KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION BOOKLET

26 Corinna Road
Lindisfarne 7015
03 6243 9864
www.stcuthberts.tas.edu.au
stcuthberts@catholic.tas.edu.au
Welcome to St Cuthbert’s Catholic School
Kindergarten

Kindergarten is the exciting beginning of your child’s formal education. The Kindergarten Teacher and Teacher Assistants provide a warm, caring atmosphere where your child feels comfortable, appreciated and where he/she is able to learn and develop various skills whilst having FUN!

We recognise that all children enter school with wide variations in experience, knowledge, values and attitudes. Each child is unique and learns and develops at a different pace. All children will bring their own special qualities, capabilities and dispositions to Kindergarten. The first couple of months will be a “settling in” time for everyone, in which we will get to know each other and establish the routines of the Kinder day. As school and home are in partnership, it is important to keep communication channels open.
The activities and experiences provided by the Kindergarten are designed to help children in a variety of ways. Primarily we foster the children’s feelings of self worth, support and extend their innate disposition to learn and to actively promote the development of various skills, attitudes and values.

The children will be involved in many first hand experiences to enrich their learning. Children learn in various ways – they may be predominantly kinaesthetic (learn by doing) or visual or auditory learners and we provide a balance of different ways of teaching/facilitating in order for children to learn best.

In Kindergarten, we place a great deal of emphasis on learning through the Senses as this is how young children come to know their world; and through “Play” – informal and structured. As the famous Swiss psychologist, Jean Piaget once said “Play is the child’s work”. Through play children learn about the world and their place in it. They are able to explore, develop, rehearse and understand. Make believe play is particularly helpful with learning to come to terms with certain emotions and to work through problems.

The Kindergarten Programme provides a balance of large group, small group and individual learning opportunities with an emphasis on indoor and outdoor learning experiences.

On the next three pages there is an outline of the aims and goals for the Kindergarten Programme (remembering that as children participate in various activities they are learning at their own pace and their level of development should not be compared with others).
Play is an important part of your child's learning.

Play helps children to make sense of their world. It helps your child's brain make connections and build basic capabilities. Simple things like playing together with a ball, dolls or blocks stimulate brain development.

By using the Early Years' Learning Framework the Kindergarten educators will guide your child’s play by carefully designing learning activities and stimulating indoor and outdoor learning environments. Quality play means your child is deeply involved, learning, developing and practising skills. The teacher will provide space, time and materials for play, noting children’s interest, bringing learning materials into the play environment, presenting problems for children to solve and on occasions joining in to extend and enrich the play.

These understandings and skills will help children to become life-long learners and good community members. Through play children will be able to:

- think
- solve problems
- focus
- make decisions
- negotiate
- discover
- use language and numeracy

- imagine
- use initiative
- experiment
- choose
- take risks
- ask questions
- persevere
- co-operate with others
- practise learning
- act with confidence
- create
- take responsibility
- feel happy and safe
- develop fine and gross motor skills

You will see your child:

- constructing
- climbing
- painting
- writing
- participating in music
- playing with sand and water

- making cubbies
- building with blocks
- pretending
- reading books
- dressing up
- cooking

- dancing
- working with wood
- drawing
- storytelling
- playing with puzzles
- using ICT and much more...
**Our Vision**

Sharing the Good News of Jesus,
Living the values of the Gospel and
Trusting in God's love:
We strive to nurture the growth of each person.

**Our Mission Statement**

As a Catholic school community we are committed to creating a welcoming learning environment where we nurture each student’s love of learning as they deepen their relationship with God.

**As a Community**

**Of the Word**
We strive to build and nourish everyone’s relationship with Jesus.

**Of Wisdom**
We strive to create a learning environment which provides for all; encouraging them to realise their full potential.

**Of Welcome**
We strive to find a place for all in God’s family.

**Of Worship**
We strive to nurture the development of faith through prayer, liturgy and the Sacraments.

**Of Well Being**
We strive to be respectful, be safe and be our best.

**Of Witness**
Inspired by Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters we strive to serve others in the spirit of the Gospel.
KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMME

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- Religious Education plays a part in everything we do in the Kindergarten.
- Through everyday life experiences the children are able to develop their relationship with God. This is done in partnership with families as we acknowledge that parents are the first and foremost educators in faith of their children.
- Developing a relationship with Jesus (through Prayer, Scripture etc and seeing Jesus as a role model to us all).
- Developing awareness of oneself (self image/self esteem) and the love God has for each of us.
- Developing an understanding of others in our lives.
- Developing an understanding of the Faith Community – eg: Parish Priest.
- Developing an understanding of our world – eg: seasons, colours in our world, animals etc.
- Developing an understanding of traditions in our Catholic Faith, the importance of the Sacraments etc. (through various activities).

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- To gain confidence and discover the things that they can do themselves.
- To develop independence – eg: putting on smocks, opening and closing lunch boxes and drink bottles, packing and tidying away their things and their bags each day, helping to keep the classroom tidy and very importantly, learning to be independent in a new situation.
- To discover new emotions and how to deal with these – learning to express ideas and feelings through speech, art, materials, play and movement.
- To separate from family members/carers and to feel happy and comfortable being left in a new environment over an extended period of time.
- To learn to work and play co-operatively.
- To learn to listen, take turns and share – using various games and activities eg: Snap, Lotto, Home Corner, Number games, Bingo, Show and Tell, Duck Duck Goose and in general class activities and discussions.
- To become familiar with the various routines of Kinder.
**KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMME**

**COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT**
- To develop skills of reasoning and problem solving.
- To develop and extend concentration.
- Using play to create the opportunity to experiment with ideas, practise different skills and develop concentration.
- To expand on a well developed language base from home (including listening skills, verbal and nonverbal skills) through stories, music, instruction and games. To introduce concepts about print and literacy development (why we read, the purpose of writing, how print carries a message etc).
- The introduction of maths concepts, such as counting, grouping, classifying, sequencing, measuring, ordering, patterning etc.
- Using information technology to extend and learn new skills.
- Developing scientific concepts such as observation, exploration, prediction, investigation through activities such as cooking, growing things, hands on art activities, excursions etc.
- To develop an understanding of basic number and letter work – including pre-writing, pre-reading and pre-number activities to aid in preparation for and transition to Prep. This includes lots of tracing, copying and visual perception activities.
- To recognise their own name, some numbers and letters and for some children to be able to write these as well. *Please encourage your child to use lower case letters if he/she is writing (apart from the capital letter that starts their name).*
- To focus on and develop appreciation of books, literature and music.
- To develop creativity and exploration of new materials and concepts through art/craft, painting, playdough, puzzles, construction, manipulative games such as Lego.

**MANIPULATIVE AND FINE MOTOR DEVELOPMENT**
- Using lots of hands on art activities and play to develop fine motor, eye-hand co-ordination and muscle tone, such as using playdough, cutting with scissors, tearing, rolling, threading, sewing, weaving, construction.
- To hold pencil in preferred hand (near point between thumb and the first two fingers when drawing and writing).

**GROSS MOTOR DEVELOPMENT**
To develop gross motor skills through a structured Programme and also through informal games/activities indoors and outdoors – for example:

**Body Management:** spatial awareness, body rolling, one foot balance, balancing on a low beam.

**Locomotor:** running, hopping, skipping, climbing on the play equipment, dodging, walking up and down stairs using alternate feet, crawling.

**Manipulative:** catching a medium and small ball with two hands, throwing a ball underarm and kicking a stationary round ball (run approach).
BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE [OHSC]
This service is operated by Centacare Tasmania, for children at St Cuthbert’s Catholic School from 4 years of age.
Before School Care is available from 7.15am – 8.30am, Monday to Friday during school terms. After School Care is available on Monday – Friday during school terms from 2:30 – 6.00pm.
For bookings and enquiries please contact Centacare Tasmania, Tower Rd, New Town, telephone 1300 119 455.
Centacare also offers Holiday Care for students from St Cuthbert's at another location on the Eastern Shore.

CHILD CARE REBATE
St Cuthbert’s Catholic School is registered as a Child Care Provider with the Family Assistance Office. Families with children under 5 years of age attending Kindergarten at St Cuthbert’s Catholic School may be eligible to receive Child Care Benefits for school fees relating to their child/children. At the start of the year, families are advised of this rebate and the action that will need to be taken.

MATERIALS TO PURCHASE
Your child will require:
- Art smock – available from the Uniform Shop
- Library Bag – available from the Uniform Shop

Stationery and book requirements for Kindergarten are arranged through Birchalls. A list of requirements will be sent home prior to your child starting Kindergarten.

*Please ensure that all your child's clothing is clearly labelled in an appropriate location with his/her name. Books and stationery items do not need to be named as these items will be pooled together for class use throughout the year.

UNIFORM SHOP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Opening Times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Tuesday 8.30-9.15am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td>Tuesday 8.30-9.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday 2.30-3.00pm</td>
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IMMUNISATION RECORDS
The Department of Health and Human Services requires all students enrolled at St Cuthbert’s Catholic School to provide information about their immunisation. If you have not already done so, please ensure that this information is handed into the School Office as soon as possible.
GENERAL INFORMATION

MEDICAL INFORMATION FORMS

Asthma
St Cuthbert’s Catholic School is acknowledged as an “Asthma Friendly School”. Children need to self-manage medication however where the child is too young to manage this medication themselves, the medication needs to be handed in to the School Office with clear, written instructions from parents. Children may carry inhalers. At the commencement of the school year a Student Asthma Record form is sent out to parents of Asthma sufferers. These are held in the School Office for reference during the year.

Anaphylaxis
Parents whose children suffer from Anaphylaxis will be required to complete an annual Anaphylaxis Notification and Management Plan and provide the school with an Anaphylaxis Action Plan. Please ensure that class teachers are also aware of these conditions as early as possible.

NEWSLETTER
Parents are kept informed of all important school affairs and events by a weekly Newsletter which can be viewed via the School website - www.stcuthberts.tas.edu.au or the St Cuthbert’s Skoolbag App or Facebook Page. Other detailed newsletters regarding certain events may also be sent home throughout the year. If there are any urgent dates/notes children need to be aware of, a separate note will be sent home.

REPORTS AND PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS
Parent/Teacher interviews are held towards the end of Term 2 and an opportunity to view your child’s portfolio of development. This will show evidence your child’s progress during the year. This portfolio of the school year’s work will be sent home at the end of the year.

RECESS AND LUNCH
In Kindergarten we have a focus on healthy eating. We have 3 breaks to eat during our day.

Fruit Break (morning) - please pack a piece of fresh fruit or vegetables. No packaged fruit for fruit break please.
Recess: please pack some healthy snacks for recess, such as cheese, biscuits and dip, yoghurts, etc.
Lunch – Please pack some more substantial food for lunch, e.g.. a sandwich, roll or wrap, pasta, salad, etc.
Please ensure your child has a full drink bottle of water each day. Cordial and/or juice are strongly discouraged.

ST CUTHBERT’S IS A NUT-AWARE SCHOOL
SAFETY
At no time will a child be permitted to leave the Kindergarten area unless accompanied by an adult.

Parents or carers must bring their child into the Kinder area in the morning, and must remain with the child until a teacher is present at 8.30am. Please come into the classroom at the end of the day to collect your child.

If there are any changes to the usual arrangement please let me know in writing or in person and make sure your child is aware of the change. Please remember to double latch the gate.

SCHOOL TIMES FOR KINDERGARTEN
Kindergarten students attend School for 3 days per week. The School day is from 8.45am – 2.45pm. Children are expected to arrive and be collected on time. 
Recess – around 10.30am (eaten under supervision) then outdoor play time for approximately twenty minutes.
Lunch – around 12.30 (eaten under supervision) followed by lunch time outdoor play.
For the first couple of months we are very flexible with eating and outdoor play times as it depends on how hungry/tired the children are.
For reasons of child safety, parents need to notify the School Office on 6243 9864 by 9.15am if their child will not be attending school that day.
Children leaving Kindergarten throughout the day will need to be signed out from the classroom by a parent or designated person.

SCHOOL UNIFORM
• The children are to wear their Sports Uniform (tracksuit or shorts-depending on weather)
• Every child must have a school hat.
• Sports shoes and socks need to be predominantly white and the wearing of jewellery is restricted to wrist watches and plain earrings (pierced ears).
• Green hair ties should be worn if hair reaches collar (this is a health requirement).
• In colder weather a yellow skivvy is permitted along with a school polar fleece jacket and wet weather gear is to be bottle green.

Please ensure that every part of the uniform and all belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name and that you send along a spare pair of underpants/socks in your child's bag.
SETTLING IN

Beginning of the day (School begins at 8.45am)
As each child arrives at school they will be encouraged to:

- Place their bag into their named “cubby-hole”
- Put their fruit in the fruit basket
- Complete the “before school” activity set up at the tables

When it is time for you to leave, say good-bye to your child and tell them when you will be back. If your child has trouble settling in, know that it is not your fault or your child’s. It is best to leave and allow the teacher or the teacher assistant to take over. Usually the child will settle quickly and it is often more distressing for the parents. You can always ring the school later to check your child is settled and happy.

Right from the beginning I ensure regular trips to the toilets are made and ensure the children know that they can ask to go when needed. The teacher assistant will be close by as it can take a while for the children to become increasingly responsible for their personal hygiene.

It is very important for the communication lines to always be open. If you have anything you wish to discuss (no matter how big or small) please always feel free to make a time to meet with me. We will have a notice board for communication as you walk into the classroom too. We also like to use the whiteboard at the beginning and end of the day for little messages about the day we have had and reminders for the next day. We send home a weekly newsletter with information about our week, photographs and reminders.

End of the Day
The School Day ends at 2.45pm. Remember (where possible) to be prompt collecting your child as they can become upset if left waiting. While waiting for your child, check their file for newsletters, notices and your child’s work.

TUITION FEE
The Board sets the level for the Tuition Fee. An Invoice is sent out in March for the total school fees for the year. Payment can be made by cash, cheque, Eftpos, credit card, direct debit and Bpay. Arrangements can also be made through Centrelink to make regular payments through Centrepay. Tuition Fees need to be paid in full by the end of March each year, or by making a payment arrangement with the School Office.

Discounts are given for families who have 3 or more children attending a Catholic School regardless of the school or the age of the student. To receive the discount in 2019, it is essential that you advise the School Office at the start of the school year. A form is sent in the first week of Term One for all families.

The Principal needs to be contacted if parents are experiencing any difficulties with the payment of fees.
HANDY HINTS FOR YOUR CHILD’S FIRST DAY AT KINDERGARTEN

A few days prior to Kindergarten commencing reassure your child by:

- Model how to open, close school bag, lunch box and drink container in preparation for them to do it independently.
- Explain to your child he/she will be able to go to the toilet whenever necessary (but to make sure a Teacher or Teacher Assistant knows).
- Explain that when you arrive at Kindergarten you (with assistance of Teacher/Teacher Assistant) will assist with their morning routine (bag and drink bottle), then choose which activity they would like to involve themselves in.
- Reassure your child that you will stay with them for the morning routine and that when you do leave you’ll be back in a short while, waiting for them when Kindergarten has finished.

CHILDREN LEARN BEST WHEN

- They feel confident because of previous experiences of success.
- They are expected to learn.
- Their natural curiosity is aroused.
- They are active and involved – discovering, solving problems, explaining what they are doing.
- They feel safe.
- They are challenged.
- They are mature enough to master the task.
- The task is interesting and makes sense.
- They have the opportunity to observe and imitate others.
- They have plenty of chances to practise.
1. Help the children feel good about themselves and about learning. Encourage every effort and give plenty of praise.

2. Read to them every day from the earliest age. There is no better way to create a desire to read.

3. Give presents of simply-written and well-illustrated books on a whole range of topics – both fiction and non-fiction.

4. Encourage the children to write regularly in a variety of ways – letters, diaries, factual accounts, imaginative stories, bank or post office forms, journals, labelling, etc.

5. Try to cultivate a sense of number, size, length, height, width, volume, area, weight and time in everyday life. Join with them in estimating, counting, calculating and so on.

6. Take time to discuss every day happenings. Encourage questions and show how answers can be found.

7. Regularly give them one of the most precious gifts you can – your time.