



St Thomas
the Apostle
PRIMARY SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN 2020

Orientation
Information
Booklet

I am the way, the truth and the life.”
John 14:6



Dear Parents/Carers,

I am pleased to welcome you and your family to St Thomas the Apostle Primary School. It is my sincere wish, that these early school years will be happy and rewarding for your child and that they feel they are part of a caring and kind school community. It is certainly our privilege to work with you and to share with you the responsibilities of educating your child in preparation for the future. At St Thomas the Apostle we endeavour to create a happy, safe and nurturing climate for the children in our care.

We all have a responsibility to care for and support our school. This care should permeate every aspect of school life, be based on our shared values and affirm the dignity and worth of each member of our school community. By coming together as a caring community we can nurture in our children a faith-filled relationship with Jesus Christ in whom all Christian values have their foundation.

Teaching and learning are the core business of our school. In addition to our Religious Education curriculum, there is great emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy. Through linking our core curriculum areas, we strive for relevance and authenticity for our teaching and learning to assist the children to develop skills for an enriching, active and purposeful future.

The following pages contain some practical details to inform you about starting your child in Kindergarten at St Thomas the Apostle Primary School in 2020. Should you have any queries or wish to discuss matters concerning your child, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to seeing you again in the near future.

May God bless you and your family

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ursula Jamieson'.

Ursula Jamieson
Principal



St Thomas the Apostle School Prayer

Jesus,

You are the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Open our hearts to your love.

Help us to be true to you and to each other.

Give us the courage to be your disciples in all we do and say.

Thank you for our school community,
a place of wonder, learning and peace.

Unite us with St Thomas when
we say “My Lord and My God”.

Amen



At St Thomas the Apostle Primary School we recognise that schools build on the successful learning provided in the home by parents and guardians. We believe that home and school working together in partnership will help a child achieve success.

We are very pleased to welcome you to the community of St Thomas the Apostle Primary School. We trust that this will be the start of a happy and enduring relationship between your family and the school.

We look forward to meeting you all in 2020.



St Thomas School Song

We discover, we learn, we play, we pray
Jesus is our guide, he shows us the way
At St Thomas', St Thomas'
Do your best to be a mate, be thoughtful,
engaged and always be safe
Let's all celebrate
At St Thomas', at St Thomas'
A place of gathering and sharing too
People here will care for you
At St Thomas', St Thomas'
We welcome you.

Composed by Cathy Duffy



2020 School Times

School Hours 8.55am to 3.10pm

Recess 10.50am to 11.30am

Lunch 1pm to 1.40pm

**FIRST DAY OF KINDERGARTEN IS
MONDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2020**



2020 School Year

Term 1 Monday 3 February - Friday 9 April

Term 2 Monday 27 April - Friday 3 July

Term 3 Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September

Term 4 Monday 12 October - Thursday 18 December



MORNING TEA INVITATION

Once the children have gone off to class on the first day of school, Monday 3 February, you are welcome to remain in the hall and meet other Kindergarten parents over a morning tea and tissues and enjoy your introduction to the St Thomas the Apostle School community.



THE FIRST FOUR WEEKS...

Week One:

Monday 3 February

9.30am - 3.10pm

First Day for Kindergarten

Tuesday 4 February

8.55am - 3.10pm

Wednesday 5 February

Rest Day at home

Thursday 6 February

8.55am - 3.10pm

Friday 7 February

8.55am - 3.10pm

On Monday 3 February please bring your child to the Hall at 9.30am, where they will be placed in their class groupings and will make their way to class.

At 3.10pm please come to the hall. The children will come to the hall with their class group and will meet you in the hall.

From Thursday 6 February you are requested to drop your child at the stage by 8.55am. You are welcome to join us at the stage for prayer and greetings.



Week Two, Three and Four:

Monday 10, 17, 24 February

8.55am - 3.10pm

Tuesday 11, 18, 25 February

8.55am - 3.10pm

Wednesday 12, 19, 26 February

Rest Day at home

Thursday 13, 20, 27 February

8.55am - 3.10pm

Friday 14, 21, 28 February

8.55am - 3.10pm

Week Five:

The children will now attend school between 8.55am - 3.10pm.

You may like to use morning Drive Through and Afternoon Pick Up in this week. A teacher is on duty and will direct the children and keep them safe.

Please wait at the stage or use the Drive Through to drop off and pick up your child.



NUT FREE SCHOOL

We have a number of children in our school community who suffer allergic reactions to nuts and to nut products, some more severely than others. Information presented at the Information Night explained the necessity for St Thomas the Apostle Primary School to have a 'nut free' environment in order to accommodate the special needs of the identified students in our school.

For some of these children, even the most minute trace of peanut or nut product can result in severe vomiting, others have a life threatening reaction called an anaphylactic reaction.

Our school community has supported students suffering from allergic reactions in the past and as the number of students with allergic reactions to nuts has increased we need to take additional measures to ensure their safety. Staff have been trained to administer assistance when an allergic reaction occurs.

All children need to be aware that they must only eat from their own lunchbox. We have had children suffer reactions in the past and in the interest of the children's well-being we all need to be vigilant to ensure that such incidents do not occur. Therefore your support in refraining from sending peanut butter and nut products to school in lunches and snacks is sought. The staff will talk to the children and it is most important that you also impress upon your child the importance of following this request.

At St Thomas the Apostle we are a family and as such some of our members need our particular support to ensure their continuing good health and I know we can all work together to achieve this.



HELPING YOUR CHILD TO GET READY FOR SCHOOL



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Parents are the first to educate their children in faith. They begin this task in the earliest years of life when they provide a home where there is love, acceptance, forgiveness and encouragement. These are the stepping stones to a healthy relationship with God.

Establish a routine where there is time to be together in a relaxed atmosphere. This is when you can share simple prayers and talk about things that are important.

Religious Education is woven into the daily life of the school through formal Religion lessons and the integration of Christian attitudes and values into all areas of the curriculum. Opportunities for experiencing prayer and celebrating liturgy are regularly provided for the whole school community.

READING

READ READ READ



- * Read to your child as often as you can.
- * Encourage your child to choose the books you read together and help them to tell the story from the pictures in the book.
- * Buy books as presents.
- * Help your child to recognise his/her name in print.
- * Teach your child nursery rhymes and songs.
- * Select books that use repetition to capture the rhythm of language, eg. The Three Billy Goats Gruff.
- * Place labels around the home.
- * Hold the book so that your child can see the pictures and the writing.
- * Let your child hold the book and turn the pages.
- * Sometimes point to the words as you read them.
- * Discuss information gained from factual books.
- * Take books with you when visiting.

WRITING

WRITE WRITE WRITE



- * Read books which feature rhyme and repetition.
- * Encourage your child to join in and predict which word comes next.
- * Talk about print in the environment, eg. Stop signs, advertisements.
- * Show your child how you use writing— write messages, shopping lists, letters and cards with your child.
- * Provide a special area for your child to write, include scrap paper, cards, pencils, crayons etc.
- * Provide magnetic or plastic letter tiles for play.
- * Allow your child to use a word processor to write messages.
- * Write messages for your child to read.
- * Play rhyming games like “I Spy.”
- * Encourage them to have-a-go at spelling.

MATHEMATICS AT HOME

There are many activities able to be done at home that will assist children to develop basic skills in Mathematics.

* Encourage your child to count aloud common objects around the home:

knives and forks when setting the table
pegs when hanging out the washing
socks when putting them away
apples, oranges, bananas after shopping.

* Let your child see you measure things and help when cooking.

* Allow your child to play with blocks. Encourage them to copy shapes that you build.

* Make patterns of beads and ask your child to copy them.

* Play card games.

* Let your child hand over money for things you buy and receive the change.

* Talk about the time—morning / afternoon, day of the week, month and the seasons.

Use mathematical terms such as:

more	under	over	high
low	less	some	few
half	before	after	full
empty	long	short	

8 Points To Remember....

1. **Toileting**
Prepare your child to use the toilet independently.
2. **Bags**
Ensure that your child can identify his/her school bag by attaching a special key-ring or a piece of ribbon. Practice packing and unpacking their won bag.
3. **Shoelaces**
Practise tying shoelaces at home.
4. **Jumpers**
Let your child practise taking his/her jumper off independently.
5. **Hats** “No Hat, Play in the Shade!”
Please emphasise to your child the importance of wearing a hat at all times while outside.
6. **Little Lunch (Recess) and Big Lunch**
Can your child differentiate between little lunch and big lunch? Can your child unwrap gladwrap, open lids and lunch boxes?
7. **Money**
We suggest you do not use the canteen until your child is familiar with the school.
8. **Reading and Writing**
Please read with your child every day and practise writing their name using lower case letters.

Contents of School Bag

Your child will need the following items on their first day of school . . .

A school bag with clear identification on it.

A painting smock clearly labelled. An old shirt is fine.

A blue school hat with your child's name and class clearly written on the inside brim.

A lunch box clearly labelled with your child's name.

A large box of tissues for the class to share.

A library bag big enough to hold a large picture book.

An 'emergency' pack which includes change of undies and socks to be kept at the bottom of the bag.



A FINAL MESSAGE

We realise that your child is very precious to you and we will try to make their time at St Thomas the Apostle Primary School affirming, enjoyable and profitable. To meet these goals we need to communicate with you. If at any time you wish to discuss your child's education with his or her teacher or the principal please do not hesitate to make an appointment. You may wish to provide information that will help the school understand your child better or there may be a particular issue you wish to discuss.

There are many ways parents can become involved in the life of our school. Reading, craft, and the school canteen are just some of the ways you may like to help. If you have a talent or a skill you are willing to share we would love to know about it. Don't forget you will need to apply for a Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) card to assist at school.

Visit www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au for more details.



I can write my
alphabet.

a b c d e f g

h i j k l m n

o p q r s t u

v w x y z

My name is

.....

I am years old.

This is a picture of
me.