

Welcome to Kindergarten!

[Click here for a video tour of your classroom and to meet your teacher!](#)

Phone: 403-748-3770 * <https://bentley.wolfcreek.ab.ca/>* 2021-2022

Welcome Message from the Teacher



Hi! My name is Mrs. Henry. I have been teaching Kindergarten here at Bentley School for many years. I am a firm believer in play based learning and teaching children independence at a young age. I am looking forward to getting to know your children and assisting them on their learning journey.

Kindergarten Structure

This year's Kindergarten class will be broken down into three colored pods. Your children will attend Kindergarten for two full days per week, either Tuesday/Thursday, Tuesday/Wednesday or Wednesday/Thursday in addition to the occasional extra Friday. Mrs. Henry will share a schedule of the extra Friday's your child will be expected to attend. You will receive a phone call from the school to indicate which pod your child has been placed into. Kindergarten class placements are based on a number of factors including, the number of kindergarten registrations, date kindergarten registration received, program day availability and student needs, not just on parent preference. Every effort has been made to accommodate work schedules and/or child care needs where possible.

What to Expect the First Week - Staggered Entry

In 2020, Bentley School moved to a staggered entry start the first week of school. Class size is minimized and class time is shortened to allow children a chance to get to know their new space and adjust to their new environment. **NO BUSING IS PROVIDED THIS WEEK FOR KINDERGARTEN.**

Wednesday, September 1	Green pod only (Tue/Wed)	9 - 11 a.m.
Thursday, September 2	Red pod only (Tue/Thur)	9 - 11 a.m.
Friday, September 3	Blue pod only (Wed/Thur)	9 - 11 a.m.

When does full day Kindergarten start?

The first full day of Kindergarten including busing starts **Tuesday, September 7**. You must have registered for busing through your PowerSchool Online Payments portal on the homepage of our website!

Tuesday	Red pods	Green pods
Wednesday	Green pods	Blue pods
Thursday	Red pods	Blue pods

What time does school start and end?

The doors to the school open at 8:15 a.m. and classes start at 8:30 a.m. Doors are locked again at 8:45 a.m. Students are dismissed at 3:15 p.m.

Where do I drop my child off?

Drop off and pick up will be on the North doors (E2) of the school near. If you are driving, please park in the north parking lot. A teacher or education assistant will greet your child at the door and assist them into the building. Please make drop off and pick up as brief as possible. If you are late, and the doors are locked there is a doorbell that will ring in our classroom only and alert us that you are outside.

Bus children will be put on their bus unless we have received communication no later than 2:30 p.m. indicating otherwise. If you don't know for sure that you are picking up your child, don't discuss this with them as they get quite anxious when the routine is uncertain. Just make sure that you are here at 3:00 pm at the North door and surprise them. Bus drivers appreciate notes!

What if my child is going to be away?

If your child is going to be away, late, or picked up early, the best practice is to call the office at 403-748-3770 or by email at bentley@wolfcreek.ab.ca to ensure the message is received. Our absence management system will notify you if you have not called in to excuse your child's absence.



How do I communicate with the teacher?

Mrs. Henry will send out regular correspondence via email. It is best to reach her by email at denise.henry@wolfcreek.ab.ca. At this time we request emails rather than notes due to Covid. You will get a monthly calendar home in your communication folder.

Student Demographic Update Forms

It is very important for us to have updated information. All registered students will receive a student demographic update form emailed towards the end of August. These forms are mandatory and must be completed by September 1, 2021. Please follow the instructions in the email. Please notify us of any changes in phone numbers, cell numbers or contact/emergency numbers any time during the year by calling the school at 403-748-3770.

How do I volunteer at the school?

Normally, we welcome parent volunteers in our school! We aren't sure if volunteers will be able to be able to be in class with students next year but will keep you posted. All volunteers are required to submit an application form, criminal record declaration form, and vulnerable sector check application available on the website at:

<https://bentley.wolfcreek.ab.ca/parents/volunteer-information>

How do I fill out field trip permission forms?

At this time, we aren't sure if field trips will be permitted next year due to Covid. If they are, all field trip permission forms are filled out online through the PowerSchool & Online Payments button on the homepage of the website. Permission forms and fees are mandatory and must be paid prior to departure.

What if my child is sick?

If your child is sick, they must remain at home. All Covid health protocols in place at the time must be followed.

How do I pay school fees?

Kindergarten school fees are \$70 which covers most of the supplies students will use throughout the year and a technology fee. There may be additional fees charged for field trips. Payments can be made through the PowerSchool & Online Payments parent portal on the homepage of the website. Cash or cheques payable to Wolf Creek Public School can be taken at the office.

How do I keep up to date with activities happening at the school?

Once a month, Bentley School will email a newsletter to all parents. You can also subscribe to the online calendar at: <https://bentley.wolfcreek.ab.ca/calendar>, check out our website or follow us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up to date and informed!

What does my child need to bring to school?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Running shoes with velcro and non-marking soles (indoor shoes). Non marking running shoes are required for any activities in the gym. Please print your child's name on the outside heel as it is easier for them to find.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete set of spare clothes including underwear, socks and a sweater or sweatshirt in a zip lock bag with their name on the bag. Our classroom is always quite cool. These will remain in the locker.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Large backpack – big enough to hold lunch kit and snow pants. It will not be too heavy for a child. Please see the shopping tips below.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lunch kit (not too big so it doesn't take up too much room in their backpack). Bento box concept works well.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Child information sheet on the first day of school.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please label everything that comes to school to ensure your child gets it home safely. It is especially important to label shoes (indoor and outdoor) boots, mittens, hats, so your child can find his/hers. We recommend Mabel's labels or equivalent. You may just put the last name on if you wish.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box of Kleenex
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 small ziplock bags/5 large ziplock bags
<input type="checkbox"/>	All other supplies including pencils, markers, scissors, etc. are supplied by the school.

Important Tips for Parents

1.	Please send nutritional snacks. Avoid items with excess sugar, coloring, candy (no pop). Think of easy open containers and repackage if necessary. Please put names on lunch containers. Please avoid messy snacks like dry noodles. Practice opening containers and snacks.
2.	Make sure they are dressed or have clothes in the backpack for all weather situations. We do go outside every day. Please label all outerwear and outside shoes. As you buy clothing, consider if the child can get it on independently and refer to the shopping tips below.
3.	Please discuss with the teacher if your child cannot participate in certain holidays, customs, activities or eat particular foods due to religious or other beliefs.
4.	The teacher can only supervise the taking of drugs but cannot administer drugs of any type to your child. If your child requires medicine, please send a pre-measured dosage and a note with instructions. Please give your child the same instructions at home and discuss with your teacher.
5.	If you are helping your child print his/her name, please demonstrate using Upper Case for the beginning letter followed by Lower Case letters; i.e.: Denise. Do not worry if your child cannot print his/her name, this will come naturally as your child grows and matures.
6.	Please label everything that comes to school to ensure your child gets it home safely. It is especially important to label shoes (indoor and outdoor) boots, mittens, hats, so your child can find his/hers. We recommend Mabel's labels or equivalent. You may just put the last name on if you wish.
7.	Feel free to discuss any questions or concerns with the teacher during gradual entry or any day before or after classroom hours.

Tips for shopping for Kindergarten

★	Backpacks: Plan ahead for the year. These need to be big enough to hold a lunch kit and a pair of soggy snow pants. Stay away from one with lots of pockets. They don't use them anyway and they are harder to get in and out of the locker. They won't be too heavy but they do need to be regular size.
★	Make sure they are dressed or have clothes in the backpack for all weather situations. We do go outside every day. Please label all outerwear and outside shoes. As you buy clothing, consider if the child can get it on independently and refer to the shopping tips below.
★	Indoor shoes: These need to be suitable for gym (non- marking soles) and your child should be able to get them off and on independently. Indoor and Outdoor shoes. No laces until your child can tie quickly.
★	Lunch Kits: Not too big to fit in a backpack easily and make sure your child can open everything independently.
★	Winter gear: Our class goes out every day for a full half hour unless it's brutally cold so they need good winter gear. They roll, sit and play in the snow!
★	Mittens: are preferable over gloves as they are warmer and easier to get on. They need to have a nylon outer shell as knitted or fleece mitts get coated with snow quickly, get wet and very cold. Knitted gloves or mitts are okay until snow season if they can be put on easily! Generally, mittens work better. Try before you buy. Some mitts are too stiff or tight or have too high a collar to put on easily. Think active play! As the children need to dress themselves for recess we always put mittens on last as we need our hands for dressing. Encourage this!
★	Snow pants: Can the child put them on easily? If not, why not? If possible have ones that don't need to have straps that have to be done and undone. Good ones have a stretchy strap that can be snug when on but will give a little when putting them on. Pants without bibs are fine and easier to get out of if nature calls. We don't usually pull snow pants over boots. Can your child do this themselves?
★	Jackets: Jackets with hoods are great but as some hoods make it hard to see and fall off easily students should all have a toque as well.
★	Scarves: If scarves are worn we try to tuck them inside jackets for safety reasons. A fleece neck tube is a much easier option.
★	Boots: Can your child pull these on themselves? Ones that don't have to be tied are preferable. Remember-Independence is the goal. The more you choose clothing with this in mind the quicker your kids will be independent, and make your life easier too!