



# Leschenault Catholic Primary School

Mardo Avenue,  
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**Year One Parent Meeting. 6pm, Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2016.**

## Important Classroom Dates

**Sports Day:** 1Blue-Thursday 1Gold-Friday

**Library day:** 1Blue- Monday 1Gold-Monday

**Swimming Carnival:** Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March

**Assembly:** Year Ones together, Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> March, Term 1, Week7.

## Investigative Learning: Kathy Walker Approach

The Walker Learner Approach (WLA) is extremely rigorous and filled with teacher direction, scaffolding, extension and intervention. It is based on the concept of developmentally appropriate practices and children's interests are used as the predominant means for learning experiences. The WLA uses a mix throughout the day of active hands-on investigations, group times, personal reflection times, skill instruction and other learning experiences provided by the school. The learning intentions will change every 3 weeks and will be displayed on the communication board outside the classroom.

## Medications

If your child is ill and requires medication please leave a signed form (stating time and dosage), along with the medication at the front office. Please also ensure that your emergency number is kept up to date for us to contact you as soon as possible if your child is feeling unwell.

### Reporting System

One-on-one interviews are held during the last 3-4 weeks of Term 1 and then on a needs basis. Parents are welcome to approach us after school regarding minor matters. For any concerns that may need more privacy or time, we encourage you to make an appointment. Please remember that mornings are a particularly busy time and not suitable for detailed or private discussions.

A 'Learning Journey' will take place at the end of Term 3 to celebrate the children's learning and showcase the work the children have done in class each day. This provides a wonderful opportunity for you and your child to share their achievements and discuss any possible future goals. A written report will be sent home at the end of Terms Two and Four.

### Late Arrivals / Early Departures

If you arrive after the siren please go straight to the front office and **sign your child in**. If you need to pick your child up for appointments during the day or need to leave school before 3pm, please **sign your child out** and take the slip to the class teacher. This ensures duty-of-care is handled correctly.

It is helpful if you ring the office if your child will be absent for the day.

However, **a written note must be received every time a child is absent.**

### Message Books

This is a form of communication between parent and teacher. The Message Book will go home with your child each day and will be returned to the blue basket **by your child** each morning. Notes/monies can be returned to school in this book and any messages such as picking children up early or for scheduled appointments, can be included. **It is important to return the book to school each day.** We may need to send you a message.

### Homework

Reading, as a shared, enjoyable activity is **strongly recommended each night, Monday to Thursday**. Please encourage your child to reread the same text for two-three nights. With the very early repetitive books, the children rely heavily on memory and indeed, read very fluently! However, as the texts become more challenging and children need to use word attack skills, rereading the book each night provides the opportunity to recognise those tricky words more easily and assists with the development of fluency.

Research has shown that fluency is important in developing comprehension.

Sight words will begin when we have tested each child individually to ascertain their starting point.

Reading, spelling and sight word homework should take approximately 20 mins.

### Crunch and Sip

This keeps young brains alert for the two-hour literacy block each morning. Some suggestions are (cut up): apple, carrot, grapes, pear, cherry tomatoes, snow peas, celery, banana, baby corn, cucumber, avocado or rockmelon. Please **avoid very juicy fruits** such as orange and watermelon. These can be enjoyed at recess instead. **Cheese, crackers and yoghurt are not acceptable** as choices for crunch and sip. 'Sip' means water only, please. No cordials or juices. **Strictly no nuts.**

### Parent help roster and confidentiality

There are many opportunities to be an involved parent, particularly in the morning literacy blocks. Hearing children read before school is also a possibility. Please ensure where possible, your child arrives by 8.30 to give him/her a relaxed and organised start to the day.

Parents who help on various rosters are asked to **keep confidential**, any information they may learn about individual children. It is important that an individual student's progress is not discussed with other parents.

We ask that all parent helpers sign a confidentiality form.

Please remember to collect **a visitor's badge** when you attend parent help.

### Naming items

Please ensure all uniform and jumpers are clearly named, along with lunch boxes, crunch containers, water bottles, bags and art shirts.

**Textas** are the only stationery items that require individual names as they will not be pooled for general sharing.

### Discipline Policy

The school supports the 1,2,3 Magic and Emotion Coaching for classroom behaviour. It is a program that incorporates specific, gentle-but-firm techniques to stop undesirable behaviours while encouraging those that are considered acceptable.

1,2,3 Magic is a system that requires the child to move his/her name along a chart marked 1, 2, 3 as a visual reminder of a previous unacceptable behaviour with the belief that, on reflection, the child will consciously choose not to repeat it, but instead, make better choices.

If a child reaches '3' he/she will have a three minute time-out to reflect on their behaviour.

Positive behaviours that enhance the learning and harmony of the class will be recognised and praised, encouraging others to adopt such choices.

### Dress code

Full school uniform must be adhered to every school day. This includes black lace-up school shoes (or navy blue sandals for Terms 1 and 4), sports uniforms each Friday, correct coloured socks, hair elastics and head bands and very limited jewellery pieces. Please check your parent handbook if unsure.

### Letters and Sounds

LCPS has adopted a new reading/spelling program this year. It continues to focus on the explicit teaching of phonemes (sounds) but children are required to create their own spelling words instead of receiving a fortnightly list of words to learn.

The children will be tested each Friday on the phonemes covered in class that week. This will include dictation sentences.

### Spelling Stages

- Learn **ABC**: single sounds/names /how to write each from memory
- Blend two and three letters (o/n h/a/t e/n/d)
- Learn digraphs and blends (sh/ship th/thin dr / cr / mp / lt)

### Writing Stages

- Represent sounds with letters (i wnt t se mi pop)
- Develop sentence structure, grammar, punctuation
- Improve spelling using strategies
- Write in different genres: letters, narratives, reports

### Reading Stages

**Early readers:** point 1-1 correspondence, left to right, rely on memory

**Progress to:** building sight words, developing fluency, comprehension...

**Learn to use:** different word attack strategies:

- phonics (d/e/s/k)
- cover part of the word (to/day)
- ask someone
- read on and come back (A w\_\_ tells the time.)

**Reading various genre:** poems, letters, lists, cards, songs...

## Mathematics: Whole School Stepping Stones Program

- Focus on patterns
- 1 - 100 forwards and backwards
- Skip counting: 10s, 5s, 2s to 100
- Addition
- Subtraction
- Sharing equally (introduction to division)
- Adding equal sets (introduction to multiplication)
- Money: recognition and ordering of coins by value

Maths strategies include:

Counting, matching, using counters, drawing the problem, using a number line.

## Things To Remember

- Birthdays: to help with the practicalities it is helpful that the treats are easy to serve (individual cup cakes/not a cake that needs to be cut up).
- Newsletter: The newsletter will come out fortnightly.
- Canteen is everyday
- NO HAT NO PLAY-all year
- Photos: one of each; of Baptism, toddler, family by Week 3 please (photocopied photos preferable)
- **We have a strict no nuts policy at LCPS.**
- New outdoor area: Volunteers needed to create furniture, please!

In closing, we encourage all parents to feel free to approach us to discuss any issues or concerns. We look forward to working together and sharing in the education of your child in 2016.

Tracy Ashworth and Anne Stanaway