3 Year Old Kindergarten

‘In the classroom, relationships are fostered, families are respected and children are honoured.

In this classroom, nature’s gifts are valued and children’s thoughts are captured. In this classroom learning is alive, aesthetic beauty is appreciated.’

Early Years Framework
General Information
Principal: Mr Darren McDonald
Assistant Principals: Mrs Michelle Christian & Mr Ben Will
Teachers: Mrs Denise Thomson & Mrs Michelle Higgs
Teacher Assistants: Mrs Fiona Fowler & Mrs Linda Lill

Contact Details:
Email: thomson.denise@cathednet.wa.edu.au or kindy.denise@gmail.com
higgs.michelle@cathednet.wa.edu.au
School office: admin@stbenedicts.wa.edu.au

‘Little Bennies’ – White with Mrs Denise Thomson & Mrs Fiona Fowler
‘Little Bennies’ Blue with Mrs Michelle Higgs & Mrs Linda Lill

School Term Dates for 2016:

Term 1
Monday, 1 February – Friday, 8 April

Term 2
Monday, 26 April – Friday, 1 July

Term 3
Monday, 18 July – Friday, 23 September

Term 4
Monday, 10 October – Friday, 15 December

Our pupil free days will appear on the term calendar which is available on the school website.
Other correspondence will be available via email.
God of Light and Truth,
thank you for giving me
a mind that can know
and a heart that can love.
Help me to keep learning every day of my life,
for all knowledge leads to you.
Let me be aware of your presence
in all things and at all times.
Encourage me when work is difficult
and when I am tempted to give up;
encourage me when my brain seems slow
and the way forward is difficult.
Grant me the grace to put my mind to use
exploring the world you have created,
confident that in you there,
a wisdom that is real.
Amen.
We would like to extend a very warm welcome to you and your family as you join our
St. Benedict’s School community.
We look forward to an exciting and rewarding year with your child.

**What is Pre-Kindy?**

Pre-Kindy is an educational program designed for children aged three years. Conducive with Early Childhood philosophies, the program is play based and provides children with meaningful experiences that promote the development of spiritual, social, emotional, language, intellectual, creative and physical skills.

In a happy, safe and stimulating environment, we aim to enhance your child’s sense of wonder, exploration and independence. We aim to create a caring and stimulating environment and work with parents to lay the foundations for your child’s educational journey which begins in the early years.

**Who may attend?**

Our program is offered to children who are three years of age. Regulations prevent us taking a child until he/she has celebrated his/her third birthday.

**Home/School Partnership**

Early childhood education prepares the foundation for further schooling to build upon and provides the initial interface between home and school in a child’s life.

We recognise parents as the children’s first educators and seek to continue to develop upon home learning. Therefore, it is important that you, as parents, have the opportunity to ask questions, offer suggestions and discuss any concerns you may have.

We acknowledge the special contribution you make to the running of the school and especially in the learning of your child. We look forward to developing strong relationships with you and your child in this very important year of their education.

**Religious Education**

St. Benedict’s is a Catholic school and as such embraces the Catholic ethos. Learning about our faith can be fun through games and prayer. At Pre-Kindy the children will be exposed to our school prayer as well as spontaneous prayer. Children are naturals when it comes to praying, and our prayers will include praying for others, for guidance and God’s care and seasonal prayers.

Our aim is to demonstrate to the children that our faith life is a wonderful opportunity to recognise the grace of God in our daily living.
Children’s Daily Requirements

- A Kindy bag (named) - we recommend a shopping bag that is light weight and has two handles. (These are available at K-Mart or Coles etc for under $5.00).
- A school bucket hat, available from the uniform shop is highly recommended. Please ensure that it is clearly labelled with your child’s name. (This can be retained for 4 year old Kindy the following year).
- A piece of fruit or raw vegetables for morning tea and water only in drink bottles. Please ensure lunch boxes and drink bottles are clearly labelled and please avoid fruit juices and milk.
- Lunch – sandwiches are recommended. Anything that is easy for your child to eat on his/her own. Please be aware that we are unable to heat any food. A small cooling device is also suggested as the lunch boxes remain in the children’s bag for the entire day.
- A change of clothing and underwear - these are to be kept in a labelled plastic bag within their Kindy bag. Please ensure that spare clothing is suited to the season.
- Sunscreen – please apply to your child prior to coming to Kindy. Please be aware that we are an allergy aware school and avoid any foods that contain nuts.

PLEASE ENSURE ALL YOUR CHILD’S BELONGINGS ARE CLEARLY LABELLED.

Clothing

Children will need to wear our ‘Little Bennies’ t-shirt and we are taking orders for these today. The bottoms can be of your choice however please ensure that it is something that is easy to manage for quick dashes to the toilet! We suggest elastic waist shorts/leggins/track suit pants. Please avoid multiple buttons, and especially belts!

Footwear – as it is much easier and safer to climb bare foot, we suggest and encourage children to take their shoes off upon arrival. Please send your child in shoes that he/she can manage to take off and put on by themselves.

As with all belongings, clothing and footwear must be labelled!

Medication

As a matter of general policy we are not permitted to administer medication without the completion of necessary forms by the parent/s. This form is included in your information pack today. Alternatively, you are welcome to come to Kindy to personally administer the medication.

Sickness

In the interest of other children and staff, we ask that you please refrain from sending your child/ren to Kindy if they are unwell.
Should they require a dose of antibiotics, you may like to pre-measure a syringe and we can administer it as required or you may pop in and give the medicine personally yourself.

Allergies

Please ensure that the school and teaching staff are aware of any allergies or medical conditions your child has so that if necessary an Action Plan can be put in place. It is your responsibility to keep this information current and amend as required.

Personal Belongings

The children are asked not to bring any toys or personal belongings to Kindy as items are often lost or broken and ultimately cause unnecessary disappointment.

Birthdays

Birthdays are a special time for celebration. If you are able to come on roster that day, that would be terrific. You are welcome to bring a small treat for your child to share with the class. Again please be mindful of allergies.

Parent Roster

We encourage all families to be involved in the ‘Little Bennies’ 3 year old Kindy program via roster and special events. If you have any talents you can share with us please let us know!

A roster for parent help, small amount of laundry and play dough will be posted on the window near the classroom entrance. We would be delighted for all to take the opportunity to join us for a couple of hours.

Confidentiality: We would like to remind you that anything you see or hear while on roster remains confidential. The teacher will inform relevant parents of any incidents, accidents or concerns that may have taken place during the day. 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.

Roster will commence in Term 2 once the children have settled and are familiar with our routine.
Communication
We are available before and after sessions if you wish to share brief information with us. However, if you require a longer meeting, please make an appointment at a mutually convenient time.
We encourage you to read the school’s newsletter via the website: stbenedictswa.com
Here you can keep up to date with all the happenings within our school.

Activities
Art work is an important part of our program. Not only is art important for free expression, manipulation and creativity but socially it develops co-operation with others and appreciation of other children. From time to time a variety of recycled materials such as greeting cards, fabric scraps and so on will be requested for use in the program.

Take Home Box
You’ll notice that the children’s work will be coming home on a regular basis. We would encourage you to ‘file’ these in a scrapbook or display folder as a wonderful keepsake for the future.
Your child’s work & other notes will also be filed in a plastic tub at the end of each day/week. Please clear this regularly so that all information reaches you in time.

Daily Routine
Before entering at 9.00am please assist your child in placing their bag into their named pigeon hole & drink bottles can be placed above the pigeon holes for easy access throughout the day. They may take their shoes off and also put these into their pigeon hole. Children are then free to enter the classroom and either share a book with you or complete a puzzle or game that is on the mat. Please avoid engaging in table top activities at this stage of the morning.
It is very important that each child feels happy and comfortable in our environment. Once the children appear settled, a bell will ring and we ask that you say good-bye and leave promptly. Rest assured that if your child shows prolonged distress we will phone you.

Our timetable will be structured so that the children become familiar and can predict the day’s proceedings. A visual timetable will also assist them to know what is happening that day.
After lunch the children will have rest time.

Please note – no soft toys etc for rest time.

At the conclusion of the day, at 2.30pm, please wait at the Kindy door and the children will be individually dismissed. Please be aware that once the children are dismissed they are not permitted to play in the Kindy yard nor in our nature playground – this is a duty of care matter.
Please note that the children must be dropped off and collected by an adult.
If someone other than a child’s parent/s is collecting your child please advise us by writing in the communication diary. If this is an ongoing arrangement please write a covering letter for the year to the teacher. We realise that unforeseen circumstances arise at times, therefore, if you are unable to collect your child or are running late please telephone the school and they will forward the message to us.

**Development Aims**

We aim to develop the following skills:

- To form friendships and play co-operatively with peers
- To build positive self esteem
- To become more independent
- To learn about sharing and taking turns
- To develop self-expression through art, music, movement and language
- To communicate thoughts and feelings and ask questions
- To increase confidence to explore and experiment
- To practice hand eye co-ordination and fine & gross motor skills

![Image of children playing]

**Parent Class Representatives**

We would like to call on two parents (families) from each class who would like to represent the class. This will mainly involve the co-ordination of social gatherings such as coffee mornings/family get-togethers and other school related events.

It is a lovely way to become a part of our wider school community.

Thank you for your attendance today.

*Together we will grow and learn.*
**WEEK ONE**

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**WEEK TWO**

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(Teacher use only) - PARENT/STUDENT INFORMATION – ‘Little Bennies’ **WHITE**
Student’s full name: ______________________________________________________

Date of birth: _________________________________________________________

Home address: _________________________________________________________

Email: ___________________________________________________________________

Parent names & contact phone numbers/mobile:

(Mother): ______________________________________________________________

(Father): ______________________________________________________________

Siblings – names and ages:

_______________________________________________________________________

Allergies? (if applicable)

_______________________________________________________________________

Medical conditions or diagnosis? (if applicable)

_______________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

Does/has your child attend/ed the following agencies? If so, please name

- Speech ______________________________________________________________
- OT ________________________________________________________________
- Behavioural Optometrist _____________________________________________
- Other ______________________________________________________________

Family arrangements/custody? __________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

Any other relevant information the teacher should be aware of?

_______________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

(Teacher use only) - PARENT/STUDENT INFORMATION – ‘Little Bennies’ BLUE
Student’s full name: ________________________________________________________

Date of birth: _____________________________________________________________

Home address: _____________________________________________________________

Email: _____________________________________________________________________

Parent names & contact phone numbers/mobile:

(Mother): ________________________________________________________________

(Father): __________________________________________________________________

Siblings – names and ages:
__________________________________________________________________________

Allergies? (if applicable)
__________________________________________________________________________

Medical conditions or diagnosis? (if applicable)
__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Does/has your child attend/ed the following agencies? If so, please name

○ Speech _________________________________________________________________

○ OT ________________________________________________________________

○ Behavioural Optometrist ______________________________________________

○ Other ________________________________________________________________

Family arrangements/custody? _____________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Any other relevant information the teacher should be aware of?
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________