety of yourself and others
4. Allow others to learn without distracting them
5. Use an appropriate voice for the place/opportunity
6. Speak to others respectfully

If a child breaks a rule, the consequence will be

FIRST TIME – verbal warning

SECOND TIME – Five minutes sitting away from the group

THIRD TIME – Work in another classroom for a while and a note in the diary

FOURTH TIME – Call parents and child will speak with a member of the Leadership Team

PLEASE NOTE that if the behaviour results in another child being seriously hurt or involves extreme disrespect to any adult, the fourth consequence may be used without the previous steps. However, this only happens on very rare occasions.

Thanks for your continuing support of our school by your attendance this evening and by discussing the school's values and expectations at home from time to time.

Your partnership is invaluable.

Freda Burgess

