PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Little Stars have an open-door policy. If you have anything you wish to discuss at length, please inform the teacher and we will make time to meet. I believe communication between home and school is vital to the development of the whole child and strongly encourage you to discuss any queries/concerns. I also regularly share photos and happenings on an app called Class Dojo. Upon enrolment, I will provide a login/access code for each family so that they have secure access to the closed forum.

CLOTHING

A uniform is not compulsory in Little Stars, but a Kindy uniform is available from the uniform shop if you wish. We do recommend that you send your child to school in clothes suitable for outdoor play and activities such as painting, gluing, etc. Please leave jewellery at home as this often gets lost.

All children MUST have a hat and well fastened flexible shoes which will enable them to run and climb safely on the outdoor equipment.

INTIMATE CARE/TOILETTING

Children must be able to go the toilet independently in order to participate in the program. Staff will supervise and remind children throughout the day ‘to go’ however, children must be wearing underwear to school (no pull-ups). We do understand accidents happen and ask that there always be a spare change of clothing and a sealed plastic bag to enclosed soiled items.

ABSENCES

If your child is absent from school, please inform us in via Class Dojo or phone the school office on 9941328.

COMMUNICATION BOOK

This is located at the classroom entrance. Please write in the book if someone else is picking your child.

BIRTHDAYS

Children are welcome to bring in a cake or cupcakes to celebrate their birthday. We will enjoy these during morning tea. We ask if you please be mindful of food allergies by asking the class teacher in advance.

FOLIO/ART WORK

We ask you to please bring in an A3 display file, so we can document your mini Picasso’s journey over the course of the year.

SCHOOL FEES

The 3 year old Kindy program fees and charges are revised annually. Fees are charged annually or pro-rata and are calculated from the date your child commences. The fees charged cover salaries and other associated costs required to run the 3 year old Kindy Program and therefore we are unable to offer fee discounts for this program. There is no remission for time spent away from 3 year old Kindy for family holidays. The school offers BPAY and EFTPOS facilities as well as direct debit on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis. Fees are expected to be paid in full by the end of Term 3.

CHANGE OF DETAILS

We ask you to please notify the school immediately of any change of address or phone number for yourself or your alternative contact. A Change of Details Form is available from the School Office.
WHAT IS THREE YEAR OLD KINDY?
Three year old Kindy is an educational program for pre-kindergarten children who have already turned three. Known as ‘Little Stars,’ the program implements a play-based approach, which is central to the Early Years Learning Framework. The sensory and exploratory rich program provides children with meaningful experiences which encourages their disposition to wonder, discover, imagine and create meaning about their world. Our educators are committed to creating a caring, warm and safe environment where all children are nurtured to flourish.

WHO MAY ATTEND?
The program is offered to children who are three years old. Regulations prevent us taking a child until they have turned three. If your child has not turned three years old when the program commences they may be enrolled after their third birthday. Please note that enrolment in the St Mary Star of the Sea three year old Kindy program does not guarantee a place in the four year old Kindergarten. For further enrolment information please contact the school office.

OPERATION
The three year old Kindy program runs each Monday, aligning with the school term. Our classroom doors are open at 8:30am and children are to be picked up between 2:15 to 2:30pm. The classroom operates under the supervision and care of a Classroom Teacher and an Education Assistant. The classroom is located in the Junior Learning Centre at St Mary Star of the Sea College, using the secured grounds and facilities of the college.

CURRICULUM
The foundation of Early Childhood Education is the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF). The purpose of the framework is to extend and furthermore, enrich children’s learning from birth through to their transition to Primary School.
The Framework is embedded in the structure, environment, operations and philosophy within the ‘Little Stars’ classroom in endeavour to nurture children’s potential and develop a foundation for future success. The EYLF focuses on Being, Becoming and Belonging through these five learning outcomes:
Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity
Outcome 2: Children are connected with and contribute to their world
Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners
Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators.

DAILY REQUIREMENTS
Each day your child needs to bring:
* A back pack or bag which is big enough to fit...
* A filled-up water bottle. (water only please)
* A hat
* A healthy snack for morning recess
* A healthy packed lunch in an easy to open lunch box
* A change of clothing & wet bag

MORNING REQUESTS
Please ensure your child is supervised until the doors open at 8:30am, you are welcome to escort your child inside the classroom and enjoy some of the activities with them. To develop your child’s independence, we encourage children to unpack their own bags in the mornings, bringing in their water bottles, lunchboxes and hats. Due to duty of care, children are not permitted to play on the outdoor equipment before school.

OUTDOOR PLAY
Children will have access to the impressive nature playground throughout the day. This encourages the development of many skills ranging from social, emotional to gross motor.

LUNCHTIME
What children have in their lunchbox is super important. They need premium petrol to fuel their day at school and therefore we encourage fresh fruit and veg. For lunch, we recommend something like a sandwich or wrap, rice/noodles, accompanied by a piece of fruit and water. We kindly ask to please limit the number of processed foods as these can impair learning concentration and memory. Of course, a treat is fine.
Little Stars eat their recess and lunch on the picnic tables located outside the room. We allocate extra time so that they are able to get through their meal and ensure there is plenty of time for play.

REST TIME
Children will have relaxation straight after lunchtime. They are encouraged to relax, cool down and unwind after a busy play. We foster the skill of resting our bodies through breathing and music. Please bring in a small cushion (clearly labelled), these will stay at school and will be sent home to be washed at the end of every term.