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 2017.
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
2017 School Times

School Hours 9am to 3.10pm

Recess 10.50am to 11.30am

Lunch 1pm to 1.40pm

FIRST DAY OF KINDERGARTEN IS
TUESDAY 31 JANUARY 2017

2017 School Year

Term 1 Monday 30 January - Friday 7 April

Term 2 Tuesday 24 April - Friday 30 June

Term 3 Monday 17 July - Friday 22 September

Term 4 Monday 9 October - Friday 15 December
MORNING TEA INVITATION

Once the children have gone off to class on the first day of school, Tuesday 31st January, you are welcome to remain in the hall and meet other Kindergarten parents over a morning tea and enjoy your introduction to the St Thomas the Apostle School community.
THE FIRST TWO WEEKS...

Week One:

Tuesday 31st January 9.30-12.30
First Day for Kindergarten

Wednesday 1st February 9.00-12.30

Thursday 2nd February 9.00-12.30

Friday 3rd February 9.00-12.30

On Tuesday 31 January 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 12.30pm please come to the hall. The children will come to the hall with their class group and will meet you in the hall.

The children will only need recess (Little Lunch) for the first week of school.

From Wednesday 1st February you are requested to drop your child at the stage by 9.00am. You are welcome to join us at the stage for prayer and greetings.

Children are then to be collected from the stage at 12.30pm on Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd February.

At 12.30 pm on Friday 3rd February you are asked to use the Drive Through facility to give both parents and children practice with this without the rest of the student body. We will bring the children to the drive through area where you will drive through and collect your child.
Week Two:

Monday 6th February  9.00-3.10
Tuesday 7th February   9.00-3.10
Wednesday 8th February  Rest Day at home
Thursday 9th February   9.00-3.10
Friday 10th February    9.00-3.10

Week Three:

The children will now attend school between 9.00am-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.
* 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.
* 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.

3. Shoelaces
   Practise tying shoelaces at home.

4. Jumpers
   Let your child practise taking his/her jumper off independently.

5. Hats “No Hat, No Play!”
   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.

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.