

## Welcome to the South Thornlie Primary School

### What Happens At Kindergarten?

Kindergarten is an important foundation year that gives your child all the necessary skills to begin their formal education.

South Thornlie Kindergarten provides a safe, stimulating and supportive environment where children can grow socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually.

We aim to capture children's natural love of learning while developing literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for future learning.

Children learn through playing and being actively involved in experiences planned by their teachers. Children are encouraged to explore, discover, improvise, create, question, discuss and construct.

The learning environment gives the child a sense of belonging and ownership where they are encouraged to explore, observe, experiment and practice through play based activities which will be supported by explicit and intentional teaching.

In the first few weeks staff will be focusing on establishing the Kindergarten routines and helping the children feel comfortable and happy.

### How Often Do Children Attend Kindergarten?

South Thornlie Primary School offers a 15 hour a week kindergarten program. This program is in line with the National Partnership Agreement on early Childhood Education. Children will attend Monday, Tuesday and every alternate Wednesday, or, Thursday, Friday and every alternate Wednesday.

#### Kindergarten A Group

Week 1	Wednesday	8.30 – 2:30 pm
Week 2	Monday, Tuesday	8.30 – 2:30pm
Week 3	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	8.30 – 2.30pm

#### Kindergarten B Group

Week 1	Thursday, Friday	8.30 – 2:30pm
Week 2	Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	8.30 – 2:30pm
Week 3	Thursday, Friday	8.30 – 2.30pm

The model for provision is outlined in the table below:

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 (Odd weeks)	Kindergarten A	Kindergarten A	Kindergarten A	Kindergarten B	Kindergarten B
Week 2 (Even weeks)	Kindergarten A	Kindergarten A	Kindergarten B	Kindergarten B	Kindergarten B

Please see the attendance schedule for the year which you can find in your enrolment pack.

Please note the school has professional development days for staff in which students do not attend. These are coloured in green.

## **Daily Kindergarten Routines**

- Parents to read Morning Message Board out the front of the classroom.
- Classroom door opens: 8.20am
- School start time: 8.30am bell sounds

## **English as an Additional Language**

South Thornlie Primary School is located in a community that is represented by people from all over the world. We are proud to have a multitude of cultures at our school and we appreciate the skills and diversity everyone brings to our community.

If your child speaks any other languages, it is very important that you let the school know upon enrolment. We are then aware of the rich culture your family is bringing to our school as well as the need to cater for your child's additional language strengths through visual prompts, short instructions and the opportunities to develop their oral language through play.

One of the greatest gifts we can pass on to children is language. The first language, learned in the home, is extremely important and forms the foundation for all later language development. We would like to reiterate how important it is to continue to speak your family language(s) at home. Children with a sound knowledge of their first language will be able to transfer skills from one language to another. This will assist with your child's ability to develop their English language skills as well as their development of a positive self-identity and well-being.

## **How Can I Prepare My Child For Kindergarten?**

- Talk to your child about Kindergarten and what to expect. Walk past the school to familiarise your child with the Kindergarten environment.
- Develop independence skills such as putting on shoes and socks, washing hands and toileting. It is expected that all children, except those with special needs, are fully toilet trained when they commence Kindergarten.
- Establish good sleep routines. Tired children find it difficult to cope with a full day at Kindergarten.
- Eat a good breakfast each morning.

## **Toileting**

When your child begins kindergarten, your child needs to be able to go to the toilet independently.

This means your child is able to:

- realise when they need to go to the toilet,
- remove their pants and pull their pants up,
- wipe their bottom and flush the toilet,
- wash their hands after using the toilet.

Accidents do happen and the teaching staff are there to help, but your child needs to be developing these skills independently. It is time to start practising these independent skills so your child is ready for Kindergarten.

## **What Does My Child Need To Wear To Kindergarten?**

The South Thornlie Primary School Council has established a dress code for all students attending the school. This was developed in conjunction with the school's staff, parent body and administration team. We believe that a strong Dress Code promotes a positive image of the school and fosters positive educational and behavioural attitudes and values in our students. Uniforms can be purchased from the uniform shop which is located in the Art Centre and open every Wednesday from 8am – 8.45am.

## Hats

Children must wear a hat for outdoor play. Kindergarten recommends the legionnaires hat which is available at the uniform shop. Hats will be kept at Kindergarten but parents can take them home to wash as desired.

## Shoes

In general footwear needs to be well fitted and appropriate for school. High heels, thongs and the like are not considered to be suitable. We like children's shoes off when engaging in music and movement sessions as well as it facilitates free movement. Please make sure your child can undo and do up his/her shoes by him/herself, eg. velcro.

## Spare Clothes

We ask that the children bring a full change of clothes to be kept in a plastic bag in their school bag.

## Name

Please ensure everything is labelled with your child's name, drink bottle, clothes, lunch box, hat, shoes etc.

## What Does My Child Need To Bring To Kindergarten Each Day?

### Kindergarten Backpack

Each child will have a named peg for his/her "things". Your child is required to have a backpack for Kindergarten and a library bag. Please ensure that the child's name is clearly labelled on their bags.

### What Do I Need To Give The Teacher?

**Medical information:** If your child has a medical condition, it's important that you fill out the appropriate medical forms during the enrolment process. If your child has a Medical Action Plan endorsed by a doctor, please give a copy to the school office before your child starts kindergarten or as soon as it is available. Please make sure your child's class teacher has any emergency medication they need for your child, as outlined in their Medical Action Plan. If your child needs to have medication administered during school hours, you will need to fill out an, *authority to administer medication* form at the office.

### What Happens On The First Day?

The teacher and staff will meet and welcome you and your child on entry. There will be a lot of children so please understand this may take some time.

- You can help by finding your child's hook which is named outside the classroom and hang up their bag.
- Parents may stay for about 10 minutes to help their child settle. You can do puzzles or read books in this time.
- When the bell rings say your goodbyes.
- We ask you to leave promptly – long goodbyes make it more difficult.
- After parents leave the children will sing songs, listen to stories, do some table activities and play and engage in activities to familiarise with the environment.
- Please try to be early when you pick up your child on the first day to reassure your child.

## Healthy Eating at Kindergarten

### Morning Tea

The children have morning tea at about 10.30 each day. They need to bring one or two pieces of fruit, vegetable sticks, cheese, crackers or nutritious snacks each day. Please ensure your child's fruit or veg is cut and easy to eat. It needs to be in a named container and put in their named pigeon hole every day.

## **A Healthy Lunch**

At South Thornlie Kindergarten we have a Healthy Food Policy which encourages parents to supply a healthy lunch each day in a named lunch box. A healthy lunch could consist of a sandwich, roll or the like plus a choice of one or two healthy snacks, such as fruit, vegetables, yoghurt, cheese, boiled egg etc. Please do not send lollies, chocolates or chips to Kindergarten and preferably limit packaged foods.

***Please note we are a nut aware school. As some children are highly allergic to nuts, please keep this in mind when preparing lunch boxes.***

## **A Water Bottle**

Each child needs to bring a named water bottle. The children are encouraged to access water independently throughout the day.

## **How Can I Help As a Parent/Guardian?**

At South Thornlie Kindergarten we value and welcome parent participation. We understand that kindergarten is often the parents and caregivers first point of entry into a school community. Therefore we believe it is important to foster positive relations with our community as soon as possible. We also understand that many of you will be forging new friendships, meeting new people and embarking on a new journey together with your child. At South Thornlie Primary School we are always looking for parent/carer helpers in the classroom. In Kindergarten, we start this in Term Two, as this gives the children a chance to settle in and adjust to their environment.

## **Newsletters/Notices**

The school newsletter is sent electronically via email fortnightly. This is the chief form of communication between home and school and is aimed at keeping parents informed on all school matters. Please ensure your details are up to date.

Throughout the year the Kindergarten may send home short notices to keep parents informed of important Kindergarten matters and activities. Please check your child's bag every day for notes.

## **Parents' & Citizens' Association**

We have a very active and successful Parent and Community group at South Thornlie Primary School.

The Parents' and Citizens' Association (P&C) provides a great opportunity for parents, teachers and community members to support the learning and infrastructure of the school. The Annual General Meeting is held in February. Dates of the meetings are published in the school newsletter, and in the term planner.

The role of the P&C is diverse. Most school P&C Associations contribute significantly to the funding of programs and facilities within the school. The interests and activities of the P&C are diverse.

## **Important**

Please ensure that you drop off and pick up your child on time. Children can become very distressed when their parents are late especially in the first few weeks while they are getting to know staff. Please phone the Kindergarten on 9459 3956 if you are unexpectedly delayed.

## **Contact Details**

Primary School	Ph: 9459 4655
Email	<a href="mailto:souththornlie.ps@education.wa.edu.au">souththornlie.ps@education.wa.edu.au</a>
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