Welcome to St. Benedict’s Kindergarten

General Information
Kindergarten session days and times...

Kindy White: Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9.00am – 3.00pm
Kindy Blue: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesdays 9.00am - 3.00pm

Mrs Denise Thomson, Mrs Deanne Moore & Mrs Fiona Fowler (White)
Mrs Lee-Ann De’Pannone, Mrs Fiona Davis & Mrs Karen Blackbeard (Blue)

Spiritual Development...
One of the most important tasks for the parent and teacher is to assist each child to develop a positive self-concept. Without this, and the sense of self worth it brings, children find it difficult to care about others and will have difficulty in responding to God in ways that lead to a healthy relationship of faith.

Early Childhood Religious Education is a process of...

- Developing awareness
- Growth, and
- Nurturing a child’s spirit.

The Kindergarten Religion program assists in laying a foundation of faith for the children and provides them with a means of worship that has value and is relevant to them.
There will be many opportunities for God moments where the children will be encouraged to spontaneously thank God for what they have and where they are.
The children’s attention will be drawn to:
- Respect for oneself and others
- Wonder and awe of the wonderful things God has created
- Easter – the death and resurrection of Jesus
- The celebration of Jesus’ birth at Christmas
- Everyday thank you prayer for our food
- Awareness of ourselves and our body

What to bring to Kindy…
- a bag with a change of clothes, especially underwear. Please ensure that the change of clothing is conducive to the season
- named blue school bucket hat – throughout the year. Available from the uniform shop. We will write each name on the front with white fabric paint
- a packed lunch, a drink bottle with water and fruit or raw vegetables for morning tea. Please note that canteen is not offered to Kindy students
- a document wallet to each session for all correspondence.

Clothing…
Kindy has a casual, comfortable uniform suitable for early education. Please ensure that you receive an information booklet regarding the dress code at St. Benedict’s School. This will be useful for future years also.
The children are encouraged to take their shoes off for fitness activities and general play. This freedom is very important for safety on equipment, development of muscle tone and sensory stimulation. As we keep our shoes off for most of the day, it is not necessary to purchase expensive sneakers, rather send children to school in slip on shoes or something easy to put on themselves. In winter wellie boots are an excellent option.

Naming ALL clothing items is imperative.
We endeavour to wear our art smocks during ‘messy’ activities and as you can appreciate Kindy is a hands-on, constantly changing environment where children are encouraged to independently explore and get dirty.

During first and fourth term please apply sunscreen to your child prior to coming to Kindy.
Birthdays…

Birthdays are a very special day of celebration. You are welcome to bring cupcakes or similar to share with the class at morning tea time.
If possible we suggest you come on roster on this day.
If your child has a particular **allergy**, please inform us so that you can provide an appropriate alternative we can store.

Toys…

It is school policy that children **do not bring any toys from home** to play with whilst at Kindy. It is difficult for a child to realise that their treasured possession has been damaged in some way or lost among other resources. On special occasions such as their birthday, they may bring in a toy or gift and leave it in a safe place until it is time to show and tell.

Morning Tea…

Please provide a piece of **fruit** or raw **vegetable** for your child/ren. The children will be encouraged to drink from their bottle, **water only** is recommended.
For hygiene reasons we will not share our morning tea. We believe time spent cutting all the fruit and vegetables may be better spent engaging in activities with the children.
We would also like to remind you of the growing number of children who experience allergic reactions to certain foods. We are a **nut and egg aware** school and encourage these items not to be placed in lunch boxes.
Parent Roster…
A parent roster chart will be placed on the window at the beginning of each term. Roster times are 9.00 – 11.00am for each session. If you are unable to attend, grandparents or other family members are most welcome. As this is a special time for you and your Kindy child, where possible, we ask that other siblings do not attend. Thank you in advance for your commitment and assistance. The parent roster for Term One will commence in Week 5.

Laundry Roster…
We have a small amount of washing to be taken home each week. This will consist mainly of towels and painting aprons. Please return this bag the following week your child attends. This roster chart will be placed near the parent roster on the Kindy window. Again, we thank you in advance for your commitment in assisting us in so many ways.

Play dough Roster…
A play dough roster will also be placed on the Kindy window. This will change on a fortnightly basis. Please feel free to choose your own colour. If you would like to add a scented oil such as peppermint or eucalyptus, this is an option, but not necessary. A recipe for cooked play dough will accompany the roster chart.
Reporting on your child’s progress…
During the course of the year there will be plenty of opportunities for you to discuss how your child is settling into Kindy.

At the end of Term Two your child’s display folder will be sent home. We invite you to peruse this wonderful collection of work from throughout the Semester and discuss the activities with your child, sharing in their accomplishments and increasing their self-esteem by way of praise.
However, if you would like to discuss your child at any time, please feel free to make an appointment before or after the session.

Rest time…
After a very busy morning, the children will be given some ‘quiet time’ where they will lay down with their own pillow for approximately 20 minutes.
At times soft background music will be played or perhaps a story either on tape or read by one of us. The pillow will be sent home at the end of each term for a wash and freshen up. Please return the small pillow the first day back of each term. If a child falls asleep we allow them to continue their rest and they usually wake on their own. We simply reassure them where they are and then they are free to continue the program for the afternoon.

Medication…
Please be advised that staff is not responsible for measuring dosage of medication. Should your child require antibiotics or panadol, for example, you may like to pre-measure the dose in a syringe and we are happy to give it to your child to administer under our supervision. Alternatively, you may like to pop in and administer the medication. However, if your child is unwell please consider the health status of themselves and others and allow them to recover at home.
St. Benedict’s Community…
The Kindy children and their families are strongly encouraged to become part of the wider school community. That is, there are many wonderful events and activities taking place throughout the year and they would be a shame to miss. Keep your calendar handy!
We also welcome any volunteers for our P & F or School Board. These meetings are held monthly.
Each year we call on two parents from each class who would like to volunteer in a ‘Class Rep’ role. This is basically having representatives whom the parents can liaise with and social functions organised.

Incursions & Excursions…
These will relate to and enhance the learning experiences carried out in class. As these approach, relevant information will be sent home with ample notice.

Keeping you up-to-date…
Lines of communication will be always open whether via hard copy or email. Each morning please ensure that your child places his/her document wallet in the large, clear plastic tub usually found near the pigeon holes.

Finally, on a whole school level, a term calendar filled with many exciting up and coming events will also be sent home. This is available online and continuously being up-dated so please check these regularly.

Absentees…
If your child misses a session or sessions due to sickness please phone the office or send an email. Alternatively, if your family is going away on holiday a brief note providing the dates of absence will suffice. Upon your child’s return to Kindy, please complete and hand in the absent note found with your package today. Please note that this is not only school policy, rather, a legal requirement.
Pick up/drop off routine…

Parking…

Kindy White are asked to park in the church car park, Ardross Street. Kindy Blue are asked to park on the basketball court, Alness Street. The bays directly outside the Kindy are reserved for staff only.

Upon arrival before the doors open at 9am, the congregation points are:
- Kindy Blue – at the gate near the ramp
- Kindy White – at the top of the limestone steps near Pre-Primary.

After Kindy, if your child is to be picked up by someone other than yourself, please fill in their details in our diary located near the door. If this is an ongoing arrangement, please write a covering note for the year stating who it is that will be collecting your child and a contact number for that person. Please ensure they are aware of our session times 9am – 3pm.

Please note that at the conclusion of each session all Kindy children are to be picked up from our Kindy door only. **We are not participating in a drive thru system in 2016.**

When you arrive for pick-up, it is imperative that you remain at your congregation point prior to the children’s dismissal. It is disruptive to all and especially to the conclusion of the session if they see you and act impulsively by running out to you.

We ask that you are prompt at **3.00pm**. Should you run late, for any reason, please contact the school so we can reassure your child that you are on your way!

Our school offers a before and after school care program conducted by ‘Camp Australia.’ Should you require this service please refer to the flyer in your package.
HINTS FOR STRESS FREE DAYS!

- Avoid big build-ups as the unknown can be frightening;
- Talk about the first day, but do not persist if your child is unsure;
- As hard as it is, try to avoid prolonged good-byes. If you have any concerns about an uneasy separation, please phone us to confirm that your child has settled and is happy. If your child does not settle please rest assure that we will phone you. Your feelings are important too!

First day!
Both Kindy groups will commence on Monday, 1 February, 2016.
Please bear in mind that these days may be ones of mixed feelings for everyone, daunting yet exciting!

We will do our best to make this day a stress free and enjoyable day for all. We will be running a staggered intake for the first two days of Kindy. Half the class will attend Monday, the other half Tuesday and then all children will come together for a full day Wednesday and continue together from week 2 onward.

Before each Kindy session...
At 9.00am the gates will open and we invite you and your child to enjoy some outdoor ‘settling-in’ time in the Kindy yard.
Firstly, we would encourage the children to greet the staff and find their name tag and post it on our easel as an attendance indicator. After a few minutes, and once most of the children have arrived, we will ring a small bell as a cue for our session to commence. At this point you will be able to leave knowing that your child is comfortable and occupied. Our session will begin outdoors with a short morning fitness session/obstacle course, then we will progress inside for continued teaching and learning.

Inside the Kindy room, the activity tables will be covered with a tablecloth and we ask that these remain covered until we have commenced the session. Please do not allow siblings to uncover the tables or play in other designated areas such as the home corner.

During the winter months, we would like to encourage the children to share a book or puzzle with you on the mat. Please note that other learning areas are not permitted at this time.
**Discipline…**
We use a warning system whereby the child/ren are given verbal warnings and time to contemplate their behaviour and discuss it with an adult. This process of Restorative Practice has been found to be the most effective. One reason why this works well for the children is that it is a familiar method and is often used by parents in the home thereby displaying consistency between home and school. Another reason is that it is quick and direct with minimal disruption to the running of each lesson.
We are firm, but fair, and focus on desirable and positive behaviour as a ripple effect.

**Discipline is a shared partnership between the school and the home.**

**Speech Therapy Assessment…**
In 2016 we offer Speech Therapy Assessments to the Kindy children. This screening gives us a base line for your child, highlighting any issues that will need attention through the year. Please supply a recent copy of a speech report if your child is already attending speech therapy.
Further information will be confirmed early next year.

**Kindy Library…**
The children will attend Library lessons with our Teacher/Librarian Mrs Gill Noonan each week for 40 minutes. The children are not yet permitted to borrow books from our ‘big’ library, but we have our own book borrowing system for Kindy children which will commence Term 2. Each year we call on donations of a book from the recommended list to continue to expand our library.

**Junk Materials…**
Early learning centres are the world’s best recyclers! If you have any items which you think we might be able to use, please bring them in. Some suggestions include: plastic ice-cream & yoghurt containers, used greeting cards, wrapping paper, envelopes, cardboard tubes, corks, lace, cereal boxes etc.
2016 Term dates…

Term One
Monday, February 1 – Friday, April 8

Term Two
Monday, April 26 - Friday, July 1

Term Three
Monday, July 18 - Friday, September 23

Term Four
Monday, October 10 - Thursday, December 15

Our Kindy team looks forward to working with you and your child and trust that it will be a happy and memorable year.

Together we will grow and learn.
St. Benedict’s School
Kindergarten, 2016

70 Alness Street
Applecross  WA 6153
Telephone: 6217.3500
Fax: 9316. 2695

Mrs Denise Thomson & Mrs Lee-Ann De'Pannone– Teachers
Mrs Deanne Moore, Mrs Fiona Fowler, Mrs Fiona Davis &
Mrs Karen Blackbeard-
Education Assistants
admin@stbenedicts.wa.edu.au
thomson.denise@cathednet.wa.edu.au
depannone.leeann@cathednet.wa.edu.au