St Lawrence Primary School
Pre-Kindy Information Booklet
You say you love your children
and are concerned what they learn today.
So am I – that’s why I’m providing
a variety of kinds of play

You are asking me the value
of blocks and other such play
your children are solving problems
they will use that skill everyday

You are asking what’s the value of having
your children play today.
Your daughter is creating a tower
she may be a builder some day

You are saying you don’t want your son
to play in that sissy way.
He is learning to cuddle a doll
He may be a father someday

You are questioning the play centres
they just look like useless play.
Your children are making choices
they will be on their own some day

You are worried your children aren’t learning
and later they will have to play.
They are learning a pattern for learning
for they will be learners always.
Pre Kindy

Staff

Early Childhood Teacher:  Mrs Simone Covich
Teacher Assistant:   Mrs Pina Nyersh

What is Pre Kindy

Pre Kindy is an early child development play based learning program for children who have turned 3 years of age. The program provides children with meaningful experiences that promote spiritual, social, emotional, language, intellectual, creative and physical development.

Children learn through play based learning 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

The Pre Kindy program will place special emphasis on:

• Skills (social, emotional, language, intellectual, creative, and physical)
• Formation of friendships
• Children’s interests
• Creative expression
• Sensory experiences
• Experimentation
Aims of the Pre Kindy Program

The Pre Kindy program aims to:

• Encourage children to become self reliant and to be able to make choices.
• Develop in the children the ability to communicate verbally and non verbally their thoughts, ideas and feelings.
• Provide an environment supportive of Catholic ethos which acknowledges the innate spirituality of every child, fosters the child’s ability to wonder, experience awe, overcome difficulties, love others and reflect God their creator.
• Provide a happy, stimulating and supportive environment where the children feel welcome, secure and valued.
• Provide a program that will cater for a wide range of developmental abilities and interests allowing children to develop to their full potential.
• Provide a program that will emphasise learning as an interaction process. The child interacting with the environment, through a balance of teacher initiated and directed activities, free play and discovery learning.

Attendance Times
The Pre Kindy operates each Thursdays from 8.45am to 2.30pm.

**Arrivals and Departures**

1. All children must be taken to and from the Pre Kindy classroom by their parent or guardian.
2. Parents are welcome to stay and settle their child until approximately 9.15am, when a special Pre Kindy bell will ring to remind parents to depart.
3. Please keep in mind that it can be extremely distressing for your children when they are not picked up on time.
4. Please notify us if your child is going to be collected by anyone other than yourself. This may be another parent, family or friend. If there is a regular arrangement for this person to collect your child, a note written in the log book once for the year will be adequate.
5. We realise that unforeseen circumstances may arise, therefore, if there is a change of person collecting your child or you are running late, please telephone the school to let us know.
6. Children can be collected from the Pre Kindy between 2.30-2.40pm.
7. At the beginning of Term 1 please wait under the sails near the play equipment until the doors are opened for pick ups. Once the doors are open please come up to the veranda area to collect your child’s bag and newsletters. On wet days please wait on the veranda near the drinking taps outside Year One until the doors are opened.

**Settling In**
The first few weeks of Pre Kindy will be very important for you and your child. One of the first things a Pre Kindy child needs to learn is how to be away for his/her parents or primary caregiver. This may take some time for some children as they learn to cope with unfamiliar adults, peers, environment and routine.

It is very important that each child feels happy and comfortable in the Pre Kindy environment. Please feel free to stay with your child as long as he or she needs you. The Pre Kindy staff will work closely with parent/caregivers to ensure that your child is given the best chance to settle at their own pace.

**Guiding Children’s Behaviour**

The children will come to understand that there are negative and positive consequences for their actions. The role of Pre Kindy teachers is to encourage positive behaviour and interactions through positive reinforcement. Limits will be enforced consistently and fairly.

We will respect and comfort a child regardless of the child’s behaviour. Children will be given verbal reminders of appropriate behaviours and if necessary, be given assistance to appropriately assert themselves with others. On a daily basis appropriate behaviours are demonstrated and acknowledged by the teachers.

**Canteen**

The children may order their lunches through the school canteen. There are canteen bags in the classroom where you may place your child’s order. This is collected up by the Canteen Manageress when school begins, or alternatively you can go directly to the canteen to write the order out on a lunch bag. The lunch basket is brought to the classroom at lunch time and staff will distribute the lunches to the children and assist the children, if required, when they are eating.

**Daily Requirements**
• Bag/Back Pack: Big enough for lunch box, art work, drink and spare clothes.

Bags will be kept outside the Pre Kindy classroom on or underneath the bench.

• A full water drink bottle.

• Hat: Please note the school has a ”No Hat No Play” policy

• Spare set of clothes (season appropriate)

• Two pieces of fruit (for shared morning tea). Cheese, crackers or dried fruit, may also be brought in. No sweet foods please.

• Lunch in a lunch box (to be eaten individually at lunch time) or canteen lunch order.

• Small cushion for rest time. To be left at school for the year.

• Lunch boxes will be kept inside the classroom in pigeon holes labeled with your child’s name

• Please ensure your child’s items are clearly labeled with his/her name

**Toilet Training**

It is preferred that your child is toilet trained. However if your child is in the process of toilet training they must wear “Pull Ups”. Please inform us if your child is toilet training as we are happy to assist in the process. Please ensure that you supply extra supplies of “Pull Ups” and wipes for each session.

You may wish to apply your own sunscreen to your child before school (especially if your child requires special sunscreen). Sunscreen is available at school and will be applied by staff prior to outdoor play during Term 1 and 4.

**Clothing**
Children need to wear comfortable play clothes that can get messy and that are easy to manage for quick dashes to the toilet!
Children are asked to remove shoes when using outside climbing equipment, so easy to wear shoes would be helpful.

**Health and Well Being**

Please inform us of any condition that may affect your child’s well being, 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 phone the school office by 8.30am should your child be absent due to illness or other reasons.

**Medication**

Staff are not permitted to administer medications to the children without the completion of appropriate forms. You are most welcome to come to the school to administer the medication yourself.

**Allergies**

Please let us know of any allergies or medical concerns, so that a Medical Action Plan for your child can be formulated.

**Allergy Friendly School**

There are a few students in our school who suffer from one of the most severe forms of allergic symptoms which is anaphylaxis. This is triggered by nuts, nut products and fish. We ask that parents be aware of these allergies and consider carefully what is sent in to school for fruit time, lunch or birthdays.

**Family Roster**
At the beginning of Term 1 we allow the children to settle into the routine of Pre Kindy and possibly the new experience of “being away” from mum or dad. Therefore there will be no Family Roster during this settling time. Once the children have settled parents will be notified via the school newsletter when Family Roster will commence.

Parents or grandparents (if parents are unavailable) are invited to come along to Pre Kindy as a parent helper to visit and participate in class experiences with your child.

A roster for parent help will be posted at the entrance to the Pre Kindy classroom. It is hoped that all parents will take the opportunity to join us for a morning session each term. The morning session will run from 8.45am - 11.45am. If you are unable to come at this time, please speak to us about arranging a time that suits you.

Parents are asked to sign in at the school’s administration office and receive a visitor’s badge before assisting as a helper in the Pre Kindy Program and sign out and at the conclusion of the session and return the badge.

Laundry Roster: This involves washing of aprons and towels used in the classroom. We will allocate parents a particular week for this roster.

Confidentiality

Parental assistance in classrooms is a very important part of education. It must be stressed however, that just as staff are expected to maintain high standards of confidentiality, classroom volunteers are not permitted to discuss with others the behaviours or academic achievement of children. In this way respect, progress and professionalism is maintained for all.
Birthdays

Birthdays are a special time in the lives of young children! To help celebrate your child’s birthday, you may like to bring cupcakes or biscuits for each child in the class to be served at morning tea (we encourage individual serves rather than a whole cake).

Art and Craft

Artwork is an important part of our program. Not only is art important for free expression, manipulation and creativity but socially, it develops cooperation with others and appreciation of other children.

From time to time, a variety of materials such as egg cartons, greeting cards, fabric scraps and food boxes will be requested for use within the Pre Kindy program.

Communication

We consider communication between home and school to be very important. Our first concern is the happiness of your child. If anything happens at home to upset your child in any way, we would appreciate it if you could let us know as this may impact at Pre Kindy.

The school newsletters are issued every week and these will be emailed every Wednesday. Newsletters are also available on the school website, www.stlawbal.wa.edu.au

If you have any queries, concerns or information regarding your child’s well being, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to meet with the Pre Kindy teacher.

Personal Belongings

The children are asked not to bring toys or personal belongings to Pre Kindy as items lost or broken often cause the children
undue stress. However, comfort items may be brought in for sleep/rest time (teddies, blankies etc).

**Parent Meetings/Interviews**

The teacher is always available for a quick chat during class times, however if you need a longer meeting with the teacher to share information, an appointment can be made at a mutually convenient time. You may email the class teacher on covich.simone@cathednet.wa.edu.au

**School Involvement**

St Lawrence Primary School provides many opportunities for parents to become involved in the school community.

1. **Family Roster** Parents are encouraged to assist in the morning sessions.

2. **Newsletters** are issued every week and these will be emailed every Wednesday. Newsletters are also available on the school website, www.stlawbal.wa.edu.au

3. **Canteen** Parents are encouraged to volunteer for Canteen roster.

4. The **Parents and Friends Association** is a fundraising and community building group within the school, which assists in purchasing additional resources and equipment for the children. Parents are encouraged to attend the monthly P & F meetings to offer help, support and ideas for fund raising.

5. **Whole School Masses** will occur throughout the year. Parents are welcome to attend these liturgical celebrations, even though the Pre Kindy children are not involved.
St Lawrence School Balcatta
Vision Statement

The vision of Saint Lawrence Catholic Primary School, Balcatta is to share the message of God’s love and friendship in a community of learners, developing the full potential of each child.