Information for Parents 2014

ST THOMAS’ PRIMARY SCHOOL
Innovative Curriculum
Literacy and Numeracy Focus
Chronological-Age & Multi-Age Group Sessions
Specific teaching, enhancing individual and collaborative learning styles
Early Intervention Programme
Enrichment and Extension classes
Oracy
Innovative curriculum and pedagogy
Interactive Whiteboards/Apple TVs in classrooms
1:1 iPad Programme Years 3-5
Learning centres in all classrooms
Contemporary Learning Spaces
Full-Time Pre-Primary
3 Year Old Kindergarten – 2 sessions per week
4 Year Old Kindergarten – 3 days per week
Learning Support
Information & Communication Technology Centre – Mac Lab
Classroom Computers, iPads and Digital learning devices
Italian (including extension classes)
Library
Science
Music
Instrumental Music
Choral Singing
Physical Education
Dancing ~ Edudance
Swimming
Athletics
Team Sports
Tennis
Drama
Visual Arts
WELCOME TO ST THOMAS’ SCHOOL COMMUNITY!

St Thomas’ is a Catholic Parish Primary school where all children are welcome and the school community of parents, teachers and students work closely together in a Christian setting. It is a place where each student is challenged to excellence in a safe and nurturing environment.

Founded in 1909 by the Presentation Sisters, St Thomas’ has retained their original warmth and openness, coupled with an excellent standard of education. The uniqueness of each child is of paramount importance and respect for the dignity of each person underpins all actions and relationships in the school. Within this learning community, students are developed into young people who think clearly, act with integrity and generosity, are sensitive to the needs of others, have a desire to serve the community and adopt a global perspective.

St Thomas’ welcomes girls and boys from full-time Pre-school to Year 6. Kindergarten operates for three full sessions per week, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (8.45am-3.00pm) and is available to children who turn four before 30th June each year.

A Three Year Old Kindergarten operates two sessions per week for children who have turned three.

The average class enrolment is presently thirty children.

- A religious education programme where prayer and liturgy provide a central focus for our Catholic community.
- An enrichment program is offered to academically gifted and talented children in Years 4 to 6.
- St Thomas’ is part of the National Partnership Program (NPP) and is focussed on improving outcomes in literacy and numeracy for all children K-6. Through this project St Thomas’ receives funding from the Australian Government and uses this to provide literacy and numeracy programs that draw heavily on current research, as well as working in partnership with universities to help children achieve their potential.
- An early intervention program is available for children experiencing learning difficulties in the junior levels, and learning support-teachers work with children who require extra assistance throughout all year levels.
- All classrooms are equipped with an interactive whiteboard, or Apple TV, computers and iPads. There is also a separate Mac lab in the school with a 1:1 iPad programme for Years 3 – 5.
- Visual Arts classes are offered from Pre Primary to Year 6.
- Italian is taught from Pre-primary class through to Year 6, and a multi-age extension class in Italian is offered to children in Years 4 to 6.
- Physical Education, Swimming, Edudance, Choral Singing, Drama and Music are offered within the curricula.
- Piano, guitar and instrumental lessons are available.
- St Thomas’ participates in all regional sporting fixtures, and coaching in various team sports form some of the extra-curricula activities of the school. Tennis lessons before school are available to children from Years 2 to 6.
A term calendar of events is distributed at the commencement of each term.

**STUDENT FREE DAYS IN 2014 ARE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon 28 April</th>
<th>Mon 21 July</th>
<th>Mon 01 September</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 30 May</td>
<td>Tue 22 July</td>
<td>Tue 02 September</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SCHOOL TIMES**

- **Pre-Kindergarten:**
  - Monday: 9.00am – 11.30am
  - Friday: 9.00am – 11.30am

- **Kindergarten:**
  - Tuesday: 9.00am – 3.00pm
  - Wednesday: 9.00am – 3.00pm
  - Thursday: 9.00am – 3.00pm
  - Doors open at 8.45am

- **Pre-Primary:**
  - FULL TIME: 8.45am - 3.00pm

- **Year One to Year Six:**
  - FULL TIME: 8:45am - 3:00pm.

Supervision is provided for students from Pre Primary to Year 6 before school from 8.30am and after school until 3.20pm. If arriving at school before 8.30am, children are requested to sit in the central courtyard area until teacher supervision commences. No supervision is available for children before 8.30am and children who have not been collected from school by 3.20pm must be collected from the school office. Parents/guardians of children who are repeatedly left at school after 3.20pm will be contacted by the school and required to make alternative after-school care arrangements for their children.

Parents with children in Pre Primary and Kindergarten are required to accompany their child to the classroom in the morning and collect the child from the class teacher at the end of the school day.

All school play equipment is out of bounds to children and toddlers before and after school.
BEFORE-SCHOOL SET-DOWN / AFTER SCHOOL PICK-UP

Drivers who wish to park their vehicles outside the school grounds before and after school are asked to take the children to the undercover area in the mornings and collect them from the same area after school. In terms of safety pedestrians must use the paved pathways in the school grounds and stay off the bitumen area.

Before and after school: all drivers are asked to use College Road from one direction only – i.e. approaching from Warden Street. This facilitates a continuous flow of left-turning vehicles from College Road into the set-down/pick-up area. Children both leave and board vehicles from the left-side doors near the paved or undercover areas, and drivers can then proceed through the exit gates, turn left into College Road, and proceed towards Melville Street. Traffic flow therefore moves safely in an anti-clockwise direction around the school at these peak times.

In accordance with the Education Act 1999, children in Pre Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Pre Primary are to be dropped off and collected from their class by an adult.

NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters are available on the school website. A link is emailed to families each Tuesday. The deadline for inclusion of items is Monday 3.30pm. Families are requested to read the newsletter each week as it is an important form of communication and link between home and school. Hard copies of the newsletter are available if required and can be collected from the office.

ASSEMBLIES

General assemblies are held, according to the term calendar published at the commencement of each term – usually on Fridays at 8.50am in the School/Parish Hall. Parents and friends are encouraged to attend.

EUCHARIST

Class Masses, liturgies and whole-school Eucharistic celebrations are held throughout the year. Dates will be advised via the Newsletter. Parents are welcome to attend all celebrations to celebrate with the children and their teachers.
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Sacramental Program usually involves children in Year 3 (Reconciliation), Year 4 (Eucharist) and Year 6 (Confirmation). Dates for the celebration of these Parish based sacraments are planned at the beginning of the year. The programs involve some parental participation.

During times of preparation for the sacraments children in all grades study the sacraments. This is by way of deepening their understanding of the sacraments at their level, as well as being a way of supporting children in the sacramental program.

Religious Education is taught daily in all classes, and the school follows the Perth Archdiocesan Units of Work for Religious Education.

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS

A Kindy Parent meeting and Student Orientation is held at the end of the year preceding the year of enrolment.

- A parent/teacher information evening is held at the beginning of each year.
- At the end of Term One, individual parent/teacher meetings will be conducted.
- During Term Three, student learning journey (parent interviews as required).

Throughout the year parents are encouraged to contact their child’s class teacher to discuss any concerns. It is necessary to make an appointment for such a meeting through the School Office.

DUTY OF CARE

All visitors (including parents) to the school during school hours must report their presence to the School Office. Any desired access either to children or to children’s properties (e.g. school bags) must be through the office. Children taken out of school during the day must be signed out, if returning they must be signed in by a parent. Any visitors to the school must report to the office and sign in and collect a visitor’s badge. This is a matter of safety and a duty of care for all children at St Thomas’.

LATE PASSES

Classes begin at 8.45am each morning for all children from Pre-Primary to Year 6. Children from Years 1 to 6 who arrive at school after 9.00am must collect a Late Pass from the school office and present it to the class teacher on entering the class.

The school assumes duty of care for that student from the time recorded on the Late Pass. Children in Pre Primary and Kindergarten classes who arrive late for school are to be taken to the classroom by their accompanying adult.

In Kindergarten and Pre-Primary classes a book system will operate so that parents can register essential messages to the teachers.
UNIFORMS

- **Boys uniform:** Blue shorts, white shirt and grey school socks.
- **Girls uniform:** Blue tartan school skirt, white shirt and white socks.
- **Winter uniform:** Tie is to be worn in Terms 2 and 3. Maroon school jumper is worn as part of the winter uniform.
- **Sport uniform:** Blue rugby knit school sport shorts white polo school sport shirt, school sports socks and white sandshoes. Maroon tracksuit can also be worn.
- **School hat:** is worn outdoors throughout the year.

All clothing is to be clearly marked with your child’s name. No jewellery is allowed except for sleepers or studs in the ears. It is our policy that all children wear hats whilst in the sun. Please keep hair clean and check regularly for nits/head lice. Shoulder length hair must be tied up. Girls are to wear navy or white ribbons only.

Sports uniforms are to be worn on days of Physical Education lessons and Sports sessions.

The Uniform Shop is open as advertised in the Newsletter. (Forms are available from the office for after-hours orders). It is operated by the Parents’ and Friends’ Uniform Shop Committee. Payment is by cash or cheque only. Goods will be received only when payment is made.

**UNIFORM PRICE LIST**  
*(Prices are subject to variation)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shirts (Sizes 6-16)</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Skirt (Sizes 4-16)</td>
<td>55.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Shorts (Sizes 4-20)</td>
<td>32.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey &amp; White Socks (Shoe size 9-12, 13-3, 2-8)</td>
<td>8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport Socks (Shoe size 9-12, 13-3, 2-8)</td>
<td>8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport Shirts (Sizes 6-16)</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport Shorts (Sizes 4-16)</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track Suit Top (Sizes 4-16)</td>
<td>35.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track Suit Pants (Sizes 4-16)</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumpers (Sizes 6-16)</td>
<td>60.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Bags (one size - new)</td>
<td>55.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ties (regular or elastic) (107cmx117cm)</td>
<td>18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Hat (small/medium/large)</td>
<td>17.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Bag</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satchel</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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**SHOES**

Black lace up shoes for both boys and girls are to be worn with dress uniform. Boys wear grey socks, available from Uniform Shop and girls wear white ankle socks available from retail outlets. Navy sandals may be worn in summer. White ankle socks with white sport shoes are to be worn with sports uniform.