

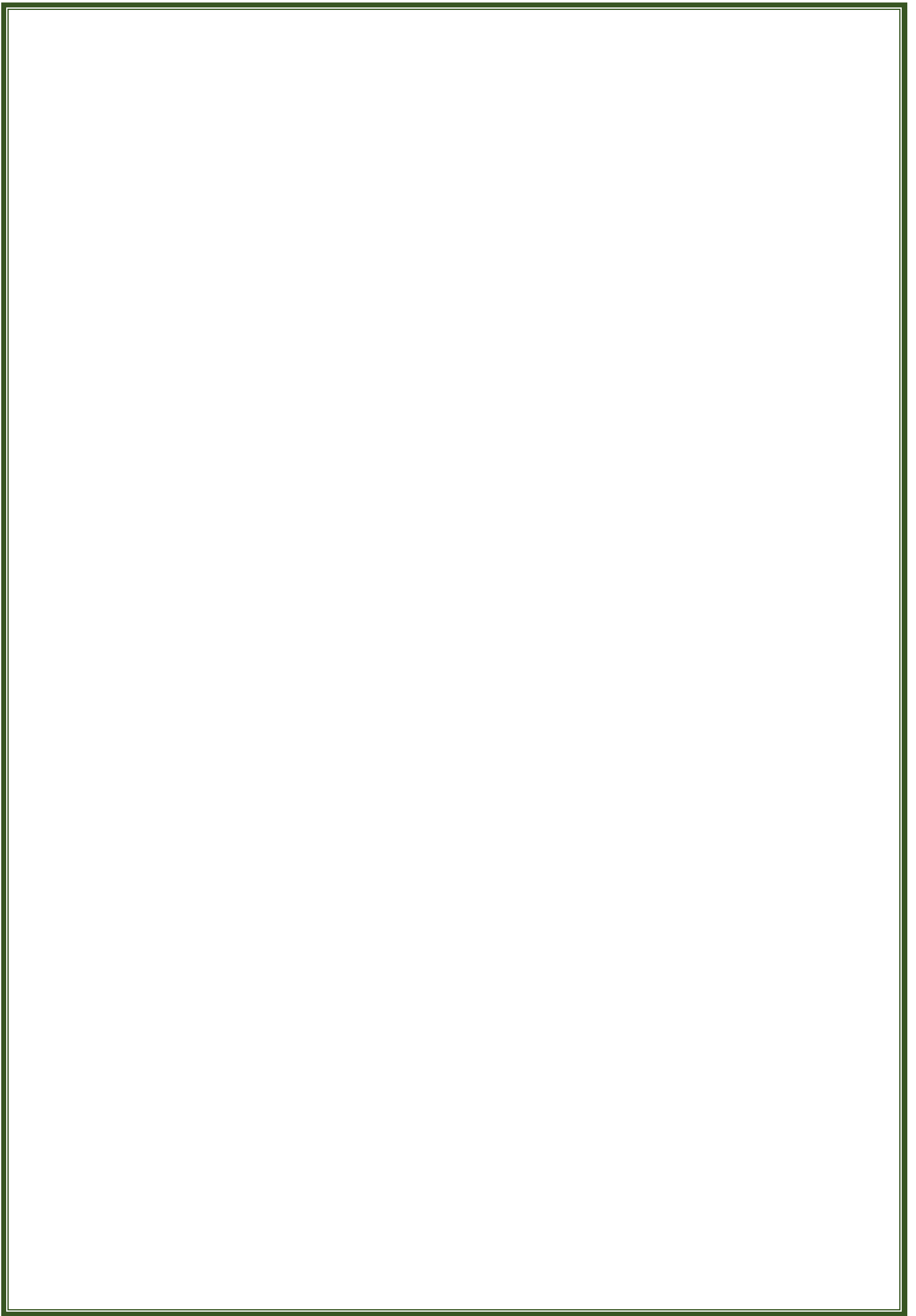


# 2024 PRE-KINDERGARTEN PARENT INFORMATION BOOKLET



**Liwara Catholic Primary School**

*Early Childhood Play Based Learning Program*





## OUR VISION

“To create a safe, happy and caring environment where all children are valued”

## OUR PHILOSOPHY

Provide stimulating activities through play

Build relationships, social skills and language

Encourage positive behaviours

Become confident and creative learners

## PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

The Liwara Catholic Primary School Pre-Kindergarten Program is your child's first introduction to school. It is an early childhood play based learning program for children who have turned three years of age. The program provides a learning environment that promotes the development of social, emotional, spiritual, language, creative and physical skills.

This booklet includes all the relevant information required for a successful and smooth start to your child's Pre-Kindergarten year and will set the foundations for future school learning experiences.

We provide a full day program that runs on a Wednesday and / or Friday from 8.45am – 2.45pm. Our Pre-Kindergarten fee is \$75.00 per day.





## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Mrs Andrea MILLAR

When your child attends our Pre-Kindergarten Program, we encourage parents to stay and help their child become familiar with the environment and participate in the experiences provided in the classroom. We ask that at each session you spend some time reading a story or engaging in play with your child. Once they are comfortable, say goodbye and leave.

If your child is upset, please direct them to a staff member before leaving. We will always contact you if they do not settle.

## MESSAGE FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD COORDINATOR

It is important to remember that starting something new can often be very daunting and scary, especially for young children, so if the transition is not instant, do not be concerned, it may take several sessions before your child feels happy to be left on their own. School should be a happy, safe place where children are willing to come and feel happy and safe when they are here. Please speak to staff about any issues when they arise.



Mrs Jacqueline CHIVELL

We look forward to getting to know you and your child and working together with you to provide a happy, positive learning experience that helps to strengthen their development and provide a foundation for their future years of learning.

*Strength in Community*

## PRE-KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Mrs Celeste SPENCER

Email: [celeste.spencer@cewa.edu.au](mailto:celeste.spencer@cewa.edu.au)

I would like to warmly welcome you to our Pre-Kindergarten Program at Liwara Catholic Primary School. I will create a positive, safe, and fun learning environment where your child is nurtured and valued.

Our program aims to provide your child with a variety of learning experiences in the indoor and outdoor space which encourage them to experience the world through their senses, strengthen their fine and gross motor skills and foster their imagination and creativity. During your child's time in Pre-Kindergarten, they will be encouraged to develop a love of learning, build their confidence and resilience and learn to play and communicate with others.

I believe that working in partnership with families is paramount and helps to create a positive and rewarding experience for your child. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me. I look forward to the fun and adventures we will have in the coming year!



Mrs Celeste SPENCER

## OUR PROGRAM

The following documentation is used to guide our planning and assessment of play and learning experiences:

### **National Quality Framework (NQF)**

The NQF is a national legislative framework under which Early Childhood and Care Services operate in Australia.

The NQF encompasses the Education and Care Services National Regulations, under which the program operates. The National Regulations can be downloaded from: [www.acecqa.com.au](http://www.acecqa.com.au) – *The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)*.

Our teaching practices are guided by the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), and National Early Childhood Curriculum. The curriculum is based on three key statements:

- **Belonging:** Children being connected to family, culture, and place.
- **Being:** Children need opportunities to seek and make meaning of their world.
- **Becoming:** Identifies children's knowledge, understanding, skills, capacities, and relationships.

The EYLF emphasises the benefits of children learning through 'doing' or through play.

### ***Children learn best through play because:***

- It is a natural and spontaneous activity for a child.
- It allows for children's differences and encourages an individual approach.
- It encourages children to learn through trial and error and experimentation.
- It gives teachers the chance to observe individual progress in an informal learning environment.

## OUR PRE-KINDERGARTEN DAY

It is very important that each child feels happy and comfortable in our Pre-Kindergarten environment. Staff will contact you if any issues arise that they are unable to resolve.

### Starting Our Day

On arrival, please assist your child with putting their drink bottle on the trolley and placing their bag in allocated cubby holes.

Next, help your child choose an activity and spend some quality time playing together. This will help your child feel calm & settled in their environment. When it is time to say goodbye give your child a reassuring hug and a kiss and bring them to the mat area. Please notify staff if you have any concerns that may impact on your child's day.

### Experiences Throughout the Day

Children will participate in planned, guided experiences that are often non-product based. These activities are important for the foundation and growth of social and emotional development, language and literacy, numeracy, science, art, and creativity as well as fine and gross motor skills.

Children work individually and alongside their peers to discover, explore, experiment, and create with a variety of sensory textures, toys, games, and puzzles. They are encouraged to use their oral language skills to describe and explain their thinking as well as ask and answer questions. The dramatic play centre allows children to use their imagination to learn to express themselves, share their thoughts and ideas and learn about the world around them.

Gross motor skills are developed by providing children with opportunities to engage in a variety of movements on the playground equipment such as climbing, balancing, spinning, and sliding. Specific skills such as running, cycling, throwing, bouncing, and catching will also be taught. At times messy sensory tubs or water play will be offered.



In the afternoon, all children are encouraged to have a rest and engage in mindfulness exercises such as learning breathing techniques and simple meditation. Children also participate in dancing, singing, circle games, story time and playing musical instruments.

## Pick-up Routine

Children stay inside the classroom until a parent or guardian arrives to collect them.



## WHAT TO BRING TO PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Please clearly label everything with your child's name

### Requirements for each session:

- A **bag** to carry their belongings, a large waterproof shopping/beach bag is ideal. Open top is preferred.
- **Three** sets of underwear.
- **Two** pairs of socks.
- A **change of clothes** that is seasonally appropriate.
- A **cardigan or jacket** in cooler weather.
- A **wide brimmed** sun hat.
- A **water bottle** that will be refilled throughout the day.
- An **insulated lunch box** with cooler blocks.
- A **separate container for morning tea and lunch is preferred**. Please consider healthy food choices such as fresh fruit and vegetables, sandwiches, wraps, crackers, yoghurt and cheese.



We would appreciate your support in leaving packaged treat foods for home use. When children bring biscuits, chips, lollies, or chocolate we will send them home as this age group finds it particularly confusing and upsetting that we are unable to share. We are a 'Nut Aware School', respecting the rights of others to be safe from harm, so please check packaging carefully.

## APPROPRIATE CLOTHING AND SHOES

The children need to be wearing clothing that allow them to independently access the toilet, which are sun safe and appropriate for climbing, crawling, balancing, and running.

Shoes such as sneakers or sandals with Velcro straps are ideal.

Please apply sunscreen before school and we will apply more during the day.



## WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE FIRST FEW WEEKS

The first term in Pre-Kindergarten is an important time for each child. For some, it will be their first experience away from home and their immediate family.

It is a time when they:

- Venture into a new environment.
- Meet and learn to trust new people.
- Interact and share with other children.
- Work in a group situation.

Our primary goal is to ensure that Pre-Kindergarten is a welcoming, safe, and happy environment where your child has the opportunity to:

- Develop a strong sense of identity.
- Connect and contribute to their world.
- Develop a strong sense of wellbeing.
- Grow in confidence.

You can support your child by:

- Showing an interest in what your child does at Pre-Kindergarten.
- Talking about the positive experiences they have at Pre-Kindergarten.
- Praising their efforts and positive behaviour.
- Sharing relevant information to assist us in getting to know your child.

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Please inform us of any condition that may affect your child's wellbeing and equally of any circumstances that may affect their behaviour on a particular day.

If your child is sick, please ensure that they remain at home until fully recovered. Please contact the office if your child will be absent. If your child has a green discharge from their nose, vomits or has diarrhoea we expect that they will not attend the program until they are well and stay home for a 24-48 hour period. If your child requires medication during school hours, please contact the office to discuss what is required.

## DROP OFF & PICK UP

If your child is being collected by someone else, can you please record this information in our communication book. Children must be delivered to the classroom by an adult and will only be released to a known adult.

## GUIDING BEHAVIOUR

The role of the teachers is to encourage positive behaviour and interactions and boundaries will be enforced consistently and fairly. We will respect and comfort a child regardless of the behaviour. Children will be given verbal reminders of appropriate behaviours and if necessary, be given assistance to appropriately assert themselves with others.

Children at this age are developing social and interpersonal skills that involve the consideration of others. It is expected that this process is best developed with support, consistency, modelling, and guidance. We will consistently respect the individual developmental stage of every child when guiding or redirecting behaviour.

## PARENT MEETINGS

If you need to meet with the teacher, an appointment can be made at a mutually convenient time. Please feel free to email your child's teacher if you are unable to quickly chat before the session:

**Teacher's Name:** Mrs Celeste Spencer

**Email Address:** [celeste.spencer@cewa.edu.au](mailto:celeste.spencer@cewa.edu.au)

## SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

Liwara Catholic Primary School provides many opportunities for parents to become involved in the school community:

- 1. School Newsletters** are published every odd week.
- 2. Whole School Masses** will occur throughout the year. Parents are welcome to attend these liturgical celebrations, even though the Pre-Kindergarten children do not attend.
- 3. Parent Class Contacts** organise contact groups, coffee mornings and social catch ups.
- 4. Parents and Friends Association (P & F)** – find out more through your class contact person.





# LIWARA Catholic Primary School

## EARLY CHILDHOOD PHILOSOPHY

**Liwara Catholic Primary is committed to providing a faith filled, nurturing, and secure educational setting for young children and their families.**

In a safe, age appropriate and engaging environment; children learn, explore, and make choices as they experience their world and its challenges.

Our exemplary, play-based programs develop each child's unique potential by enhancing their spiritual, physical, emotional, social, creative, and intellectual growth. Children are provided opportunities to build resilience, which strengthens their executive functioning capabilities.

Staff and families continually work together to help the children achieve their potential. Through character building education; staff, children and families, in partnership with the community, learn to value diversity and foster individuality. This builds self-confidence in students, a love of learning, responsibility, positive attitudes and respect for themselves and others.

### **WE BELIEVE THAT CHILDREN LEARN BEST WHEN:**

- They feel comfortable and secure.
- Their families and community are significantly involved in the educational process.
- The environment is designed to enrich and enhance learning.
- All areas of development are viewed as equally important and interrelated.
- They use play to translate experience into understanding.
- Activities are designed to allow them to make choices.
- They have opportunities to participate in individual, small group, and large group learning experiences.
- We make use of spontaneous teachable moments to scaffold their learning.
- The curriculum is designed with their development in mind.
- The curriculum is meaningful, relevant, and multisensory in nature.
- They are challenged to meet their full potential.





## LIWARA SCHOOL VALUES



### FAITH

We strive to model Gospel Values to others through our work and play, whilst seeking a stronger relationship with God.



### RESPECT

We act with respect by working co-operatively, being accepting and considering others and the environment.



### MERCY

We display mercy by accepting others for who they are and by showing compassion and care for their needs.



### TRUST

We are committed to building a positive and safe community that is reliable, honest and accepting of each other.

NOTES



**Address: 5 Tuart Road, GREENWOOD WA 6024**

**Email: [enquiries@liwara.wa.edu.au](mailto:enquiries@liwara.wa.edu.au)**

**Phone: 6224 2000**