Early Years 2015

Welcome to 2015! We warmly welcome all new students and their families to St Therese, and a big welcome back to those families who are an existing part of our community. We look forward to a fun and exciting year ahead. The Early Years classes for 2015 are as follows:

- **Room 1** – Reception with Graeme Crossman
- **Room 2** – Reception/Year 1 with Siobhan Paley (Mon – Thurs) & Julie Hardiman (Fri)
- **Room 3** – Year 1/2 with Claire Little
- **Room 4** – Year 2 with Gabrielle Foster

Please find outlined below some school and class procedures/routines. If you need more detail, please don’t hesitate to make a time to talk to your child’s teacher.

School times

School commences at 8.50am and finishes at 3.10pm every day. Attendances are recorded each morning and the roll-book is marked accordingly. If children are late they must inform the school office when they arrive. Please ensure your child is at school on time so they can get their belongings organised and be ready to start the day. It is essential for children to develop some independence and start to take responsibility for their belongings. You can assist your child by encouraging them to bring in their own notes, reading folders, lunch boxes etc. and putting them in the appropriate places.

Communication

We use a variety of mediums to communicate with parents. Your child’s school diary is a primary means of communication between home and school. Please use the diary to inform us about any information concerning your child. The diary should be kept in your child’s blue reading bag. We also use the diary to record any home reading. Please check the bag every night for any important notes.

Be sure to also check the school website and download our school Mobile App, Skoolbag for important alerts, dates, events and activities.

Please note, if you wish to discuss matters concerning your child with the teacher please make a mutually agreeable time before or after school hours. Arrival time is not a suitable time to discuss matters as both teachers and children are busy organising themselves for the day’s learning.

Clothing

Please make sure every article of clothing that children can remove is clearly named. It is also helpful to have things marked with your child’s class name, as things are often left in other parts of the school.

Hats

We have a ‘no hat passive play in the shade (hard cover shade)’ policy, so please make sure your child has a named school hat each day.

Money

For excursions, school-fees or in-house performances money must be sent in an envelope with: your child’s name, what the money is for, and class name, clearly written on the front.

Lunch Orders

Our canteen is open on Monday and Friday. To avoid lunches being sent to the wrong classroom please label your child’s lunch bag with their name and their class name clearly on the front.

Medical Information

Please ensure that Emergency and Medical information is kept up to date.
**Eating**

All eating (fruit snack, recess and lunch) in Junior Primary classrooms will take place inside under supervision. Children who do not finish during the designated time can finish off outside.

We have several children at school that have mild and severe allergic reactions to certain foods. Our school promotes a ‘Nut Free Environment’. We ask that you do not give your children any nuts; including Nutella or peanut butter for their recess or lunch.

**Nude Food**

Every piece of packaging or excess food that we can save from landfill makes a difference. As part of the Wipe Out Waste initiative, *St Therese School* will be continuing a waste less (or Nude) food day every day, to focus on reducing the amount of material that we send to landfill. There will be no bins available for the students to discard any rubbish from their lunchboxes, therefore they will need to take any lunchbox material home with them. There will be a bin outside the canteen on Mondays and Fridays to cater for that rubbish.

Every class will have a food scrap bucket to put in any left-over food scraps in and this will be then put in our compost bin for our garden.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Try to pack ...</th>
<th>A Waste-Less Lunchbox</th>
<th>Avoid ...</th>
<th>A Disposable Lunchbox</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Snacks in reusable containers</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Lunches packed in plastic bags or wrap, foil, wax paper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Drinks in a reusable container</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Disposable drink boxes, pouches, cans, cartons, and bottles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reusable utensils when needed</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Disposable forks and spoons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A reusable lunchbox or backpack</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Pre-packaged single-serve snack items</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Small pieces of fruit, yoghurt or snack items in a reusable container</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Some examples of Nude Food Lunchboxes

**Fruit snack**

Each morning, children will have the opportunity to have a fruit snack. The children can have either a fresh piece of fruit or chopped up vegetables; not muesli bars, fruit straps, biscuits or dairy products. Please ensure these are easy to eat, cut to a manageable size and in an easy to open container. *Water* is the only drink allowed at school.
**Birthdays**

We love to celebrate children’s birthdays and enjoy making their day special. In accordance with healthy eating guidelines and children’s allergies, we ask that **no food** is to be brought into the classroom to share. This includes cakes, platters, lollies etc.

**Toys**

The children are asked **NOT** to bring toys or sports equipment to school. The concern is that personal items will be lost, broken or damaged.

**Specialist Lessons**

- **Physical Education** Wednesday & Friday (children wear sport uniform)
- **Italian** Thursday
- **Music** Thursday
- **Art/Drama** Wednesday

**Library Borrowing**

The children need to have a library bag to protect the books that they borrow. Please help your child to bring their books back to school on their library day so that they can borrow some new ones. Individual classrooms will send further information regarding library borrowing days etc.

**Reading at home**

We are currently in the process of assessing your child to ensure that they are reading at the correct level. Throughout the year continuous assessment will be done on your child’s reading to monitor their progress. We will listen to your child read as often as possible and this is frequent throughout the day, i.e. their writing, big books, signs and posters. Children are encouraged to change their own readers. Please check to ensure that this is happening.

**It is important that your child reads every night.** Individual classrooms will send further information regarding homework.

**Parent Helpers/Representatives**

Please be aware that it is a requirement of all Catholic Education SA schools for all volunteers working with or around children to obtain a Catholic School Police Clearance. Please see the front office for further details. We are looking for parents to volunteer to be Parent Representatives for each class. As a Representative, you would be responsible for co-ordinating various social events for parents of each classroom, helping in the classroom and helping with other various classroom activities. If you are interested, please speak to your child’s teacher.

**We are looking forward to a great year with you all.**

Graeme, Siobhan, Julie, Claire & Gabrielle