Welcome

St Mary’s Kindergarten/Pre-Primary Staff extend a warm welcome to you and your family for the 2018 school year.

Staff

Principal - Mrs Melissa Marquis

Senior Teacher - Miss Daniela Miotti

Teachers - Mrs Rebekah Lucas

Mrs Lee-Ann Walton - Wednesday only

Education Assistants - Mrs Terri Keefe - Monday & Tuesday
Mrs Natasha Mitchell - Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

St Mary’s School provides an education that endeavours to equip each child with the Christian values and life skills necessary to meet the challenges of a changing world.
Our Kindergarten program focuses on:

- The development of positive attitudes towards learning.
- Promotion of socialisation skills.
- Development of the child’s self-confidence, independence, giving them a sense of achievement in all they do.
- Encouragement of creativity and self-expression.
- Providing opportunities for children to help each other, share with others and respect others’ rights and property.

The program is diverse and all topics and concepts are explored in an integrated way. Through play, the children will be given the opportunity to learn basic skills and concepts, and to learn social skills, respect and develop friendships.

The Kindergarten learning environment in a Catholic school offers opportunities which encourage and facilitate the growth of the whole child, spiritually, physically, emotionally, intellectually and cognitively. The St Mary’s School Community recognises parents as the prime educators of their children and sees itself as a complement to parents in their efforts to develop the faith of the children.
The principles and practices which guide your child’s learning experiences at St Mary’s School are aligned with those from the Early Years Learning Framework. Each child is guided and supported to ensure they develop a sense of Being, Becoming and Belonging.

The content for curriculum of St Mary’s School is planned for using the Western Australian mandated document – The Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines.

The standard of the centre will be assessed to align with those of the National Quality Framework.
Kindergarten classes commence on Wednesday 31 January 2018.

**Attendance:**

It is a requirement that once your child is enrolled in Kindy they are to attend **three days a week**. The three days you choose to send your child are completely your decision although preference would be: **Monday, Wednesday and Friday** as these days best suit programming for Kindy and Pre-Primary students.

In order to keep an accurate record of your child’s attendance, a note detailing the days in which your child will be attending Kindy will be required at the beginning of each term.

If you would like to send your child more than three days a week at any time, this is completely fine.
Arrival and Dismissal

Children are welcome at school any time after 8.30am.
School commences at 8.50am
Recess: 11.00 - 11.20am
Lunch: 1.00pm - 1.40pm
School finishes at 3.10pm

In the interest of safety, children are to be dropped off and picked up on time from the Kindergarten by a parent or nominated adult.
Please notify the Kindergarten teacher, in writing, through the classroom diary if alternative arrangements are made.
We also request that you advise the teacher, in writing, if your child will be attending a Child Care Centre, providing the centre and a contact number.
When dropping off your child please wait in the Kindergarten/Pre-Primary area and remain with your child.
Due to safety reasons, please keep your children off the play equipment before and after school. Your help in this regard is most appreciated.
At the end of each session please wait on the verandah and the classroom door will be opened to allow children to go home.
Morning Routine
Separating From Your Child

On arrival the children will hang their bags on the hooks outside of the classroom.

Please bring your child into class when the doors open, allowing them to choose a puzzle, storybook or activity to complete. Parents may want to spend time with their child to settle them and to make the separation less traumatic.

If your child cries, leave them with the Teacher or Education Assistant. Please leave quickly because for some children the initial separation is hard and staying with your child will only prolong this. Usually when they see their parents are definitely gone, they happily settle down to enjoy themselves. We will contact you by phone if there is a continuing problem with separation.

Parents can make the parting more difficult by being over concerned and by lingering too long. Please do not disappear without saying goodbye as this is upsetting to children.
A parent roster operates in the Kindergarten/Pre-Primary. The roster system allows the parent (mum, dad, grandparent or caregiver) to join in with the child at Kindergarten. Parent help is invaluable to the Kindy/Pre-Primary program, your help and support is appreciated.

The roster sheet will be placed outside the room on a notice board at the beginning of each term. Please fill in the days that suit you.

Please remember when coming on roster that this affords you to spend time with your child, interact with their friends and help with tasks.

At the commencement of all terms there will be no parent help for the first two weeks this allows the children to adjust back into the program.
Everyday Items for School:

- **School Bag** - It is recommended that all children bring an appropriate sized *school bag* with them everyday. This makes it easier to transport any art work, notes, lunch-box etc. St Mary’s School bags are available for purchase at the office.

- **Fruit** - Every day, each child brings a piece of *fruit* which is then chopped up and shared within our class. This is a lovely social time for the children and gives the children the opportunity to taste other fruits. Some suggestions other than your regular fruits are: *sultanas, carrots, cauliflower, celery, cheese, etc.*

- **Water bottle** - water please, no fruit juice or cordial.

- **Lunch** - provide children with a nutritious lunch, separate from their morning tea.

- **Hat** - Children must have a St Mary’s School hat in their bag for every session ‘NO HAT, NO PLAY.’ This policy is enforced all year.

- **Spare change of clothes** – clothes to remain in their bag at all times.

Please label the bag, water bottle, hat and lunch box with your child’s name.
Children's Dress

To enable children to enter fully into all activities without fear of getting dirty, comfortable clothes suitable for outdoor play are suggested - they may also get paint, glue, water and sand on their clothing during activities.

The school uniform is not compulsory. There are Kindy t-shirts available for purchase at the Office. We ask that if you choose to send your child in uniform they must be in complete uniform not half and half.

Please ensure your child wears shoes they can manage. Shoes with velcro strips or slip-ons help them learn independence and have success.

Please label all shoes and clothing.
Knowing the rules and routines of school helps young children feel more relaxed and in control. Rules will be developed around behaviour and safety. We will foster a commitment to the rules and an understanding of why we have them. A thinking time area will be used both inside and outside as a form of discipline. Positive rewards will be used to affirm social behaviour e.g. sharing, turn taking, being kind.
Birthday Celebrations

We are happy to celebrate your child’s birthday at Kindergarten. You are welcome to send along a cake or small patty cakes for the class to share. It would be lovely if a parent or caregiver could attend Kindy on this day to help make it an extra special day.

BIRTHDAY INVITATIONS ARE NOT TO BE SENT TO SCHOOL FOR DISTRIBUTION, PLEASE. THEY CAN BE GIVEN TO THE PARENTS DISCREETLY OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM OR SENT THROUGH THE MAIL. THIS IS TO AVOID HURTING ANY CHILD’S FEELINGS.
News

Children will have the opportunity to tell news. This promotes oral language skills; describing experiences, sequencing events and developing speaking and listening skills. A News Roster will be sent home at the start of each term.

Toys

We would appreciate it if you could ensure that your child’s personal toys remain at home. Loss or damage of toys is upsetting to the children and can easily be avoided. The teacher will let you know if the children are requested to bring items for news sessions or special days.
If your child has been ill overnight, please do not send him/her to school the next day. If a child becomes ill during the day, parents will be notified and asked to collect their child.

**Medication**

If your child has a medical condition (asthma, epilepsy, bee sting allergy, nut allergy etc) that may affect how we care for your child or if your child requires medication to be taken at school, either temporarily (cold or infection) or long term, we request you fill out medical forms that are available from the Office. These must be completed and returned to the Office. These forms help us to respond to your child’s needs and help us care for them should a medical problem occur.

An information form will be sent home for parents to fill in at the start of the year. This form will also ask parents to alert medical conditions and nominate a contact number for parents and emergency phone numbers in case your child is unwell while at school. These forms will be kept on file in the Kindy to allow quick contact with parents.

Please note the early childhood centre encourages parents to be aware of common allergies affecting children.

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School Health Nurse:

During Term One, your child will be screened by the Community Nurse occurs during Kindergarten with parent consent. Further referrals to other professionals will be made if required and parent consent is given. If required, you will be informed of a required referral to Allied Health or your child will participate in intervention groups.
A newsletter will go home with the eldest child in the family on Thursday, every fortnight. The newsletter will inform you of approaching events and any items of information regarding you, your child and/or the school. Please ask your child for the newsletter on this day.
Kindy children love to play and construct masterpieces out of junk materials. If you have any of the following items and can live without them, please send them in!

- Plastic ice-cream/margarine containers
- Small cardboard boxes
- Lids
- Soft wood for carpentry
- Egg cartons/cereal boxes
- Artificial flowers
- Material/lace
- Cotton reels
- Buttons
- Bottle tops
- Meat trays
- Greeting cards
- Shells

Please** NO** soap powder containers, toilet rolls or medicine packets. We have a preference for clean junk (especially milk cartons) as we often don’t have time to wash things.
For a child, everything is a potential learning experience. As educators we need to think about how learning can be part of every moment of the day.