Welcome

Mother Teresa School

Preschool Information Pack 2011
Welcome to Mother Teresa School

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Before School Care  7.30am-8.55am
Preschool  8.55am-2.55pm
After School Care  2.55pm-6.00pm
Principal  Mr Michael Lowe
Assistant Principal  Mrs Cherie Kelly
Preschool Director  Mrs Alice Castrission
Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, the nun known to the world as Mother Teresa of Calcutta, was born to Albanian parents in what is now Macedonia in 1910. As a Sister of Loreto, she taught girls in her order's mission schools in India for twenty years. Then, on September 10, 1946, on a train journey in the mountains, she suddenly realized that God was calling her to something more—to care for the poorest of the poor.

In the city of Calcutta, many homeless people lived and died on the street. One day Sister Teresa came across a half-dead woman lying in front of a hospital. She stayed with the woman until she died. From that time on, she dedicated herself to caring for the poorest of the poor in India. She founded the Nirmal Hriday ("Pure Heart") Home for the Dying in a former temple in Calcutta, where poor, homeless people were cared for and allowed to die with dignity when no one else would have them. She also founded an orphanage and leprosy hospital.

Inspired by her heroism, other young women, including some of her former students, joined her in her work with the sick, the poor, and the forgotten of Calcutta's slums. They formed a new, worldwide order of nuns, the Missionaries of Charity. Like Mother Teresa, they wear a plain white, blue-edged sari, the traditional dress of Indian women. They live a simple, prayerful life, and take care of people all over the world wherever there is need.

Mother Teresa won several awards for her work, including the Nobel Peace Prize. She always used the money from such prizes to found new homes and hospitals for poor people.

Mother Teresa died in 1997 at the age of 87. Her life and work remind us that happiness and holiness come from doing "Small things with great love." She is remembered on September 10.
Start talking about Preschool

After Preschool Orientation your child will probably feel a great deal more confident about starting school. It is important that you talk to your child about going to school in a positive and enthusiastic manner.

It is important that you explain to your child that Mother Teresa School is a safe and happy place and that there is always a teacher and assistant close by if they feel frightened or upset.

Discuss with your child all of the different things they will do at school and how much fun it will be to:

- Make lots of new friends
- Meet interesting teachers
- Go to the library to borrow a book
- Use the Interactive Whiteboard (ACTIV Board)
- Paint and do craft
- Sing songs
- Climb on the outdoor equipment
- Play in the sandpit etc…….
Start preparing your child a month before the BIG day!

During this time you should start to encourage your child to be independent. Help your child learn to manage and take care of the things they will use on a daily basis at school.

For example:

- Discuss with your child how they will use the bathrooms (toilets) at school. It is important that you explain to them that they will be allowed to go to the toilet whenever they need to. They also need to wash their hands after they use the toilet.

- We ask that you please pack a spare change of clothes in a plastic bag in your child’s school bag. Your child may need a spare change of clothes if they have a toileting accident or if they get dirty while playing. We encourage children to explore the environment and as a result please don’t send them to school in clothes that you don’t want to get paint or dirt on.

- Encourage your child to put on their hat when going out to play. When they come inside, practice putting their hat in a designated place. Don’t forget to talk about the ‘No Hat, Play in the Shade’ rule. Remind them that they need to wear their hats outside if they want to play.

- Preschool children only need to wear The Mother Teresa School t-shirt and hat. If you would like the jumper that is optional. When choosing clothes for your child please consider how easy they are for children to pull up and down when they need to use the toilet.

- Please try to send your child with Velcro rather than shoe laces!
What to bring

- **School bag** - This can be the Mother Teresa bag or it can be any bag that will fit your child’s belongings in it!

- **A piece of fruit** - This will be cut up at school and shared among the children for ‘shared fruit.’

- **Drink bottle** - Get your child familiar with drinking from a drink bottle and show them how to open and close the lid. Please only bring water in the bottle.

- **Cot size sheet** - We will be having rest time during the afternoon. We will provide the mattress but please bring your own sheet.

- **Library bag**

- **LABEL EVERYTHING!** Show your child their full name written on their hat, jumper, bag, lunch boxes and drink bottles etc.

- Each day at school your child will have Fruit Break, Lunch and afternoon snack. Practice having these three breaks! We suggest that you have ‘picnics’ where your child is encouraged to make selections from their lunch box.

- In the first few weeks of school we ask that you place your child’s afternoon snack and fruit break in a separate container. This is one way to stop your child accidentally eating all of their food in one go!

- We have an early lunch at about 11.15am and an afternoon snack.

- Please remember ‘Risk MINIMISATION policy’ regarding NUTS and NUT PRODUCTS (eg. Peanut butter and nutella).
The first day at school!

The first day is a very exciting event, but it can also be a little confusing! Please read the following dot points carefully as they explain in detail what will happen and what you will need to do when you arrive on this special day!

The first day of school is **Monday 7th February 2011**.

**Here’s the tough one!**

- You will be asked to find your child’s name tag on their locker. Once found, place the bag in the designated rack.
- In the preschool you must sign your child in and out everyday. We will show you where this is located when you arrive with your child.
- You are welcome to sit with your child and do some activities and help them settle in. At about 9.30 we will encourage the children to come to the carpet area. This is the parents cue to leave.

Once your child is settled, we ask that you then leave the classroom.

- If we feel that your child is too distressed and unlikely to settle we will contact you immediately. We have your child’s best interests at heart.
- We will have tea and coffee for the parents and you are invited to stay and chat to other new parents. This will be served from the canteen.
- We are more than happy to give you a call later in the day to let you know how your child is going. Please let your teacher know if you would like us to do this.
Absence:

One of the most important duties that a teacher carries out is maintaining the class ROLL. The roll is a legal document and all absences must be accounted for. If your child is absent from school a written note is required. The note must be addressed to the teacher, provide the date/s of the absence and outline the reason for the absence (the reason may be through illness or personal leave). You must sign the note.

A courtesy call to the school’s office is appreciated, but does not legally explain your child’s absence. A note MUST be provided on your child’s return to school.

For example:

Dear Ms Addinell,

Freddy was absent from school on 12 November 2011 due to an illness.

Name
Signature

Dear Ms Adams,

Suzie was absent from school on 12 November 2011 due to family commitments.

Name
Signature

We look forward to meeting you and your families and having a wonderful year together.

See you on Monday 7th February