

# PREP Handbook

St Benedict's



St Benedict's Catholic Primary School

# 2019

*We walk in God's ways where together we live, love, learn and celebrate.*



# Welcome to Prep

Welcome to Prep for 2019. It won't be long before the children come along to start off on the great adventure of school life.

On behalf of our local Catholic Community and our School Community we would like to extend to you, your family and most importantly your child, a most warm welcome to our place of learning. At St Benedict's we pride ourselves on offering not only a high-quality education but an atmosphere which is truly unique. Our culture is based on the Catholic tradition as well as our Patron, St Benedict, whose teachings, philosophy and values permeate our Curriculum. Our school motto, *Walk in God's Ways*, promotes the way in which we live, love, learn and celebrate in our world today.

We promote the values of *hospitality, community, peace, prayer, stability, conversion, humility, compassion, obedience* and *work* in our everyday lives. Our school is about educating the whole person and empowering them to shape and enrich our changing world, by living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We know how important it is for your child to experience a sense of belonging and we endeavour to provide an inclusive environment where all students can feel safe and happy. Our educators ensure all learners and their individual styles are considered and catered for, setting up all students for success. We promote collaborative partnerships between home and school where you are able to contact us to discuss any concerns you might experience.

To make the transition to Prep a little easier, we have prepared some information for you regarding Prep and what you can expect your child to experience.

We look forward to being a part of this next stage of your child's life and we wish you God's blessing and look forward to sharing with you the joys of your child's education at St Benedict's.

Patrick Davis  
*Principal*



# What is Prep

**There are many things which will influence how happily a child settles into their first year of school. Every child is different, and each child will react to school in their own individual way.**

It is important that children come to school feeling secure and as confident as possible. Parents, you can help by being very positive and talking to your child about all the good experiences he or she is likely to have. Try not to use school as a threat. Comments such as, “*You won’t be able to act like that at school,*” often worry a child needlessly.



Most children are very enthusiastic about starting school and may continue to be so. However, some children can lose that enthusiasm fairly quickly and parents of these children may become disappointed and puzzled about what has happened. There may be many reasons for this. Going to school means making an incredible adjustment. Firstly, the child has to be separated from parents and go into a bigger and noisier situation than previously experienced. They have to learn to know and trust a new teacher. They have to mix-in and co-operate with a large group of children, many of them strangers. They will be required to share and take turns with these strangers. They also have to manage and be responsible for their own belongings – hats, bags, lunchboxes, etc. This may cause stress as they try not to lose them. (Having everything named can certainly help with this!)

Many children also find it difficult to get used to the change from home life. Now, instead of being able to “*do their own thing*” for most of the day, they are asked to concentrate and listen to the teacher. They have to follow a school routine, e.g. they have to eat at certain times of the day, respond to bells etc. Children do become very tired by the end of the day. This may be reflected in your child’s behaviour when they come home. They may be “*tired and cranky.*” Try not to be too concerned as this is very normal.

## What is Prep

Prep is a five day a week early years educational program that was introduced by the Queensland Government to ensure a smooth transition into Year 1. Prep is about establishing strong foundations for success in life-long learning and empowering our children to make transitions throughout their schooling and into the world of work.

- Prep is a full-time program that runs five days a week. Students are expected to attend full time.
- Attendance aligns with the school’s Attendance Policy.
- Hours for Prep are the same as regular school hours for Year 1-6.
- Students should turn five by June 30 the year they enrol in Prep.
- Assessment and reporting is in line with the Australian Curriculum Foundation Achievement Standards.

## How does learning occur in a Prep classroom?

At St Benedict's we value and engage children's ideas and experiences to enrich our Early Years program. Our focus will be **child-centred** and **will support all children physically, emotionally, socially, intellectually and spiritually.**

### 8 Principles for the Early Phase of Learning

- Children are capable and competent and have been learning since birth.
- Children build deep understanding when they learn through all senses and are offered choice in their learning experiences.
- Children learn best through interactions, active exploration, experimentation and by representing their learning through a variety of modes.
- Children's positive dispositions to learning, and to themselves as learners, are essential for success in school and beyond.
- Children learn best in environments where there are supportive relationships among all partners in the learning community.
- Early childhood programs are most effective when they recognise, value and build upon the cultural and social experiences of children.
- Building continuity of learning as children move to and through school provides foundations for their future success.
- Assessment of young children is an integral part of the learning and teaching process.



## Curriculum Design and Implementation

### Australian Curriculum

Students in Prep are taught through the Australian Curriculum in the following learning areas:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities and Social Sciences
- The Arts (Visual Arts, Drama, Dance, Music and Media Arts)
- Health and Physical Education
- Digital and Design Technologies

Children are taught through the five contexts for learning:

- Play
- Investigations
- Routines and transitions
- Real life situations
- Focussed learning and teaching



The Australian Curriculum outlines the knowledge, understandings and skills that are important for all Australian students. It encompasses the learning entitlement of students as a foundation for their future learning, growth and active participation in the Australian community. It makes clear what all young Australians should learn as they progress through schooling. It is the foundation for high quality teaching to meet the needs of all Australian students.

Prep teachers provide children with learning experiences that cater for their individual learning styles and giving them multiple opportunities for success. When planning a Prep program, we consider the different rates of development of children and their unique individual characteristics. Programing and planning are designed around practice for Prep aged children.

Children attending Prep bring with them a wealth of knowledge, values, experiences and attitudes that have been developed and influenced by their family experiences and their social and cultural contexts. An Early Years' program centres on the concept of children being actively involved in the direction of their own learning experiences. Prep teachers scaffold and provide opportunities for students in a variety of contexts.

## Religious Education

St Benedict's School aspires to educate and form students who are challenged to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ and who are literate in the Catholic and broader Christian tradition so they they might participate critically and authentically in faith contexts and wider society.

In 2013 a new Religious Education Curriculum was introduced across all Brisbane Catholic Education Schools. St Benedict's has adopted this new curriculum and it is structured into two main focus areas:

- Religious Education Curriculum
- Religious Life of the School



The teaching of Religion will remain consistent with all other learning areas in the Prep Year. Religious Education Curriculum is organised into four interrelated strands: Sacred Texts, Beliefs, Church and Christian Life. Each strand has its own distinctive body of knowledge and skills. Students in Prep learn about Jesus' life as Jew, his family and friends and his teachings and actions. They learn about God's loving relationship with people and all creation, and the many ways in which communities of believers nurture their loving relationship with God, others and all of creation.

The Religious Life of the School is also organised into four strands; Religious Identity and Culture, Social Action and Justice, Evangelisation and Faith Formation and Prayer and Worship. Prep students will be exposed to a range and balance of these strands through their participation in whole school and class liturgies and masses, Social Action initiatives and though the Religious Education Curriculum in the Prep classroom.

## Specialist Subjects

Prep students will participate in Health and Physical Education (PE) (40 minutes), Visual Art (1 hour for one third of the year), Music (40 minutes), and Dance lessons (40 minutes for one term).

# Monitoring and Assessing Children's Learning

Monitoring and assessing children's learning is an integral part of the learning and teaching process and is an ongoing part of curriculum decision making. It is not always a separate activity. It is important that children have the opportunity to demonstrate their learning in the full range of learning contexts. The information gathered is used to:

- Plan for future learning
- Build a picture of a child's learning and development
- Give direction to conversations with the child, parents or carers, specialist teachers, the child's next teacher and other professional colleagues
- Comment on children's learning in relation to the curriculum
- Record point in time judgements using observations to inform assessment



Teachers organise evidence of learning in individual online folios. The folio becomes a dynamic record of examples of a child's learning and development in the Preparatory Year.

Our student report, prepared twice per year, documents successes made about a child's learning in each learning area. The report uses a five point scale to describe learning progress:

- Well above the expected standard
- Above the expected standard
- At the expected standard
- Below the expected standard
- Well below the expected standard

## What does a Prep day look like?

8:20am	Students gather in undercover area for whole school 'Gathering Time'
8:30am	Session 1 Learning Commences
9:30am	Snack Time
10:30am	Supervised eating break followed by play time
11:00am	Session 2 Learning
1:00pm	Supervised eating break followed by play time
1:30pm	Session 3 Learning
2:45pm	End of School Day



To assist in helping your child build a routine, we ask that they be punctual in arriving at school each day. If your child is late, it is a requirement that they be signed in by an adult at student reception. Failing to sign in at reception will result in an unexplained absence being recorded.

# Pick Up and Drop Off Routine

## Morning Drop Off

The best time to arrive at school each morning is after 8:00am.

When students arrive, they can be in one of three locations

- The undercover area sitting down quietly
- The oval
- The tennis courts

Each of the above areas are supervised from 8:00am – 8:20am. At 8:20am, the bell goes, and all students gather for Morning Gathering Time in the undercover area. This consists of sharing our school prayer and offering any important messages. Parents are most welcome to stay each morning for Gathering Time.



**Please Note:** In the early part of the year Prep students will not attend Gathering Time but will go straight to the classrooms at 8:15am. Teachers will have books and puzzles out for them to play, talk and socialise. Parents are welcome to stay and help their child settle into an activity. Alternatively, you may wish to drop and go.

It is very important that your child arrives on time for school by 8:30am to allow your child and the rest of the group to settle into the morning routine without disruption. If you arrive late please come to the office and sign your child in. You will receive a late card, which is handed to the teacher.

## Afternoon Pick up

Each afternoon, parents are asked to kindly wait at the hall to collect their little ones. The classroom teacher will bring the Prep students directly to the hall at 2:45pm. Students who need to attend OSHC will be collected by relevant staff. Students are permitted to attend the two-minute pick up zone, particularly if they have an older sibling to look after them. If you are running late please call the office and they will let the teacher know and they can reassure your child.

## Leaving Early

While Prep is a full time program and the children attend for a full school day there may be times when you need to pick your child up early. To do this you must sign your child out at the office before coming to collect them. The office staff will give you a card, which must be given to your child's teacher.



## Term Dates

These dates can also be found on our Website [www.stbenedicts.qld.edu.au](http://www.stbenedicts.qld.edu.au) or the [Parent Portal](#).

### **Term 1: Wednesday 30 January to Friday 5 April**

- **Student Free Day** Wednesday 23 January
- **Student Free Day** Thursday January 24
- **Student Free Day** Friday January 25
- **Australia Day Public Holiday** Monday January 28
- **Student Free Day** Tuesday January 29



### **Term 2: Tuesday 23 April to Friday 28 June**

- **Easter Public Holiday** Friday April 19
- **Easter Public Holiday** Monday April 22
- **Anzac Day Public Holiday** Thursday 25 April
- **Labour Day Public Holiday** Monday 6 May

### **Term 3: Monday 15 July to Friday 18 September**

- **Show Day Public Holiday** Wednesday 14 August (Designated Show Day for St Benedict's is usually Monday 12 August)

### **Term 4: Tuesday 8 October to Friday 6 December**

- **Queen's Birthday Public Holiday** Monday 7 October
- **Student Free Day** Monday 21 October

## Healthy Children

### **Prep Lunches**

"Healthy food makes for a happy, healthy child" We aim to encourage healthy eating habits and also encourage all children to drink plenty of water each day.

Please maintain a high standard of nutrition in the foods you give your child for

- Snack (9:30am)
- 1st Break (10:30am-11:00am)
- 2nd Break (1:00pm-1:30pm)



Please pack lunch and morning snack separately. Include nutritious food items that your child can manage independently. If providing items such as yoghurt, please provide a spoon. Please do not pack any items that require heating.

Please ensure that lunchboxes are named and have adequate seals and closures. Given fridges are not available for your children's lunches, it is necessary to provide insulated lunch bags or include freezer blocks to keep your child's lunch cool.

#### **Suggestions for:**

- *Morning Snack:* Fruit, chopped vegetable sticks, dried fruit, nuts or sultanas.
- *First Break:* Sandwiches with healthy fillings, finger salad and possibly fruit, yoghurt in a named lunch box.
- *Afternoon Tea:* Fruit, cheese/crackers, chopped vegetable sticks, dried fruit.

**Whilst packaged food can be fun as an occasional treat, we do not encourage them to be placed in the children's lunch box as an everyday food. Foods which are very high in sugar and fat are discouraged.**

## **Water Bottles**

Please provide your child with a drink bottle full of water each day. Please do not fill these with cordial or juice as water is the healthiest option. Fruit Juice poppers are permitted as part of your child's lunch but cans and glass are an unsafe substitute.

## **Nut Allergy Aware**

The school does not have a nut free policy but requests all families to consider refraining from incorporating nut products in lunch boxes where possible. This helps us avoid risk of anaphylactic shock with some of our students. Parents are urged to adopt this voluntary ban on peanut butter and nuts when providing lunches from home.

If your child has special dietary needs, please advise the teacher. A list of allergies will be provided to parents at the beginning of the year for consideration when supplying birthday treats.

## **Toileting**

It is the school's expectation that Prep students are toilet trained. It is understood that on rare occasions, some students may have accidents. In these circumstances, students are required to change themselves independently. If this cannot be achieved, parents will be contacted to collect their child from school to ensure that Occupational Health & Safety Regulations are met. Please note that Child Protection laws do not permit staff to assist with their personal toileting needs.

Every Prep student is required to have a spare pair of underwear, an old shirt and shorts in their bag in case of an accident. Please name these items and store in a plastic bag.

## *Chatting Children Literacy Program*

Oral language is a skill that is a powerful foundation for reading and writing. The Chatting Children Program helps to build foundational skills for future literacy development. The program explores the building block of literacy including oral language, motivation and positive orientation to books, alphabet knowledge, print concepts (how to hold a book, reading from left to right), narrative structure and phonological awareness (word, syllable and rhyme awareness). All of these skills build children's readiness for reading and writing success.



The Chatting Children Program is a take home language program that aims to promote all areas of language development in a fun and engaging way. The Chatting Children packs consist of a story book, activity book and a DVD. It is designed to be used by families with their children in the home environment.

## Medical Protocols

### Administration of Medication

If your child requires medication to be administered during the course of the school day, please see the office to complete the relevant authority form. It is a legal requirement that all medication supplied be labelled by a chemist; outlining the student's name, dosage requirements and administration instructions.

### Accident or Sudden Illness

For injuries of a minor nature, first aid will be administered by teachers in the Prep classroom. Should a serious illness or accident occur, every effort will be made to contact parents immediately. It may be necessary to seek instantaneous medical service. It is therefore essential that school records are kept accurate and parents are expected to keep the school informed of emergency contact numbers and all other pertinent medical information. Please notify the office and teachers of any changes to these details



## What do you wear to Prep?

### Uniform Components

#### School Hat

The St Benedict's navy school hat with gold school logo screen printed on the front panel must be worn each day. It is important to clearly label this hat with your child's name on the inside.

#### Sports Uniform

Both girls and boys wear the same school sports polo shirt and navy blue sport shorts with navy school socks and plain black sport shoes.

#### Formal Uniform

Girls wear either a formal school dress or a blouse/school tie and navy blue culottes with St Benedict's school socks or navy blue tights and black leather dress shoes or plain black sports shoes.



Boys wear a formal school shirt and navy blue rigger shorts with St Benedict's school socks and black leather dress shoes or plain black sports shoes.



### Compulsory Accessories

- St Benedict's School Bag
- Computer Bag: With the introduction of the one to one laptop program, a computer bag may be supplied as part of the technology levy (Years 5&6).
- Navy School Library Bag
- Red School Message Bag
- St Benedict's Portfolios (purchased from the uniform shop)

### Special Activities

- *Senior Shirts*: Pre-ordered shirts for our Year 6 Seniors may be worn on a teacher designated day once per week.
- *School Sports Carnival*: Plain, house coloured T-shirts may be worn to designated school sporting events.
- *Swimming*: Boys wear board shorts or trunks with a rash shirt. Girls wear a one piece swimsuit with a rash shirt. All students are required to wear a swim cap.

### Optional Winter Items

- Navy school microfiber tracksuit.
- Navy school sleeveless vest.
- Navy jumper.
- Navy stockings for girls.

### Optional Accessories

- Hair Accessories
- St Benedict's Swimming Caps
- St Benedict's Drink Bottle
- Lunchbox Bags
- St Benedict's Raincoat

**Students are personally responsible to take good care of all their labelled uniform belongings and all school property as they strive to live, love, learn and celebrate at St Benedict's.**

## Appearance Guidelines

### Hair

- Hair is to be brushed or combed neatly in a conservative style when attending school.
- Hairstyles not permitted include Mohawks, rat tails, shaved tracks, coloured hair or man buns.
- Boys' hair should be short back and sides finishing above the collar or no shorter than #2.
- Girls' hair should be at collar length or below and if longer it must be tied back at all times.
- Hair that falls across the face or eyes must be tied or clipped back at all times.
- Hair accessories must be school colours (navy, cherry red and/or white). Acceptable hair accessories are available to purchase from our Uniform Shop.

### Jewellery and Make-up

- Jewellery is not part of the school uniform. Only a chain with a religious medal or cross may be worn inside the shirt or dress.
- Plain gold or silver (studs or sleepers only) may be worn in both ears, one earring in each ear.
- No other body piercing is permitted.

- Children may wear a standard wrist watch.
- Make-up, including nail polish is not permitted.

## Prior to Prep Day One

Prior to the first day of school, your child will receive a letter of introduction from their teacher. There will be a photo of the teacher attached so your little one knows who to expect on their first day.

Our 2018 Prep teachers are: Kerrin O’Hanlon, Caitlin Byrne, Sarah Hammond and Helen Watson.



## What happens on Prep Day One?

**What an exciting day! Everyone is full of many different emotions on Prep Day One.**

To keep everyone as calm as possible it is very important that your child knows how he/she will be taken to and from school. Re-assure them that you, or a person you have named will be there for them when school has finished. Try to collect them on time. Children often become very tearful if all the others have gone.

Children entering school for the first time react differently, even two children from the same family may behave differently. Some children have been waiting for this day FOREVER! and leave without a backward glance. Other children may cling, cry or refuse to let go.

Once the 8:20am bell goes, you are very welcome to bring your child to the Prep room and to remain with them until the next bell rings. Then it really is best to give him/her a kiss and a hug, and leave quickly. Children who cry usually calm down in a few moments. This is often far worse for the parents, as they are the ones who tend to worry all day!

Some children may experience some initial difficulties in trying to settle in. Try not to be too concerned with this. However, of course, if you are really worried please speak to your child’s teacher.

One example of these difficulties is that at the beginning of the year some children will eat very little of their lunch at school. This is quite common, and usually improves as the child becomes more comfortable with school life.



School is a very busy place and young children are often very tired at the end of the day. Parents need to be prepared for this. No doubt you will be curious to know what your child has experienced each day. Some children will come home from school and not stop talking, others need time to wind down and eat and play before they are ready to talk. Some children find the question “*What did you do today?*” too broad to answer and simply say “*Nothing.*” It may help if you narrow the question, e.g. “*What story did you hear today?*”

Again, we all want school to be a happy experience for everyone concerned. As stated earlier, please come and speak to your child’s teacher if you are concerned about anything at all.

## Checklist for Day One

- Please make sure all your child’s belongings are clearly named.
- A good time to arrive at school is between 8.10am. The first bell rings at 8.20am for children to move to class. Some children can get quite distressed if they are late.
- Please understand that the teachers are very busy on the first day. We need to greet every child. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to make an appointment with your child’s teacher.
- At St Benedict’s we wear our sports uniform on Sports Days, and every other day we wear our formal school uniform. Your teacher will let you know which days.

### Things to bring:

- School bag
- School hat
- Red take-home message bag
- Art smock (kept at school)
- **Lunch:** Lunch for first and second break should be packed in one lunch box with a cold pack. Lunch and snack stay in your child’s school bag.
- Fruit/vegetable snack
- Water bottle
- Library bag (to be kept at home, borrowing day TBA)



## When You Arrive at School

1. Students wait in the undercover area until the first bell rings at 8.20am, when they move to classes for school to begin by 8:30am. After a period of settling in, students will gather with the remainder of the school in the undercover area at 8:20 for a whole school ‘Gathering Time’ before heading to class to begin learning for the day.
2. Unpack red message bag and water bottle. (your teacher will let you know what to do with your lunch and snack.)
3. Place red take home message bag in the container which is just inside the classroom door.
4. Put school bags in bag racks.
5. Place school hat on top of bag.
6. Come inside the classroom, find your child’s name tag and pin it on .
7. Encourage your little one to find an activity at one of the tables and help them to settle in.
8. When the 8.25am bell rings, say “*goodbye*” and go and have a lovely day.
9. At the end of the day teachers will walk students to the Pick-Up Zones to meet parents.
  1. Our **Drive Through** collection zone near the undercover area
  2. Our **Hall Walk In** collection zone is in the hall. Please note that school finishes at 2.45pm for all students. For the first four weeks of school, Prep students will finish at 2:30pm.

# Tips for a Terrific Transition

## Preparing Your Child for School

Starting school should be an enjoyable and positive experience, when children have the opportunity to make new friends and learn new things. Beginning school is a big step but there are some things that you can do to help.



## Developing Independence

Help your child become used to:

- Putting on and taking off clothes and shoes (*Velcro is useful if shoelaces are a problem*).
- Opening a lunch box and unwrapping food (*Plastic wrap can be tricky!*)
- Encourage him/her to put away belongings in a set place, carry own bag etc.
- Eating and drinking without help.
- Caring for and putting away play things.
- Using a handkerchief or tissue.
- Please ensure that your child can use the toilet independently and knows how to wash their hands thoroughly.
- Packing, unpacking and carrying their own bag.
- Let your child know that it's alright to make mistakes.
- When writing your child's name, use a capital letter only at the beginning.
- Teach your child how to cope with frustration, e.g. Acknowledge the child's upset feelings and then guide him/her to think of how to solve the problem. "What could we do?" Your child may need you to offer solutions at first.
- Please ensure that your child can use the toilet independently and knows how to wash their hands thoroughly.

Prepare your child for separation:

- If your child is not used to being away from the family, try to organise for them to spend time at a friends' or relatives' houses without you before school starts.
- Take your child to visit the school a number of times before the first day. Show them where the toilets and bubblers are, and how to use them. If this isn't possible, perhaps drive past the school to show them where they will be attending.

## Developing Social Competence

Help your child to develop the necessary communication skills. Try to ensure that your child can:

- Ask for help when needed.
- Use appropriate greetings.
- Respond when spoken to.
- Follow simple instructions (*Ask your child to help you around the house. Give one direction to begin with. Gradually build to two, then three.*)
- Separate comfortably from parent/carer.
- Naturally show an interest in other kids.
- Show concern for others.
- Use words rather than physical aggression to solve problems.
- Recognise and express their feelings and needs.



- Move on to new activities easily.
- Accept guidance and directions from adults.

Help your child to develop the necessary social skills. Try to ensure that your child can:

- Share and take turns.
- Play cooperatively with others.
- Wait quietly for brief periods (*Playing card or board games require all these skills. Beware of influencing the outcomes of the game though. Being able to cope with not winning is also an important skill.*)

## Developing Physical Skills

Provide opportunities for your child to use the large muscles of their body. This assists with the stamina and co-ordination required throughout the school day. Help your child to develop the necessary skills for:

- Running
- Jumping
- Hopping
- Climbing
- Negotiating obstacles (*Set up an obstacle course!*)

Help your child to develop the small muscles of the fingers and hand.

Try to ensure that your child has lots of opportunities to:

- Draw and write.
- Paint with fingers and brushes.
- Play with dough (*Make biscuits or bread. Great fun and you get to eat it as well!*)
- Cut with scissors, tear and scrunch paper.
- Build with blocks and other construction toys.
- Pick up and place small objects (*Decorate your biscuits or sprinkle sesame seeds on your bread.*)
- Open his/her school bag independently and obtain personal items from their bag.
- Open their lunch box independently.
- Undress/dress for toileting independence.
- Wash their hands after going to the toilet.
- Confidently run, skip, jump and climb.
- Grip scissors correctly.
- Sit with your child and play with playdough, draw, try stencils, play simple turn taking games like I spy, 'Simon Says', 'I went shopping and I bought...'



## Developing School Routines

Use pretend play to practice some of the classroom routines such as:

- Putting your hand up to speak.
- Asking to go to the toilet.
- Sitting quietly and listening to others for a short time.
- Lining up.
- Looking after and organising belongings (*Pencils, sharpener, scissors, etc in pencil case. Lunch box in bag.*)
- (*Children usually love to play "Schools". Take turns with your child to be the teacher.*)

## Developing Gross Motor Skills

- Getting out the saucepans.
- Taking things out of the fridge.
- Hanging out small things such as socks and tea towels.
- Helping dry the cutlery.
- Helping to set the table – this is important as it involves counting, sorting and correct placement.
- Drying self after a bath or shower.
- Hanging up towels.
- Dressing self and putting on socks.
- Spreading own bread.
- Rolling out pastry or play dough.
- Making own bed.
- Stacking plastic containers.
- Putting toys away.
- Rolling, bouncing and kicking balls.
- Water and sand play using different sized and shaped containers.
- Using cracks in the footpath to jump/skip over.



## Ideas to Help Fine Motor Skills

- Squeezing pegs e.g. Make cages for zoo animals by squeezing pegs around the outside of a shallow tin and stand the animals inside.
- Squeezing, rolling or pinching Play Dough.
- Buttoning and unbuttoning large buttons e.g. in dressing up.
- Colouring in between the lines.
- Tracing around shapes, hands, feet etc.
- Drawing through mazes.
- Cutting magazine pictures with scissors.
- Dot to dot puzzles.
- Finger painting using all fingers.
- “Painting” shapes or people using water on a concrete floor using a wide paint brush.
- Drawing in wet sand using a stick or finger.
- Texture rubbing – place a piece of paper over any rough surface and rub over the paper with a crayon and see the texture appear.
- Threading – e.g. Making pasta jewellery.
- Doing jigsaw puzzles.
- Screwing and unscrewing lids.
- Using glue to paste pictures.



### Sorting Activities – very important for hand eye co-ordination:

- Coloured pegs
- Farm, zoo animals
- Lids
- Buttons ( number of holes, shape, size or colour)
- Leaves ( long, short, colour)

# Read, Read, Read!

## What to read?

Read anything and everything!

- Books
- Labels
- Signs
- Nursery rhymes etc. etc.

## Why read?

- Reading is an enjoyable experience – both for the child and the adult. The child is learning that: **Reading is fun!**
- Reading to your child helps develop positive attitudes to reading books, and provides a great incentive for him/her to want to learn.
- The child is learning how to handle books and that the print tells the story. He/she is learning that the print goes from top to bottom and left to right.
- Mem Fox (renowned Australian author) claims children need to **hear** 1000 stories before they can begin to learn to read. (It can be the same story more than once!)



## How to be Reading Ready?

Before reading, look at the book together. Talk about the pictures. Relate these to your child's life, e.g. *"This is about the beach. Remember the last time we went to the beach and we..."*

- If the child is watching, sometimes run your finger along under the words as you read.
- Encourage the child to join in familiar parts of the story.
- Encourage the child to complete the ends of known rhymes, e.g. *"Humpty Dumpty sat on a ..."*
- Encourage the child to turn the pages and to suggest what might happen next.
- Sometimes put in nonsense words and let the child correct you, e.g. In the Three Little Pigs you might say, *"Little cat, little cat, let me come in."*
- If looking at alphabet books use the sounds of the letters as well as the names. Say, *"Its name is..., it says..."*

**read!** Anytime.  
Anywhere.  
Anyhow.

# Language Development

## Help your child to learn how to:

- Initiate and sustain conversations with adults and other children.
- Describe recent experiences.
- Recite rhymes, sing songs & retell stories.
- Understand requests and seek clarification.
- Listen attentively and answer questions.
- Say all their speech sounds correctly slowly and clearly.
- Reduce the number of words that you use.
- Model back correct word endings e.g. "It fly away" – "Yes, it flew away! It flew up in the sky!"
- Model back correct speech sounds e.g. "I see a little tat" – "A little cat! It is a cute cat" Play with words...
- Listen out for rhyme.
- Clap out syllables together e.g. but – ter - fly.



## New Student Parent Checklist

The following information/documents/forms are relevant to starting school here at St Benedict's and can be located on our school website under the tab *Enrolments, New Student Checklist*. Choose the forms that suit your circumstances. Return the forms to school via email, post or in person, depending on each form's instructions.

<http://www.stbenedicts.qld.edu.au/Enrolments/Pages/New-student-checklist.aspx>



### Family Handbook

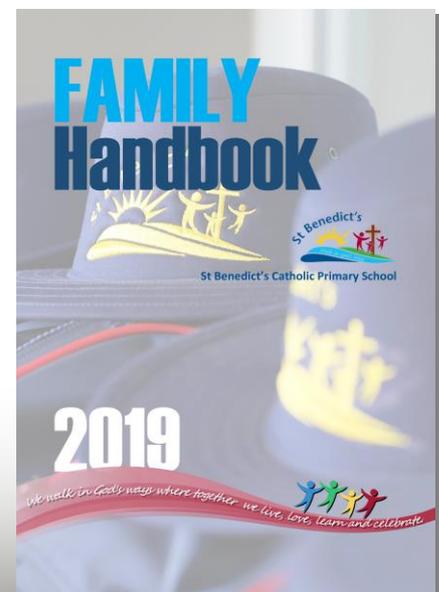
The purpose of our school's *Family Handbook* is to inform families of important and relevant information in relation to everyday activities here at St Benedict's Catholic Primary School.

### Teaching & Learning Team

The purpose of our *Teaching & Learning Team* is to provide parents with knowledge and support regarding how school personnel and community agencies can assist students with diverse needs to reach their potential. Helpful links:

<http://www.learningpotential.edu.au/>

<http://education.qld.gov.au/literacyandnumeracy/resources.html>



## □ School Fees Information

*School Fees* information and forms are essential in preparing and setting up automatic deductions of your child's school fees at the beginning of each new school year.

## □ Our Pick Up Registration

Safety is a priority at St Benedict's Catholic Primary School and we take your child's safety very seriously which is why we use the *Look Out* program for after school pick up. Please use our *Look Out* program application to apply for a **family name card** made for your vehicle.

## □ Café Information

Our St Benedict's school café, called *Bennies Munchies Café*, is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays (1st and 2nd breaks) and takes orders through Flexischools. This is also a fantastic atmosphere for parents to volunteer their time and meet other friends of the community.

## □ Uniform Shop Information

Uniform samples and relevant information will be available from our uniform shop convenor on Orientation Day. Our uniform Shop is open Monday afternoon 2.30pm – 4.00pm and Friday morning 8am – 9.30am, or available by appointment.

## □ School Banking Information

*School Banking Registration Packs* will be available from a Commonwealth Bank representative on Orientation Day. Alternatively, you can follow this link to register:  
<https://www.commbank.com.au/personal/kids/school-banking.html>

## □ Catholic School Parents (CSP) & Friends Association

St Benedict's Catholic Primary School is proud to be part of a community that continually supports the progress, development and management of our wonderful school. Our P&F and Pastoral School Board are always looking for parent support.

## □ Our Current School Newsletter

Keeping informed with what is happening here at St Benedict's by reading the weekly *School Newsletter* or regularly visiting our Public Website and Parent Portal are some of the easiest ways to stay involved with your student's activities at school.

## □ Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)

Both before and after school care are available at St Benedict's (from 6.30am until 8.30am) and after school (from 2.45pm until 6.00pm). This service is provided by *Centacare Child Care Services*. Outside School Hours Care operates on the school site in a purpose built facility located adjacent to the undercover area. *OSHC Registration Packs* will be available from an OSHC representative on Orientation Day.

**For the Safety of Families in our School Community**  
 If you wish to participate in our drive through, pick up program, please fill out and return the below registration form to either the Primary or Secondary School Office. You will then be supplied with a family name card that you will need to display on your passenger side window when picking up your children via the drive through. It is suggested that you use rubber bands to attach the name card to your view. If you do not wish to participate in this program, it is asked that you use other parking options in the afternoons when collecting your children.

### Our Pick Up REGISTRATION

This is a Program that "Looks Out!"  
 The implication is one of care and concern because the community is looking out for the children. Look Out! is a simple QLD Government sponsored program to assist our school with the flow of traffic in our two roads, drive through, pick up zone, in an efficient, safe way.

Yes, I wish to register to participate in the drive through, pick up program at St Benedict's Primary and Secondary School.

I will ensure my child/ren know to be at the designated pick up area and waiting for instructions from the Traffic Control Staff before they enter the vehicle.

I will be polite and respectful to the Traffic Control Staff (these volunteers will be easily recognisable by their fluorescent vests) who are managing the queue.

That as a parent, carer or person authorised to pick up my child/ren, I will wait in my vehicle in the queue displaying the family name card prominently on the car's sun visor until my children enter the vehicle at the front of the queue.

I will not leave my vehicle in the drive through, pick up area at any time to look for my children.

I will not arrive at the drive through, pick up area before the below times. If I do arrive before the designated time, I am aware that I may be asked to move along and re-join the queue.

Monday, Tuesday and Friday pick up	Secondary students from 2:30pm
Wednesday and Thursday pick up	Primary students from 2:45pm Secondary students from 3:00pm

I am aware that if my children are not waiting for me when I proceed to the front of the queue, I will be asked to move along and re-join the end of the queue.

Family last name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student name: \_\_\_\_\_ Yr Level: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 # of family name cards needed: \_\_\_\_\_

**\$5 IS DONATED BACK TO YOUR SCHOOL FROM EVERY PAIR OF SHOES PURCHASED\***

Ask one of our friendly staff in store for more details!

THE RECOMMENDED SUPPLIER OF SCHOOL AND SPORTS SHOES.

\*See theathletesfoot.com.au/school-rewards for more details

The Athlete's Foot  
 CHERMSIDE Ph: (07) 3350 4610  
 NORTH LAKES Ph: (07) 3482 3467

Term 4, July 2017

## St Benedict's Catholic Primary School newsletter

St Benedict's Catholic Primary School Phone 3482 4600 Fax 3482 4609 Absence 3482 8688 Email pm@stbenedictscatholic.edu.au

**Principal**  
 Mark Crewey

Dear Parents,

**P&F Meeting Tonight - All Are Welcome**  
 Tonight (Wednesday) we have our rescheduled P&F Meeting which will be held in the staffroom commencing at 7pm. We have a number of events underway at present such as the Winter Wonderland dinner on the 20th of August, closing out different projects and the recent report of support funding for the construction of a second tennis court. The P&F have many projects happening so any assistance you can offer would be greatly appreciated.

**Teacher In-Service**  
 Next Tuesday evening our teaching staff will be engaged in a Twilight in-service conducted by two Brisbane Catholic Education consultants. The topics covered will be Content (The Model) and Gradual Release Model of teaching. The in-service begins at 8.30am and concludes at 7pm. If you are trying to catch up with any of our teachers on the afternoon they will unfortunately be unavailable. We are ensuring that our entire teaching staff and our valuable school officers are professionally prepared for the respective tasks that they perform in our school community.

**Becoming a Parish...**  
 Conversations about establishing a new Catholic Parish in our area in 2017 are continuing. There are many Pastoral, Canonical, Religious, Compliance and Organizational matters to be put in place so that we can become a Parish next year. Things are progressing quite well at present.

**Successful St Benedict's Day**  
 Congratulations to Mr Kitzheiser on his organization of the 2016 St Benedict's Day Celebration. There were activities happening every where all day long. There were quite a number of highlights including: Receptioned Mass with a College for the older students and the liturgy for the younger students (later advised that the students talked about were the volleyball, softball and netball matches, and the concert items prepared by the various classes. It was a most enjoyable day even though it was a hot day!

**Every Week**

- Assembly 8.30am Mondays
- Mass 9am Fridays (Hall)
- Uniform Shop Mondays 2.30-4pm Fridays 8.00-9.00am
- School Banking Tuesdays
- Miss Taggart (Prep-2) 7.45am Tuesdays (Library)
- Senior Band Practice 7.30am Wednesdays (Hall Stage Area)
- Junior Choir (Pr 2-5) 7.45am Wednesdays (Hall Stage Area)
- SP Choir (Pr 4-6) 7.45am Thursdays (Music Room)
- Pr 3/4 Bennies Dance 3-4pm Tuesdays (Hall)
- Flaggroup 8.30am Tuesdays (OSHC)
- Plano/Keyboard Music Tuesdays & Thursdays (OSHC) (Hall)
- Guitar Lessons Wednesdays
- P&F Meeting 1st Wednesdays every month
- Board Meeting 2nd Tuesdays every month

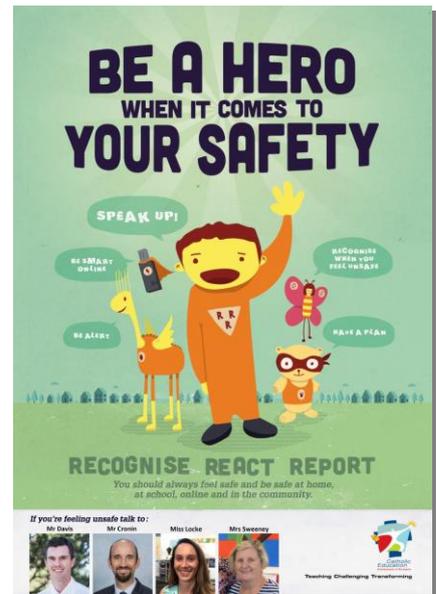
**Our Pastoral Coordinator**

Our Pastoral Coordinator, Helen Hickey, is regularly available to support the wellbeing of students, parents and staff as together we 'Walk in God's Ways'.

**Student Protection Flyer**

Student safety is a priority at St Benedict's Catholic Primary School. Student Protection Flyers will be handed out to all families on Prep Orientation Day.

Most of the above documents can also be found under the *Forms & Documents (F&D)* tile on the Parent Portal. Parent Portal access instructions will be emailed to new families during the first weeks of school.



*Welcome to St Benedict's School*

*Thank you for taking the time to familiarise yourself with this Prep Booklet*

