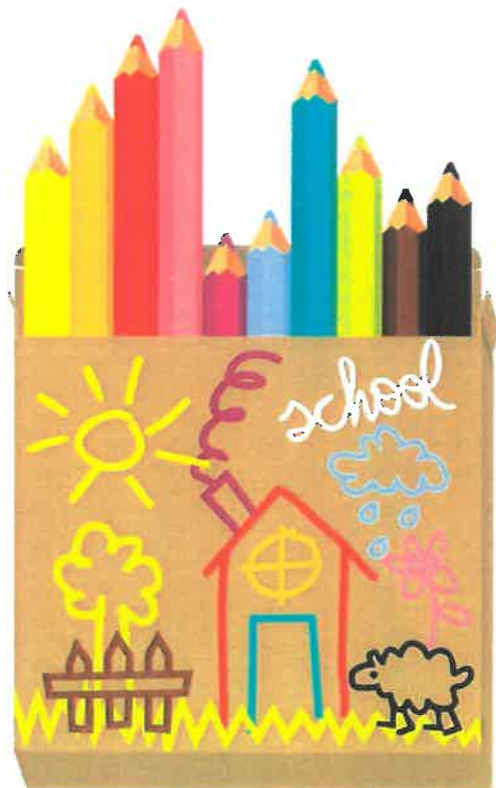


*Welcome to  
Kindergarten  
at  
Bishop Pocock School*



**March 2023**



# Welcome to Kindergarten

My name is Carla Thorson. I will be the Kindergarten teacher at Bishop Pocock School for the 2023-24 school year. I am truly looking forward to working with you and your child in the upcoming year. We will have many new and exciting learning adventures together. This booklet contains some information about our Kindergarten program. If you have any questions about the Kindergarten program, please feel free to contact me at [cmthorson@gscs.ca](mailto:cmthorson@gscs.ca) or at 306-659-7160.

I will be inviting everyone into the classroom for a Spring visit. I will be sending a formal invitation inviting all the Kindergarten students (and an adult to accompany them) registered for the 2023-24 school year for a short visit with me and their other classmates in May or June.

In June, I will also be sending home a school supply list and a tentative calendar. Please note that all of this information can also be found on our school website.

# Kindergarten

## Kindergarten - A Perspective

The first year of school in Kindergarten is an extremely important time in a child's growth and development. It is a fun and exciting time for everyone involved. We try our best to create an atmosphere of love, comfort and support for each child. In our Kindergarten program, we offer opportunities to play and learn with these important factors as a base for our planning...

- an understanding of child growth and development
- an appreciation of the individuality of each child
- a sensitive awareness of individual differences
- a knowledge of learning activities which are age appropriate
- the establishment of objectives that will help each child develop to the best of his/her abilities.

The Kindergarten program provides many opportunities for children to develop socially as well as academically. Your child will continue the learning process already begun at home since birth. Learning to share, cooperate, be considerate toward others, follow directions, take care of belongings and develop new skills, coupled with being separated from parents for a large portion of the day, are but a few of the many facets of the learning in Kindergarten.

In our Kindergarten program, much of the learning will be learning done through play in our classroom as well as through explicit instruction. Invitations for learning through play will be introduced with specific skills and outcomes that compliment our Language Arts and Math programs. Our Kindergarten program aims to help all students be the best they can be.



## What Will Your Child Do in Kindergarten?

- experience the satisfaction of learning new skills and ideas
- get along with different adults
- work and play with other children
- share games, ideas and experiences
- express him/herself in words, drawings, music and play
- care for him/herself and personal belongings
- look at books and handle them with care
- listen
- follow directions
- print letters
- learn the alphabet and alphabet sounds
- recognize numbers and understand simple number concepts
- think of others, but also stand up for him/herself
- develop good work habits



## School Readiness

Every child is unique. Each differs from others in ability and in the age at which specific skills and content are mastered. You can help your child be more fully prepared for Kindergarten by helping him/her with the following skills:

- recognize his/her printed name
- print his/her name
- know his/her last name
- know his/her address and phone number
- know his/her birthday
- follow simple directions
- listen quietly to stories
- take care of personal property
- care about personal cleanliness
- eat his/her food properly and quietly in one place
- take turns
- let others speak without interrupting
- respect the property of others
- dress independently - zippers, buttons
- use the bathroom independently



## Home & School Relationships

### 1) School Organization - General Information about Bishop Pocock School:

Address: 227 Avondale Road  
Phone Number: 306-659-7160  
School Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Lunch Hour: 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.  
Recesses: 10:30 a.m. and 2:15 p.m.  
Website: [www.gscs.ca/poc](http://www.gscs.ca/poc)



### 2) Registration Fee

A school fee is not collected for Kindergarten students.

### 3) Newsletters

School information is posted on the Edsby River of News. Edsby is our communication platform. It is also used for attendance, progress reports, and scheduling three-way conferences. Week at a Glance Memos are emailed and posted on Edsby every Friday with school news. As well, classroom newsletters are sent home throughout the year. It is important to read the school and classroom newsletters, as children may feel left out if they are not included in special days. At the beginning of the school year, your child will receive a Kindergarten calendar indicating which days your child is to be at school. (Full days on Tuesdays and Thursdays and usually one Friday per month.)

### 4) Nut Alert

Bishop Pocock School is a "NUT ALERT SCHOOL". We have several students with life-threatening allergies. Please do not send anything that contains (or may contain) nuts/products.

### 5) Practical Hints:

- a) Label all of your child's clothing and personal belongings.
- b) Wake your child early enough to have a good breakfast.
- c) Keep the consumption of candy, potato chips and soft drinks at a low level.
- d) Provide your child with an adequate, nutritious lunch and include something for snack time.



- e) Keep your child home if he/she shows signs of possible illness such as sore throat, chills, skin rash, coughing, fever, etc.
- f) Make the teacher aware of emotional upsets which originate at home.
- g) Discuss with the teacher any medical problems your child has.
- h) The Public Health Nurse assigned to our school is responsible for vaccinations in the middle years grade levels. Please see your family doctor for health/medical issues.
- i) If your child will be absent for any reason, please report the absence on Edsby. Please look for more information about Edsby in Fall.



#### 6) Questions You May Have

**Q: What is the best way to get in touch with the teacher if the need should arise?**

**A:** Please send me a message on Edsby, email me at [cmthorson@gscs.ca](mailto:cmthorson@gscs.ca) or phone the school (306- 659-7160) and leave a message with the Office Coordinator for the teacher to call back when he/she can, or try to call outside of class hours. However, if there is an urgent need to get in touch with the teacher during class hours, the Office Coordinator would be able to contact the teacher in the classroom.

**Q: What steps are taken if my child becomes sick while at school?**

**A:** The school attempts to first contact the parent/guardian at home or at work, then the child's babysitter or emergency contact person. There is a quiet spot where the child can lay down if necessary until someone can come and get him/her.

**Q: If I am planning to take my child out of school for part of the day or for an extended vacation, who should I contact?**

**A:** Firstly, it is important that you report ALL absences on Edsby. As well, the teacher needs to be notified if the child is to be taken out for part of the day or for lunch or recess or a vacation.

**Q: What is the lunch time routine?**

**A:** Lunch time begins at 12:00 p.m. and the children have 20 minutes to eat lunch before they are expected to go outside. Students are supervised outside from 12:20 to 12:45. Families will pay a small fee for students who eat lunch at school (\$3.50 per month with a cap for families with more than 2 children of \$14 per month. Fees to be paid through [myschoolbucks.ca](http://myschoolbucks.ca) . There will be more information in Fall).

**Q: Are the children supervised at lunch time?**

**A:** Yes, there is adult supervision in the hallways while the children have their lunch. Also, sometimes there are students from an older grade assigned to help in the classroom at this time.

**Q: Is there a bus for students in Kindergarten?**

**A:** Yes, there is a bus that runs for all students from K-8 for students that are in the busing area. This must be checked on an individual basis.

**Q: Is there Before and After School Care at Bishop Pocock?**

**A:** Yes, this is a pay per use service. Please contact Kelly at 306-251-1037

**Q: Are parents welcome to volunteer their time in Kindergarten?**

**A:** Yes, help is always needed to:

- supervise students during centers while the teachers work one on one
- help with some classroom duties such as copying, coloring, cutting, etc.
- wash toys at the end of the school year
- provide snacks for classroom celebrations
- assist with library book exchange

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at any time (306 659-7160). We look forward to meeting you soon!

*Mrs. Thorson – Kindergarten Teacher*

*Mrs. Pion– Principal*