



# PREP

## Information Booklet



We hope the information contained in this booklet will help your child's smooth transition to our school.

This is a very exciting time for your child and there are lots of ways you can help your child to settle in to our school.



## What will your child do in Prep?

Each day in Prep will vary enormously as we extend and challenge the children's interests and needs. Prep children will be involved in planning, implementing and reflecting on their learning and experiences. Through this process the children feel that their thoughts and ideas are valued.

Our Prep program is designed around the Foundation Year of the Australian Curriculum.

The English component of the curriculum focuses on Language, Literature and Literacy. Your child will develop knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and creating.

Working mathematically is also an integral component of the Australian Curriculum. The proficiency strands of Understanding, Fluency, Problem Solving and Reasoning are utilised to explore the development of mathematical concepts, skills and processes.

Science, Health, Humanities and Social Sciences, Arts and Technology also feature as integrated and inquiry-based learning opportunities.

Each week your child will also attend lessons with Music, Language, Health and Physical Education specialist teachers.

In Term 4, the children attend swimming lessons with accredited AUS Swim coaches. Swimming is an important component of our Health and Physical Education program.

There are a variety of cultural events that showcase performers of dance, music and story telling that your child will attend each term.



# Get Set for Prep



The Early Years are the formative years of school and provide a foundation for lifelong learning. The Queensland Government 'Step Up Into Education' website contains helpful links to resources that will assist families in supporting children's transition to school.

The following list of skills has been compiled in response to many parent questions regarding how to prepare children for Prep at home. Creating fun experiences that develop these skills will help to support your child.



## Reading & Writing

- Recognising and verbalising their first and last name.
- Verbalising (not singing) the letters of the alphabet.
- Pointing to randomly called letters on a chart.
- Hearing and recognising the beginning sound in a word.
- Writing their first name with a capital letter at the beginning and lower case letters for the remainder.
- Retelling a favourite story – including details about characters and sequence of events (*Children need to have had 1000 stories read to them before they will start to learn to read for themselves, Mem Fox, Reading Magic*).
- Displaying reading behaviours (turning pages, looking at pictures quietly, talking about words and pictures).
- Holding and using crayons and pencils.



## On My Own

- Cutting with scissors and turning paper to assist with control and directionality.
- Using the toilet independently and washing hands.
- Putting on own shoes and socks.
- Identifying own belongings (bag, lunchbox).
- Blowing nose (not wiping) and washing hands.
- Using playground equipment safely.
- Eating and drinking without help.
- Carrying own bag.

## Counting & Doing

- Counting to 10 accurately.
- Representing amounts with objects.
- Recognising and writing numerals from 0 – 10.
- Recognising all colours.
- Discussing basic 2D shapes.
- Understanding positional language such as under, over, in first, next, last.

## Speaking & Listening

- Speaking in clear sentences with most sounds clearly audible.
- Retelling stories or events – who, what, when and where.
- Making eye contact.
- Maintaining conversation or topic and taking in turns speaking.
- Controlling volume and pace.
- Expressing feelings or needs verbally using words.
- Maintaining a 'Learning Body' (whole body listening - keeping eyes on the teacher, listening ears, legs crossed and hands in lap and brain switched on).
- Participating in whole group activities.
- Respecting others.
- Using manners.
- Listening to and following instructions.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's development including hearing, vision and speech, you should seek a referral from your GP well before entering Prep.





# Your Child's First Day

Here are some simple steps you can take to make your child's first day at school more enjoyable and relaxed.

**Be prepared.** The best thing you can do is to make the first day as stress-free and relaxed as possible. Be positive and encouraging about your child's attendance at school and the day before school begins, write a list of all you'll need to organise, such as food, uniforms, etc. Stick the list to the fridge and tick each item off with your child as you complete it.

In order to create the best possible start to your child's educational future, the first day of Prep at Pacific Paradise is all about welcoming your child to their new school. Students are shown around the classroom and the areas in which in the Preps eat their lunch and where to go to the toilet. Basic classroom structure is explained and some specialised activities are provided for the children to meet and interact with one another. This enables us to optimise the transition between home and school and ensure that your child remembers their first day in Prep as an extremely positive experience.

## On The Day



- Leave plenty of time to get ready.
- Make a nutritious breakfast - this is essential for sustained energy and concentration.
- Talk through the daily routine - start, lunch and finish times.
- Talk through a few simple self-help ideas – e.g. asking teachers for help or directions.
- Be positive and encouraging about your child's attendance at school.
- Be flexible in the early days of school, children may take a little while to settle in.
- Help your child to place their bag on the bag rack and say hello to your child's teacher so that they know that you have arrived. This also models appropriate courtesies and allows us the opportunity to welcome your child.
- Settle your child at an activity and reassure them that you will be back to pick them up at the end of school. Upon departure say goodbye and leave promptly, this often assists with the transitions. Be assured that we will assist your child to feel comfortable and happy in their new classroom environment and that we will contact you should we have any concerns.

## Daily Timetable

- School begins – 8:40am
- Fruit Break – approx. 9:45am
- 1st Break – 10:50am – 11:30am
- 2nd Break – 12:50pm – 1:30pm
- School ends – 2:50pm (Please wait outside your child’s classroom)



*Please remember that children are not permitted inside classrooms unless a teacher is present and supervision will not be available before 8:30am, as teachers often have meetings or are preparing for lessons. The playgrounds are out of bounds before and after school.*

## Lunch at school

Being at school is hard work, so by Lunch Break at 10:50am – 11:30am your child will be hungry and thirsty. They will need a nutritious and filling lunch at this time. Afternoon Tea break is at 12:50pm – 1:30pm.

When packing your child’s lunch:

- Provide healthy food and drink in realistic quantities for first break and second break (fruit, sandwich, and healthy snack).
- Ensure that your child can open and unwrap their lunch - plastic film wrap can be very difficult for little fingers.
- Consider using nude food lunch boxes, as these encourage self-selection and healthy food options.
- Provide a water bottle every day and encourage your child to drink from it.
- Fresh is best- please try to avoid pre-packaged food.
- Keep sweets, chips and other party food for parties or special occasions.





## Other Requirements

- A large bag to hold all belongings (hat, lunch box, jumper etc).
- Full school uniform which includes a Pacific Paradise State School hat. Our school has a NO HAT, NO PLAY policy.
- A healthy fruit or vegetable snack for “brain breaks” during the morning session.
- Velcro shoes are easy for your child to handle if they cannot tie shoelaces.
- Spare underwear and shorts in a plastic bag to remain in your child’s bag.
- A water bottle marked clearly with your child’s name.

## Absences

If your child is going to be absent from school, please contact the school on 5457 2333. Some Prep children will feel tired with the start of full-time school and provision will be made for them to rest and participate in quiet activities during the afternoon session.

## Special Days

Please feel free to join us for any special occasions. We enjoy celebrating birthdays with your child. You may wish to bring in a cake or 25 party cakes so your child can celebrate with their friends. Our Paradise Café can also supply a tray of 30 birthday mini cup cakes with your icing preference. The Paradise Café would appreciate a week’s notice if you would like to order.



Please remember that special toys often get lost or broken and are best left at home. Please let your child’s teacher know if your child does not celebrate any particular day and if there are other special celebrations we need to know about.

# Get Involved in Prep



As a parent, you play a vital role in your child's education. By getting involved in the school you can help your child make a smooth and happy start to their education.

You can do this by:

- Sharing information with your child's teacher.
- Keeping the teacher informed of any changes that may affect your child.
- Talking with your child about their day.
- Attending parent information sessions.
- Reading the school newsletter.
- Checking school notice boards.
- Attending family fun days.
- Attending parent association meetings and talking to other parents.
- Participating in a safe walking to school program with local children or families.
- Volunteering to attend school excursions or participate in classroom activities.

*Please use the holidays to read with your child every day and spend some time playing games, using lunch boxes, unpacking lunches and having quiet playtime without TV or computers during each day.*

**When children come home at the end of the day  
The question they're asked as they scurry to play  
Is "tell me what you did today?"  
And the answer they give makes you sigh with dismay  
"Nothing, I did nothing today!"  
Perhaps nothing means that I played with blocks  
Or counted to ten, or sorted some rocks.  
Maybe I painted a picture of red and blue  
Or heard a story of a mouse that flew.  
Maybe I watched the guinea pigs eat today  
Or went outside on the swings to play.  
Maybe today was the very first time  
That my scissors followed a very straight line.  
Maybe I led a song from beginning to end  
Or played with a special brand new friend.  
When you're in Prep and your heart has wings  
"Nothing" can mean so many things!**



# Prep Enrolment

Before your child's enrolment can be accepted, you will need to provide proof of your child's age.

The following are acceptable as proof of age:

- Birth Certificate (Preferred Document)
- Passport
- Immunisation Documentation
- Hospital Birth Documentation
- Medicare documentation that shows child's name and date of birth

To apply for a standard or commemorative birth certificate, download an application form from the Department of Justice website on <http://www.qld.gov.au/law/births-deaths-marriages-and-divorces/birth-death-and-marriage-certificates/birth-certificates/> or lodge your application at the Brisbane registry customer service centre at Level 32, 180 Ann Street, Brisbane or at your nearest Qld Magistrates Court (Cornmeal Parade Maroochydore or Currie Street Nambour).

Please check the eligibility information below to confirm when your child can be enrolled in Prep.

Birth Date	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
01 Jul 2018 – 30 Jun 2019	Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
01 Jul 2019 – 30 Jun 2020		Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
01 Jul 2020 – 30 Jun 2021			Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
01 Jul 2021 – 30 Jun 2022				Prep	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
01 Jul 2022 – 30 Jun 2023					Prep	Year 1	Year 2
01 Jul 2023 – 30 Jun 2024						Prep	Year 1
01 Jul 2024 – 30 Jun 2025							Prep