



Infant Jesus School
Parent Information Booklet
Pre-Primary 2018



Infant Jesus School
A LEADIng Learning School

A LEADing Learning School

Our aspiration, at Infant Jesus School, is to provide a world-class Catholic school where students and staff flourish. As a **LEADing Learning School** the following **nine key drivers** support our beliefs and approach to developing successful learners.

We provide an environment where our students are -

Catholic learners who are supported to develop a relationship with Jesus and attain the beliefs, values, attitudes, knowledge, skills and practices which will enable them to achieve Christ's vision of the human person.

Nurtured learners who care, help, cooperate and build positive relationship in a happy learning environment where every student feels safe and has the opportunity to participate in all activities.

Play-Based learners who learn through problem based play activities which motivate and enrich learning and provide all children with the opportunity to experience independence and guidance; free choice and direction; incidental and planned activities; individual and group work and free inquiry and intentional teaching.

Contemporary learners who are provided with opportunities to make decisions and choices to suit their learning needs, deepen insights and meaning to empower, connect and challenge their thinking.

Motivated learners who are competent, bring a wealth of knowledge to each task, are supported to take risks and develop an attitude of responsibility which promotes excellence and achievement of the full potential of each student.

Life-long learners who are active in the learning process and develop skills in problem-solving, thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity through meaningful and purposeful tasks.

Innovative learners who are challenged to be lateral thinkers and innovative problem solvers and use technology as a tool to enhance the learning in physical spaces that provide opportunities for practical hands-on experiences.

Connected learners who are encouraged to mutual respect with one another and develop empathy and care. A healthy partnership is maintained between the home, parish and school.

Leaders as learners where a passion for learning, knowledge of currently research, the concept of continuous improvement and high standards of professional practice inspire and engage others. All students are empowered to be leaders



*Expect
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NICE TO MEET YOU...

My name is Sophie Houston. I am currently in my fourth of teaching. Prior to starting work at Infant Jesus School, I spent two years in a small country town called Moora, where I taught at St Joseph's School. I had a fantastic time teaching in the country, but decided it was time to come home to Perth last year, which is when I was offered a job in Pre-Primary at Infant Jesus School.

I have really enjoyed getting to know the staff, students and parents within the Infant Jesus community, and I look forward to spending the year with your children, getting to know them and watching them grow and develop as young individuals.



Gabriella Clementson & Cathy Duschka



Judy Pugliese & Sophie Houston

Hi my name is Gabriella Clementson and I have been teaching for a very loooooong time. I have two cheeky teenage boys and an even cheekier husband. I started my teaching career in Early Childhood in a school in Pinjarra called St Joseph's School and then ventured to St Simon Peter, Padbury Catholic and even had a short stint teaching Italian to young children. I have had various roles here at Infant Jesus School and have particularly enjoyed supporting children in Reading and Writing and I love to share my passion for reading with the children. I am very excited to be returning to the Pre-Primary class and your beautiful children have already put a smile on my face. They are absolutely delightful and I can't wait to go on wonderful adventures with them.



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VISION

Welcome to Pre-Primary at Infant Jesus School and the start of a new school year. It is an exciting time for us all and we are looking forward to getting to know you and your child. Continuity between home and school is very important. Children should see parents and teachers as partners in their education, we aim to build a relationship with each child and their family and we encourage you to be involved in the Pre-Primary community by sharing your skills and helping in the classroom.

Pre-Primary is the start of compulsory schooling for your child. It is the beginning of organised educational experiences which will continue through primary, secondary and possibly onto tertiary levels. These early years are very important because they instil basic attitudes, skills and knowledge on which the children build as they proceed through their education.

In just the same way that children walk and crawl at different ages, grow first teeth at different times and develop in other ways at different rates, you can expect that they will develop their literacy and numeracy skills at different rates to their classmates. In Pre-Primary we provide a variety of enjoyable and engaging experiences that assist in the development of skills that are necessary for each child to achieve his or her potential.

Pre-Primary aims to:

- Assist children to become confident and competent members of our learning community.
- Encourage and support children to build their independence.
- Continue to build upon children's existing knowledge and understanding of the world through hands on, authentic learning.
- Develop social skills and foster positive relationships with peers.



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SCHOOL PRIORITIES

Whole School Focus

Infant Jesus School will continue last years focus on Mathematics. In addition, we will focus on reading comprehension.

Our motto **#ExpectGreatThings** inspires staff, students and parents to reach their full potential.

IMPORTANT DATES - TERM ONE

- Friday 9th February - Back to School Picnic
- Wednesday 14th February - Whole School Mass at Infant Jesus Church
- Saturday 17th March - Family Mass at Infant Jesus Church 6:30pm
- Monday 19th March - Friday 23rd March - Parent Teacher Interviews
- Friday 30th March - Good Friday
- Monday 2nd April - Easter Monday
- Tuesday 3rd April - Easter Tuesday
- Wednesday 4th April - Whole School Mass 9am
- Friday 13th April - Last Day of Term



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EXPECTATIONS

Teachers:

- To nurture and guide the individual development of each child
- To implement developmentally appropriate learning experiences
- To create a safe and supportive environment for children
- To support each child to be a creative and independent thinker, problem solver and communicator who learns and develops through planned and spontaneous play based experiences

Students:

- To be kind and respectful members of our classroom
- To strive to do their best in all that they do
- To attempt challenges and take risks within their learning and play
- To feel happy and safe at Infant Jesus School

Parents:

- To work collaboratively and communicate openly to support your child's growth and development throughout Pre-Primary
- Be supportive of all school policies
- Make appointments to discuss progress or concerns with classroom teachers
- Be involved within the school community and classroom



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SPECIALIST TIMES

Tuesday: Science

Wednesday: Music &
Sport

Friday: STEAM



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CLASSROOM EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Religious Education: Throughout the year, the Religious Education Program will focus on developing children spiritually and helping them to strengthen their relationship with God. We will experience the awe and wonder of God through a variety of learning activities. The children will be exposed to new prayers, reflections and meditation, and will also take part in the school Masses.

English: English is integrated throughout all Learning Areas where the focus will be on developing and extending their knowledge and understanding in the areas of listening, speaking, viewing, reading and writing. As mentioned in our school priorities, we will have a specific literacy dedicated time which will run throughout the morning session and consist of whole group reading and small group rotations. The tasks will include guided reading, comprehension, writing response, and a listening task on the iPad. Later on in the year children will have the opportunity to take home individualised reading books. This year Pre-Primary children will participate in the Sound Waves program, which is a whole school approach to teaching phonics. Children will develop their phonemic awareness through hands on, play-based experiences.

Mathematics: In Mathematics, the children will practice and develop fundamental Mathematics skills such as number recognition, rote counting, one to one correspondence, patterns, counting forwards and backwards, 2D and 3D shapes, and also some simple addition and subtraction. They will engage in numerous hands on concrete activities that will promote their knowledge and understanding in the Mathematical area.



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CLASSROOM EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

HASS (Humanities & Social Sciences): The area of HASS incorporates both Geography and History. In Geography, children will learn about places, their features and why these places may be special to us and others. They will also learn basic mapping skills and how to care for their environment. In History, the main focus is on family. We will explore who the people in our families are, where they were born and raised and demonstrated how we are related to each other.

Health: The Health program will focus on teaching children the skills they need to take care of themselves. The children will learn to be healthy, safe and active, both at home, school and in the wider community. They will learn how to communicate and interact for their own health and wellbeing. Some of the topics we will cover this year will include; identifying personal strengths and strengths of others, understanding how their body works and how to protect their body.

Science: The science program will be run by Mrs Tina Fazari and Mrs Tania Kosovich each Tuesday afternoon. Throughout the year, children will explore many topics, such as, biological, physical, chemical and earth and space sciences.



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CLASSROOM EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Physical Education: The children will have one sport session per week with Miss Kate Witkowski on Wednesday afternoon. In this session, children will focus on developing their gross motor and fundamental movement skills.

Technologies: Each Friday, the children will have a session in the iLab with Miss Mitzi Phoebe. The children will engage in a number of hands on activities and challenges that promote problem solving skills, creativity and critical thinking. They will also have the opportunity to utilise and learn about different aspects of the iPad, such as, safe use and apps. Children will also utilise technology each day in the classroom, to help aid and extend their learning.

Music: The children will have one music lesson per week with Miss Claire Condipederro on Wednesday afternoon. Through the music program, children develop their creativity skills, and learn to listen and recognise pitch, beat and tone.



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USEFUL INFORMATION

School Times:

School begins at 8.30 am and it is important that your child is on time for the start of the school day as late arrival is upsetting for your child and disruptive for the whole group. Please note that if your child is late, they will miss a very important part of the Religious, English and Mathematics program.

It is also noted that children should never be left unsupervised before school as this is the time the Teacher and Educational Assistants are preparing experiences for the day.

At 3pm the children will be dismissed from the classroom to parents/extended family members or day care (providing written permission has been given). It is greatly appreciated when children are picked up on time, as we have meetings and other regular commitments after school. It can be very distressing for a child to be picked up late.

A record/communication book will be kept by the door to record any changes to your child being picked up by another authorised person. Please note that we cannot release a child to another person without explicit written instruction.

Allergies/Medication/Illness: It is important that staff members are aware of all allergies / medical conditions that your child may have. Please ensure that you complete all medical forms and return them to your child's Teacher as soon as possible.

If your child is unwell before school, please do not send him or her to school (no matter how much they plead). Coughs, colds and tummy upsets spread very quickly in an Early Childhood environment. Please notify the school of your child's absence by telephone or email before 9.00am. All absences require a letter of explanation to the class teacher on your child's return.

If you collect your child during the school day, you are required to go to the office, sign your child out of class and receive a leaving pass. This slip is to be brought to the teacher when you collect your child. If the child is absent for two or more hours, the teacher will require a written note for the records.



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USEFUL INFORMATION

Parent Help:

We encourage the assistance of one parent per session each day.

- 8.30am – Morning Tea
- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The parent help roster will be placed up in your classroom by Week 4, and parent help will begin in Week 6.

We invite you to put your name down once on the roster at the beginning of each semester, to ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate. All parents wishing to assist in the classroom need to undertake the **Volunteer Workshop**. Details regarding the volunteer course will be published in the whole school newsletter.

Code of Conduct: All parents are required to sign and adhere to the Code of Conduct as outlined by CEWA, if you wish to partake in parent rosters/excursions.

Parent Representatives: We will require one parent from each Pre-Primary class to volunteer for the Parent Representative Council.

Laundry Roster: Each family will be placed on the laundry roster. Each week a different family will be given the class laundry. It is requested that the contents of this bag be washed and folded, then returned to the classroom on Monday morning.

Parking: The Parent Car park is designated as a parking zone for Three Year Old Kindy, Kindergarten and Pre- Primary parents. This is a 'One Way' area - parents drive in from Russell Street and out into Lovegrove Way. This parking area only holds forty parking places; therefore other parking spaces are available at the Church.



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USEFUL INFORMATION

Birthdays: Birthdays are a special time in the lives of young children. To celebrate your child's birthday we will give out a certificate on the day, but due to allergies there will be no sharing of food.

Clothing: All children must have a hat for outdoor activities as the school rule is No Hat, No Play! Please ensure that ALL of your children's clothing and personal belongings are clearly labelled. It is difficult for a child to identify their clothing/belongings if it does not have their name on it. It is important that you send your child to school with an extra set of clothing, to allow for changing, due to a toileting accident. Please ensure these items of clothing are kept in your child's school bag and you update the spare clothes according to the weather.

Play Areas: Please be aware that 3 Year Old Kindy, Kindergarten and Pre-Primary children, as well as their siblings should not be in the nature play area before or after the school day sessions. For their own safety, children are not permitted on the equipment or within the area at any time.

Before & After School Care: If required, before and after school care is available within the Infant Jesus School grounds at OSH, which is located next door to the Pre-Primary classrooms. Students need to be supervised at all times, so if your child is arriving prior to 8:30 or you are unable to pick them up at 3:00, you will need to organise for OSH to drop off/pick up.



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USEFUL INFORMATION

Recess and Lunch: Please send a nutritional recess and lunch. Your child's recess should consist of fruit, vegetables, yoghurt, a sandwich, crackers and/or cheese. Recess is only a snack; therefore your child will only have 15 minutes to eat during this time. We insist that the children eat their sandwich or crackers first at lunch time before eating any small healthy treats. Two drink bottles are a requirement at all times. One drink bottle is to be kept inside the classroom during the school day, and the other bottle is to remain in the school bag. It is vital during the hot weather that appropriate cooling packs are kept with the drink bottle that remains in your child's bag. Please ensure the drink bottles are easily accessible to your child, and all lunch boxes, containers and drink bottles are clearly labelled.

Due to the increasing number of allergies, NO NUT products are to be included in the children's lunch. Our duty of care is focused upon the students within our care who exhibit a variety of symptoms from minor to extremely severe on the slightest contact with nut based products. In severe cases it may cause anaphylactic shock, a life threatening allergic reaction which causes the heart to stop beating. We understand that this is a difficult issue in terms of the eating habits of children; however, we would appreciate the need for Infant Jesus School and its community to ensure the safety of all students at our school.

Lunch orders are available to the children through the canteen. These may be purchased on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. Parents are asked to fill out paper lunch bags, enclose the correct money and place the order in the lunch basket, which will be left by the classroom door.



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COMMUNICATION

SeeSaw: This year we will continue to use SeeSaw to communicate and share our learning in Pre-Primary with the parents. If you need a new QR code to access your child's SeeSaw account, please come and talk to your child's teacher.

Parent Teacher Interviews: In Week 8 we will be conducting parent teacher interviews. This is a time for the classroom teacher and parents to discuss the development and progression of your child.

If you have any areas of concerns, questions or would simply like a conversation, please do not hesitate to make a time with your teacher. Parents also have the option to email, phone or arrange a meeting with class teachers. We will endeavour to reply to you within as soon as possible during school days. It is our aim to work with parents to create a positive learning experience for your child.

Contact Information:

Pre-Primary Blue

Miss Sophie Houston
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Pre-Primary White

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