Pre-Primary 2016
St Pius X Catholic Primary School

Play, Learn and Grow... Together!
**Principal:**  Mr Daine Burnett  

**Assistant Principals:**  Mr Brett Wilkie  
Mrs Tiffany Johnson  

**Teacher:**  Mrs Claire Soulsby  

**Teacher Assistants:**  Mrs Catherine O’Brien  
Mrs Linlea Miles  
Mrs Pauline Batchelor  
(Telethon Speech and Hearing)  

**School Secretaries:**  Mrs Margaret Tatasciore  
Mrs Marni Nichol  

**School Telephone:**  9450 2797  

**School Email:**  admin@stpiusx.wa.edu.au  

**School Website:**  www.stpiusx.wa.edu.au
Welcome to our Pre-Primary. We hope that this year will be a happy and rewarding one for both you and your child, in your continued association with our school.

The Pre-Primary learning environment at St Pius X Catholic Primary School, offers opportunities to help each child develop emotionally, spiritually, socially, physically, and cognitively. This is done by providing and co-ordinating educational activities that develop an awareness and understanding of concepts, necessary for ongoing life and educational experiences within the Catholic ethos and faith. Pre-Primary is a compulsory year and children are required to attend.

**School Hours**
8.30am – 3.05pm

**Arrival**

Pre-Primary doors open at 8:30am each morning with classes starting at **8.45am**. Please try to be on time, to avoid disruption to the class. There will be a settling in time for the first fifteen minutes of the day, so you have the option to come inside with your child and play with them before you leave. Once the siren sounds, parents are encouraged to say a quick goodbye and leave the room.
**Departure**

Similarly, the children will not be allowed to leave the Pre-Primary without an adult known to us. Please inform us if someone other than mum or dad is collecting your child. If there is a change in arrangements, we must be notified via the communication book. If this change to pick up is to become permanent, please email me to let me know, thank you.

**Bags**

All children are expected to bring in a bag each day. We will be encouraging the children to be responsible for their own belongings. Please ensure the bag is big enough to cope with a lunch box, drink bottle, change of clothes, hat and any finished work.
**Clothing**

The most suitable clothing for children to wear for Pre-Primary should be comfortable and suitable. T-shirts, shorts, leggings, tracksuits and jumpers, are easy for the children to move and climb in, as well as easy for you to wash. Please avoid dressing your child in their best clothes, as Pre-Primary work can be very messy, even though the children wear aprons.

The most suitable footwear is closed shoes or comfortable sandals, as they assist in climbing safely. For sports sessions, sandshoes or joggers are the best and safest option.

- **A spare set of clothing, including underwear and socks, is to be kept in your child’s bag at all times. Please label all items.**
- **Your child must wear a school hat (with brim) every day. Whilst sunscreen is provided, we do also encourage your child to apply sunscreen before they come to school.**

**Morning Recess**

Each day the children will need a packed morning tea. This must contain at least one piece of manageable fruit or cut up fruit and perhaps one other healthy snack eg. cheese, crackers, yoghurt. Be sure the fruit is one that your child will eat, and ensure that it is packed separately, so that your child knows what is for morning tea and what is for lunch.
Lunch

Your child will require a packed lunch. Please make it easy to manage and consider the nutritional value of the lunch you pack. Don’t pack too much food, as children will sometimes sit and eat for the entire lunch period.

**ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL**

**NO NUT OR EGG PRODUCTS PLEASE**

Please let staff know immediately if your child has, or develops, any allergies.

A number of our students have a life threatening allergy to nuts and nut products.

As part of our community, St Pius X School extends support to these children and their families by discouraging nuts and nut products in the school to assist with the safety of these children. We do however, understand that some products may contain traces of allergens and we will be vigilant in ensuring children do not share foods.
**Parent Involvement**

Parent roster is a time when you can attend Pre-Primary with your child and experience the program offered. We welcome and greatly appreciate help from both parents. Please see the Roster outside the Pre-Primary classroom.

Having you come to Pre-Primary, gives your child a sense of importance and satisfaction in knowing that Mum and Dad are taking part in their learning journey.

Parent roster entails simple tasks such as helping to supervise activities or playing an educational game with a small group. With your help we are able to offer another learning experience where adult input adds enormous value.

We need to stress that you must maintain confidentiality of what you see and hear at Pre-Primary at all times and parent helpers must have signed a Confidentiality Agreement.
Health

Trust your own instincts and knowledge of your child, and if you consider your child is unwell or tired please don’t hesitate to keep them home. Remember that school is a child’s work and it is hard work, so they need to be well rested to gain full benefit from the program.

We are unable to give out medication. If your child is well enough to come to school, but is still taking antibiotics, it must be administered through the office.

√ A note of explanation is compulsory for any absences or appointments attended during the day.

√ If you need to collect your child during the school day, you will need to go to the office to sign in and sign out to explain their absence.

√ All absences need to be communicated by 9.30am on that day to the office or teacher.

Laundry

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 if you are on Roster. We thank you in advance for assisting us with this.
**Parent / Teacher Communication**

Please feel free to discuss any queries or problems with me. I am always available for a quick chat, but if the matter needs lengthy discussion, it would be best to make an appointment before or after school so we may speak without interruptions. You will be invited to attend parent/teacher interviews at the end of Term 1. The children will bring home their Progress Files at the end of each term so you may view samples of work which shows their efforts and reflects progress over time. Reports will be sent home at the end of Term 2 and 4.

**Specialist Times:**

During the term, students will be taught by specialist teachers on the following days:

- **Monday:** Science and Library
- **Tuesday:** **Sport** and Italian
- **Wednesday:** Italian
- **Thursday:** Art
- **Friday:** **Sport** and Music

The Pre-Primary children will be attending school assemblies and prayer services on Fridays at 8:45am.

The children will also be attending school masses at the Church and other liturgical celebrations.
Birthdays
To help celebrate your child’s birthday, you may want to place your name on the roster on that particular day. You may send in some special treats, which will be sent home with each child e.g. cupcakes, freddos.

Please be aware that a number of children in our school have nut/egg allergies, so we discourage any nut products whatsoever.

Newsletter
These are sent home every Wednesday via your email address. Please also check your email for any messages from me regarding upcoming events and our current learning intentions. Notes from the office may come home on any day, so please check children’s bags daily. Please ensure that your child returns their note folder to school each day.

Personal Belongings
It would be appreciated if children could keep personal belongings (toys, etc) at home, unless for the purpose of telling news or for other special topics. News will be linked into our English Curriculum. Children will be asked to write and share their news with their peers later in the year. More information will be given regarding this.
**Behaviour Management**

Our school follows a whole-school approach to behaviour management – ‘1 – 2 – 3 Magic’. As a class, we have brainstormed our classroom rules and displayed them. We positively encourage the children to use these class rules at all times, however, sometimes a child will choose not do this.

If a child chooses not to follow these rules, they are given a verbal warning (1). If the child continues to choose not to follow these rules, they are given a verbal (2) and ‘time-out’ (5 mins) to think about their behaviour choice. If the child still chooses to act inappropriately (this is very rare), they are given ‘time-out’ and asked to reflect on their behaviour in another class. If your child is given a (3), I will notify you of the incident.

As you are aware, children respond really well to positive reinforcement in the form of verbal praise and stickers. We have introduced a Class Star Chart this year for positive behaviour. The children are working towards getting 20 stars, before receiving a special prize.
Curriculum

Please refer to the Pre-Primary Term Overview, which provides a summary of the learning areas and the curriculum we are covering each term. Please also refer to the Pre-Primary Timetable for your information.

Religious Education is at the centre of everything we do. This year, we are learning our school prayer and the children will continue to be given time for prayerful meditation. The children will also continue to be encouraged to make positive behavioural choices that reflect our school values.

The children have reading, spelling and maths groups. These are subject to change, according to your child’s development within a particular learning area.

As part of the Early Learning Years Framework, we value play as a medium for all aspects of development and learning, including literacy and numeracy. Explicit teaching and instruction is given, followed by literacy and numeracy activities, which include play.

We are continuing to use the Diana Rigg Spelling Program (please refer to handout and our Term Overview). In Week 5 of Term 1, your child will be given a phonics activity to take home to reinforce their understanding of the sounds we are covering. This activity may be a game, flash cards or a spelling sheet. As a school, we are implementing the NSW font to compliment this program and the children will be explicitly taught this style of writing.
Technology is also creatively used in the Pre-Primary to engage the children in literacy and numeracy games. We are fortunate to have access to the ‘Edu Touch’ Screen and the Smartboard, as well as the Ipads.

In **Weeks 3 and 4 of Term 1**, your child will complete the ‘On Entry Assessment Program, Online Interview’ (OLI). This is a compulsory assessment for all catholic schools in Western Australia. The program is an assessment for learning, rather than an assessment of learning. The main purpose of this program is to inform planning and delivery of targeted and intentional learning programs, reflective of each child’s needs and capabilities. More information is to follow regarding this.

**Recycle, Recycle, Recycle !**

At Pre-Primary we recycle all sorts of items in a variety of ways – you’ll be amazed at what children can create from the simplest of things.

If you have any of the following items, please send them in to us:

- √ Dress ups – for role play
- √ Stockings, lace, ribbon, greeting cards
- √ Cardboard rolls (not toilet rolls)
- √ Thick wool / string / cord – bright colours
- √ Boxes – variety of sizes, cereal, biscuits, etc
- √ Wrapping papers – foil, bright colours
- √ Wood off-cuts - pine, soft wood
Signing In and Signing Out
The following procedure for Signing In and Signing Out will apply at St Pius X School. This will be in effect each day from 9am – 3.05pm.

Late Arrivals
If a child is running late for school the parent must call into the office to sign the Register and a Blue Card will be given to you to take to the class teacher. Children are NOT to be dropped off at the gate and make their own way to class if they are late. If you do this we will have to contact you to come back to sign the Register.

Leaving/Returning to School
If you are collecting your child during the day for appointments or personal reasons you must call into the office to sign the Register and an Orange Card will be given to you to take to the class/specialist teacher.

If you are returning during the day you again need to sign in and collect a Blue Card to take to the class/specialist teacher.

Collection of Students
If you are requiring someone other than yourself to collect your child during the day, we must have this in writing. Kindy and Pre-Primary have a book, where parents currently indicate and sign granting permission to nominated persons for collection, all other grades please ensure we have something in writing/email.

Kindy and Pre-Primary students - the teachers should be advised at drop off if someone other than yourself is collecting your child. Please try to avoid phoning in with change of pickups during the day as often teachers do not get a chance to access their emails during the day and will not see the message that has been sent to them from the office.

It is very important to follow the above procedure in keeping with the school’s legal requirements and the safety of all concerned. We can’t stress enough, the importance of ensuring your child's school attendance, where reasonable, is punctual, to avoid rigmarole and any inconvenience to you.

Visitors
Any visitors to our site at any time must sign in and get a Visitor’s Badge. While we understand that people are just ‘popping in’ it is critically important that parents and friends do so.

Staff will be directed to ask parents to return to the office and collect these cards before collecting their child. This will take time to get used to so please allow sufficient time to do so.