



# welcome to Kindergarten!

Bentley School ■ Phone: 403 - 748 - 3770 ■ <https://bentley.wolfcreek.ab.ca/>

## Welcome Message from Mrs. Robinson 🌟



Welcome to Kindergarten! I grew up in the area and have been teaching since 2013. I have spent most of my teaching career in Kindergarten, with a few years in grades one and two. My husband, Wyatt and I have four wonderful daughters, a busy farm and we love to stay busy outdoors when I am not in the classroom! I love coffee, chocolate, reading and the mountains. I am looking forward to the year ahead. I will strive to engage your child in collaborative experiences, daily discoveries and wonderful learning activities.

If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to me at [vanessa.robinson@wolfcreek.ab.ca](mailto:vanessa.robinson@wolfcreek.ab.ca) or 403-748-3770 ext 4483. In Kindergarten we will be using an app called Seesaw for information about your child's learning throughout the year, where I will share pictures, assignments and assessments.

- Mrs. Robinson

## Kindergarten Structure

Your child has been placed in the Monday/Wednesday full day program at Bentley School. In addition to Monday/Wednesdays, your child will also come to a handful of extra Fridays throughout the school year; please put these dates in your calendar:

### Extra Fridays

Sept 8, Oct 13, Nov 17, Dec 15, Jan 12, Feb 2, March 1, April 5, May 24, June 7

# 2023-2024 Bentley School Kindergarten Calendar

BENTLEY SCHOOL

2023 - 2024 School Year

KINDERGARTEN CALENDAR

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

August

1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18 19

20 21 22 23 24 25 26

27 28 29 30 31

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

September

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

October

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

29 30 31

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

November

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

26 27 28 29 30

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

December

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27 28 29 30

31

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

January

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

14 15 16 17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

28 29 30 31

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

February

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

March

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

31

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

April

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

May

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

June

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

LEGEND:

PTI In-Lieu days

Statutory & Other Holidays

Teachers' Convention

School Opening/Closing

School Break

CRM Days

PD Days

Staff Planning Days

Kindergarten

83 Mon/Wed

83 Tue/Thur

1 Both Classes

August

Aug. 31

Staff Planning Day

September

Sept. 1

Staff Planning Day

Sept. 4

Labour Day

Sept. 5

Students' First Day

Sept. 22

Staff Collaboration Day

October

Oct. 6

Staff Collaboration Day

Oct. 9

Thanksgiving Day

Oct. 20

Staff Collaboration Day

November

Nov. 10

Staff Earned Day Off (In-Lieu for Parent-Teacher Interviews)

Nov. 13

Stat in Lieu - Remembrance Day

Nov. 24

Staff Collaboration Day

December

Dec. 8

Staff Collaboration Day

Dec. 25, 26, 27

Christmas Stat Holidays

Dec. 23

Christmas Break (Dec 23- Jan 5 inclusive)

January

Jan. 1

New Years Day Stat

Jan. 8

First day back after Holiday Break

Jan. 19

Staff Collaboration Day

Jan. 31

Conclusion of First Semester

Semester One Total

97

88

February

Feb. 1

Commencement of Second Semester

Feb. 9

Staff Collaboration Day

Feb. 19

Family Day

Feb. 20

Staff Earned Day Off (In-Lieu for Parent-Teacher Interviews)

Feb. 21

Staff Collaboration Day

Feb. 22 & 23

Teachers' Convention

March

Mar. 15

Staff Collaboration Day

Mar. 25

Spring Break (March 25 to April 1 inclusive)

Mar. 29

Good Friday

April

Apr. 1

Easter Monday

Apr. 26

Staff Collaboration Day

May

May 17

Staff Earned Day Off (In-Lieu for Parent-Teacher Interviews)

May 20

Victoria Day

May 21

Staff Earned Day Off (In-Lieu for Parent-Teacher Interviews)

May 31

Staff Collaboration Day

June

Jun. 14

Staff Collaboration Day

Jun. 27

Students' Last Day

Jun. 28

Teacher Evaluation Day (final staff day)

Semester Two Total

97

87

Year Total

194

175

## Meet the Teacher Night

Mrs. Robinson will be hosting a *Meet the Teacher Night* on Thursday, August 31st. Feel free to drop in with your child anytime between 5:00 pm and 6:00 p.m.

## How Does Staggered Entry Work?

In 2020, Bentley School moved to a staggered entry for the first week of school. With a staggered entry, children will have a chance to become familiar with the Kindergarten staff and classroom in a small group setting. This also allows the teacher and support staff an opportunity to get to know the children and understand their personal strengths and needs. During our staggered entry week, the day your child attends is based on their last name. For the first week of school, your child will attend **ONLY ONE** of the following days: Wednesday, September 6th or Friday, September 8th.

★ If your child's last name starts with letter A-L, they'll come to school on Sept. 6th

★ If your child's last name starts with letter M-Z, they'll come to school on Sept. 8th

The hours for the staggered entry day are 9:00 am – 11:00 am. Students must be brought to school and picked up by a parent or guardian on their designated day, as **no busing is provided this week for Kindergarten.**

## When does the first full day of Kindergarten start?

Our first full day of Kindergarten, with busing, starts on Monday, September 11th. Please ensure you are registered for busing through your PowerSchool Online Payments portal on the homepage of our website.

## Where do I drop my child off?

Drop off and pick-up will be at the North doors (E2) of the elementary school. If you are driving, please park in the North parking lot. Please do your best to make drop-off and pick-up as brief as possible. Additionally, we can not let your child leave the school on their own, if your child is going home with someone other than a parent/guardian or sibling, I need written notification, this is of course to ensure your child's safety. If you are running late and the doors are locked, there is a doorbell that you can ring that will alert us in the classroom. Bus Riders Only: For the first part of the year we will assist your child to get onto their correct bus. Our hope is that over their kindergarten year they will gain independence to get to their bus on their own. If there is a change in regards to your child's regular pick-up schedule, please contact the office. Please note, we cannot guarantee that emails sent to your child's classroom teacher will be read in time. In addition, if you don't know for sure that you will be picking up your child, please don't discuss this with them as they can become quite anxious when the routine is uncertain.

## What time does school start & end?

The doors to the school open at 8:20 am and classes start at 8:30 am. Doors will be locked again at 8:45 am. At the end of the day, students who ride the bus will be escorted to their bus at approximately 3:05 pm. Students being picked up are dismissed at 3:10 pm. 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 email the office at [bentley@wolfcreek.ab.ca](mailto:bentley@wolfcreek.ab.ca) and cc your child's teacher ([vanessa.robinson@wolfcreek.ab.ca](mailto:vanessa.robinson@wolfcreek.ab.ca)).

## How do I volunteer at the school?

In Kindergarten, we welcome volunteers in the classroom. All volunteers are required to complete a Volunteer Application Form, Criminal Record Declaration Form and Vulnerable Sector Check Application (in certain circumstances). These forms can be found at <https://bentley.wolfcreek.ab.ca/parents/volunteer-information>.

## How do I pay my school fees?

Kindergarten school fees are \$80 which covers most of the supplies students will use throughout the year and a technology fee. There may be additional fees charged later in the year for field trips. Payments can be made through the PowerSchool & Online Payments parent portal on the homepage of our website. Cash or cheques payable to "Wolf Creek Public Schools" can also be taken in at the office.

## How do I keep up-to-date with activities happening at 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>. You might also want to follow *Bentley School - Home of the Panthers* on Facebook and *bentleyschool1* on Instagram for school related updates, information and pictures!

## Student Demographic Update Forms

It is very important for us to have updated information regarding your child. All registered students will receive a student demographic update form emailed to their parents at the end of August. These forms are mandatory and must be completed. Please follow the instructions provided in the email. Throughout the year, please notify us of any changes to your phone numbers, address, emergency contacts, etc, by calling the school.

# Supplies for Kindergarten

- ☐ A complete set of spare clothes including underwear, socks, pants and a sweater. Please store extra clothes in a Ziploc bag with your child's name on it. These extra clothes will remain in their locker. Our classroom can be a little chilly, so please ensure a sweater is always packed or worn.
- ☐ A backpack, big enough to hold their lunch kit, snow pants, mittens, toques, etc..
- ☐ One box of kleenex
- ☐ One box of 10-15 large (one gallon) Ziploc brand bags.

Please label EVERYTHING that comes to school to ensure your child's belongings don't get lost or mixed up with another student. All other supplies including pencils, markers, scissors, glue, etc. are supplied by the school and paid for with your registration fee. Please bring these supplies to your child's staggered entry day.

## Tips for success in Kindergarten

- ★ Backpacks - Please ensure backpacks are big enough to hold your child's lunch kit and a pair of snow pants. Lots of pockets aren't necessary. A lunch kit and containers that your child can open on their own.
- ★ Gear: Please ensure your child is dressed for the weather as we go outside every day. Please label all outerwear and footwear. **Independence is key for getting dressed to go outside, your child needs to be able to dress themselves in their gear.** Each winter day, your child will require a **warm toque, waterproof mittens** (not gloves) and a second waterproof pair for back-up (fleece or knit mittens do not work well at this age to keep their little fingers warm long enough), **snow pants** that are waterproof, and that your child can put over their **winter boots** independently to keep snow out, **a warm winter coat** (please work on them being able to zip on their own} Please send warm winter gear as they love to roll around in the snow!
- ★ Indoor shoes - which your child can put on independently, also suitable for the gym (non-marking soles), Please do not send shoes with laces.



# Kindergarten Philosophy

It is important as a parent to understand what kindergarten is, its purpose and how that is different from your own kindergarten experiences.

**Kindergarten is focused on the whole child**, this means that in our kindergarten classroom we will meet your child where they are at to develop skills, attitudes and knowledge. We will use appropriate experiences and play to enrich all areas of their learning and development.

**Kindergarten is a carefully planned program of unstructured and structured learning experiences** that help each child to develop physically, socially, emotionally, culturally, and intellectually. It is important to provide a program that balances development in each area and emphasizes the process of learning.

**Kindergarten provides** a warm, friendly, environment where each child works to meet personal needs according to ability and previous experience. Activities emphasize the strengths, skills, and interests children bring to school, and help to stimulate new interests, extend experiences, and strengthen areas needing growth.

**Kindergarten offers opportunities for children to learn** through the manipulation of concrete materials. Experiences involve all of the child's senses, and develop through playing, observing, exploring, experimenting, and discovering. These activities form the foundation upon which abstract concepts are built.

**Kindergarten focuses** on developing the child's ability to understand and use language. Language is used to reinforce a variety of experiences that extend vocabulary, develop listening and speaking skills, and build concepts.



## What can you do to prepare your child for Kindergarten?

Remember, there is no "typical" child, there is no specific number of accomplishments a child this age should be able to achieve. The age of children entering Kindergarten differs by as much as a full year. This is another reason why all Kindergarten children cannot be expected to achieve on the same level. This is noticeable in children's drawings – no two look the same! However, some goals to work toward before kindergarten begins are:

- Hang up their sweater, coat or jacket without help
- Be away from parents for a few hours without obvious fear
- Take care of toilet needs without help and avoid toileting accidents
- Enter a new activity without fear
- Walk downstairs placing one foot on each stair
- Accept minor disappointments without tears
- Give attention to a story in entirety
- Tell their first and last name
- Know colours and shapes
- Start own play activity
- Handle books right side up
- Turn one page in a book at a time
- Practice holding a pencil using a tripod grip to print their own first name
- Use scissors and glue effectively
- Advocate for themselves during play time with peers