

KINDER ORIENTATION

Handbook



Love to Learn, Learn to Love



Channel
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Welcome from the Kinder Teacher



My name is Mrs Arwen Day and I have been the Kindergarten Teacher at Channel Christian School for nine years.

I love working with four and five year olds and find it fascinating to see the world through their eyes and to share their excitement and joy in the discoveries they make.

I am a member of St Clements Church in Kingston. My children (now mostly grown) enjoyed and valued their time as students at Channel Christian School. My hope is that your children will also thrive in this community.

I am looking forward to getting to know you and your child as we start their learning journey together in partnership, at Channel Christian School Kindergarten.

Yours in Christ,

Arwen Day

aday@channel.tas.edu.au



Beginning School

Beginning school is an exciting time in your child's life, but it is also a time of change. As parents/carers you can do a lot to help your child with this transition:

- Attend the Kinder Orientation sessions if possible
- Talk positively about school attendance
- Get to know the names of the other children in their class
- Attend 'Little Learners' on a Wednesday or Friday morning throughout the year. This will familiarise your child with the surroundings

General Information

If you have any concerns please contact us.

- Talk to the Teacher or Teacher's Aide before or after school
- aday@channel.tas.edu.au
- Leave a message at the office admin@channel.tas.edu.au or +61 3 6267 2775

Kinder Days

Our Kinder program is offered over three full days per week, from 8.55am–2.50pm

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Thursday

Our Kinder teacher works with Mrs Elissa Goodfellow our wonderful Kinder Aide.



Our Typical Kinder Day

8:30–8:55am	Arrive at school
8:55am	Line up
9:05am	Literacy activities and Art/Craft
10:45am	Morning tea and outside play
11:30am	Maths activities
12:45pm	Lunch and outside play
1.30pm	Quiet activities or stories
1:40pm	Science/Society and Environment/Show and Tell
2:50pm	Home



Drop off

Children will be supervised by a staff member from 8.30am onwards. **School starts at 8.55am.** If you are late, you will need to pop into the office to let them know that your child is at school. If your child is sick or needs a rest day, please phone or email the school office, or fill in the form on our website.

First day drop off

When you arrive at school say hello to the teacher, then help your child find their cubbyhole for their belongings and settle them into an activity. When it is time to go, say goodbye and tell your child that you will be back to pick him/her up at the end of school. Trust the Kinder Teachers and Aide, who are trained in techniques for supporting them through this transition.

Pick up

Children are to be collected from the Kinder playground gate or classroom at **2.50pm**. Older siblings may collect Kinder students, but must always ask the teacher or aide before taking a child out of the Kinder area. Please let the school know if there is a change of carer picking up your child. Please check weekly communications as this may change due to COVID-19 restrictions.

After School Care

After School Care is available from 2.50pm to 6.00pm through Adventure Patch. Ask the office for further details.

School Buses

Information about the school buses can be obtained from the school office.

School Uniform

Our school uniform has been designed to encourage physical activity and play. For more details, please refer to the uniform policy in the Parent Handbook. **Please make sure all items of clothing are clearly labelled.** The lost property box is in the sickroom next to the school office.

Kinder specific uniform details

Shoes

Children are expected to wear black polishable shoes. For Kinder children, shoes with buckles, velcro fasteners, or pull on boots are all good choices, as we like the children to be as independent as possible.

If you can, get your child used to wearing shoes and socks for extended periods of time, before the school year starts.

On sports day students may wear white socks and sports shoes (of any colour)

Bags

School bags are available at the uniform shop. Choose a bag large enough to fit a lunch box, drink bottle, library bag and a change of clothes. Please put a spare plastic bag in their school bag for taking home extra items.

Hats

School hats are essential. Kinder hats are reversible; navy blue and red. Children at times are asked to wear their hat with the red on the outside for easy identification. Hats come in two sizes, small and medium. Hats must be worn for outside activities in Terms 1 and 4.



Library Bags

Library bags are available at the School Uniform Shop.

Clothing for Bush Kinder

You will need to provide gumboots which can be stored at school and a coat.





Healthy Eating

Morning Tea and Lunch

Children will have to bring a packed morning tea and lunch to school each day. We have an allergy aware policy and ask you to not include egg and nuts when you pack your child's food.

What food to pack

We encourage a lunch box filled with a variety of healthy foods like:

- Fruit and vegetables
- Sandwich, wrap or sushi
- A treat/snack ie. baked goods

Things to consider when packing lunches

- Ensure the child is able to open their own lunchbox and water bottle
- Little containers for different items are preferred over plastic wraps, as we aim to reduce the amount of waste produced at school

Birthdays and special occasions

We love to help children celebrate their birthdays and are happy for you to supply a small treat to share with the class. Check with the teacher beforehand whether there are allergies to consider.

If your child has dietary requirements, please supply an alternative treat to the classroom teacher. The teacher can store some long lasting treats in the classroom, or freezer, so they are always on hand.



Communication

Home Visits

For families who are new to the school the teacher would love to come and visit your child to get to know them (and you) better before the school year starts. This builds the bridge between home and school. These visits are generally brief, only taking about 15 minutes, unless you request a longer visit. You will be contacted in the last few weeks of the holidays for a convenient time.

Reports

Official reports go home three times a year, interim report in Term 1, in the middle of the year end of Term 2, and at the end of the year. These will address your child's progress in line with the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) outcomes:

1. Children have a strong sense of identity
2. Children are connected with and contribute to their world
3. Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
4. Children are confident and involved learners
5. Children are effective communicators

Parent/Teacher Meetings

There are three formal opportunities to meet with the teacher

- 'Meet the Teacher' session Week 1, Term 1—An opportunity to collectively, with other parents, discuss school routines and expectations with the teacher
- Parent talk session—Term 1
- Parent/teacher interviews just after the mid year reports—An opportunity to meet one-on-one as parent and teacher

As we value partnership we encourage a more continuous and frequent interaction with families. Feel free to make an appointment to see the teacher at any time if you have any questions or have additional information you wish to share, which may affect your child's learning or wellbeing.

Newsletters

Every week a whole school newsletter will be available to view on our website. The website also has a calendar which is regularly updated with events coming up. Please check this regularly. From time to time there will be other notices sent home about events occurring. There will be messages from your teacher in Seesaw several times a week.



Community

Being part of our Community

There are many community events at Channel Christian School from our Welcome BBQ, School Fair, Lantern Walk, Grandparents' Day and Working Bee. These are organised by our Community Engagement Committee members. They will be advertised in the school newsletter prior to the events. Channel is a relatively small school community which make these events a great way to make connections with other school families and teachers.

Community Engagement Committee

The primary role of a school's Community Engagement Committee is to build authentic community within the school by fostering strong partnerships, connections and engagement with families in the school and to support the Principal.

The school's Community Engagement Committee should represent the interests of the whole parent body. Membership of a school's Community Engagement Committee is open to all parents within the school community who can demonstrate an active partnership with the school and who genuinely support the Christian mission, values and ethos of the school.





Learning

The Learning Program

Kinder is an introductory year to formal education. During this year the children learn what behaviours are expected at school, how to relate to other children and teachers, and about their own contribution to the learning process. It is important for every child to feel safe, secure, happy and confident being at school and for them to start viewing themselves as learners. Much of the learning in Kinder is achieved through play and enquiry based activities. We want all children to experience success in their first year at school.

Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)

The teaching at Kinder is guided by the government assigned curriculum called the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF). The Early Years Learning Framework focusses on the preconditions for learning. Each child needs to feel safe, secure, confident and valued. This will enable them to learn to the best of their ability.

Children should have an active role in the learning process. Learning needs to be something the children do for themselves, rather than something a teacher does for them. Alongside explicit teaching sessions, the children will be encouraged to learn through play and investigation.

Creativity, imagination, curiosity and the transfer of knowledge from one situation to another are crucial parts of the EYLF. Learning to be communicators and sharing knowledge through speaking/listening, art, photos, drawings or symbols, starting to understand the purpose of written text, pictures or diagrams is a major part of the Kinder year. Learning about sustainability and connecting with the natural world are also components of the EYLF.

English Program

In Kinder the children are involved daily in a wide range of activities to promote reading and writing. We share a variety of texts, discuss, illustrate, re-create them through craft or drama activities. Children learn to communicate their own experiences, express their ideas and emotions and to enjoy fiction and non-fiction books. Pre-writing activities throughout the year, concentrate on correct letter formation of the letters in their own names. Developing fine motor skills promotes good handwriting in later years.

Letters and Sounds Program

Letters and Sounds is a phonics program used in Kinder—Year 2. It is a main part of our English program in Kinder. The program is an age-appropriate and fun way to start the reading/writing journey. Children start by listening to, identifying and comparing environmental, body percussion and instrumental sounds. The children are taught to identify rhyme and alliteration. They will learn to segment and blend single sounds orally, all skills required before learning to read and write.

Maths Program

We start the year with a general introduction to numbers 0 to 10, shape, sorting, pattern and all types of measurement. Counting books, games, songs and craft are used on a daily basis to introduce Maths skills or as follow-on activities.

Additional Learning

Daily Physical Education will be run by the Kinder teacher to assist all children achieve their gross motor skills. Kinder is also a year rich in introductions to Science, and Social Sciences. Many of these subjects are covered in integrated theme work throughout the year, through investigative play and learning centres.

Specialised Classes

Art, Library and Music lessons are taken by specialist teachers once a week.



Reading

Reading to your child

There are many reasons why reading to your child every day, in the early years is important. Mem Fox, a well-known children's author, suggests that children should be read 3 books per day in order for them to be ready for school. The number one benefit is that it increases a child's vocabulary which is a main indicator of the trajectory of a child's learning. Reading with your child should be a relaxed and enjoyable time. Reading is a great part of a bedtime routine, but anytime is a great time to read with your child!

Reading at school

As part of our everyday routine the children are read fiction and non-fiction books as well as Bible stories. During eating times the children are read to and after lunch we have a quiet reading/looking at books time. Early readers can read to the teacher at this time, and the teacher and aide read to individuals or small groups.

Library

Our Librarian reads to the children and introduces the children to a wide range of different books during their library session. Every week the Kinders may borrow two books from the school library.

Parent Library

There is a separate collection of books for parents in our school library. This collection contains many books and some DVDs on parenting and issues concerning children. Please see our Librarian if you wish to borrow any of these books.



Support Services

Children with Additional Needs

All children are unique and special gifts from God. We teach Kinder children that although other children may seem different on the outside, they are all the same on the inside. It is alright for children to be curious about differences, but we encourage them to embrace these differences. We encourage Kinders to reach out in friendship and love to all children in the class, regardless of ability.

The Disability Standards for Education states that we have an obligation to give all children equal access to education. This fits in well with the Channel Christian School belief that we are here to educate to the very best of our ability every child that God sends to our school. We offer the services of a learning support co-ordinator (a qualified teacher) who works closely with the parents and teachers to provide the best possible education for the child. Individual Learning Plans (ILP) are written for those children who will benefit from them. These are written in consultation with parents/carers, aides and teacher, and are reviewed regularly. Learning support aides are employed to help implement the ILP's where necessary.

Counsellor/Chaplain

Channel Christian School provides the services of a school counsellor, one day per week, available to both students, parents and staff. A school chaplain is available two days a week to support children and families in a range of issues they may face during school.



Nature Play

Outdoor and Loose Parts Play

Our Kinder playground has been designed to reflect the natural surroundings we live in. It provides an area for nature play and play with loose parts. Kinders love playing in the creek, created with water from a water tank.

The children enjoy playing in the sandpit and have access to pebbles, driftwood, shells, pine cones, recycled objects and other loose parts. These objects inspire greater creativity and imagination.

We often take lessons outdoors to make them more hands on and engaging.



Bush Kinder

Bush Kinder is a very important part of our Kindergarten program. Once a week we walk to the Dru Point bush and shoreline area, to be involved in outdoor learning. We spend anywhere from one to four hours outdoors making connections with our local environment. We build, we make, we play, we observe, we collect and we have fun outdoors getting exercise and plenty of fresh air!

Bush Kinder enables us to better meet many of the outcomes of the **Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)**.

- 2.4 Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment
- 3.2 Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and physical wellbeing
- 4.1 Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity

Children of Kindergarten age: 'Should be physically active every day for at least three hours, spread throughout the day.'

(Get Up & Grow: Healthy Eating and Physical activity for Early Childhood, April 2013)

Gardening



We love growing vegetables and have fun cooking with them and eating what we have cooked. We compost our scraps.



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