



# Prep Information Booklet 2017



## **WELCOME**

We extend a warm and hearty welcome to you, as parents of our Prep year children. We look forward to sharing many happy times with you as we work together to provide the best possible learning opportunities for your child. This booklet covers many of the day-to-day aspects of Prep. The Prep year is a new learning environment with exciting things to do, see, touch, experience and learn. Your child will find friends to share with and teachers who respect them as capable and competent learners.

We aim to create a relaxed, secure and supportive environment where children are encouraged to investigate and explore. Entry to Prep marks the beginning of your child's 'at school' experience which will last for many years. Research shows that children often experience a culture shock when they begin school – the unspoken rules, the organisation of time and a new set of expectations that are very different from anything previously experienced, despite attendance at day care or kindergarten. The following practical information will help to ensure a smooth transition from home and other settings to school.

## **NATURE OF THE PROGRAMME**

The Australian Curriculum was introduced in 2012 across all schools in Queensland in the curriculum areas of English, Mathematics and Science from Prep - Year 10. In 2013, History was introduced and Geography in 2014, but will be studied as Humanities and Social Sciences from 2017. Education Queensland has provided a wealth of materials to support this transition through a web-based Curriculum to the Classroom (C2C) resource for all teachers.

In addition to the Australian Curriculum learning areas, students are also assessed in:

- Social and personal learning
- Health and physical learning
- Active thinking processes

The Early Years Curriculum Guidelines provide further guidance for our Prep programme, incorporating the following –

- Understanding each child as an individual
- Developing supportive partnerships
- Providing flexible learning environments
- Assisting children in exploring the world around them and in the ways by which they learn.
- Supporting play as a context for learning

Young children construct personal understandings through active exploration of their environment and interactions with people, objects and representations.

Learning in Prep occurs in five contexts:

- Real-life situations
- Routines and transitions
- Focused learning and explicit teaching
- Investigations
- Play

The Prep year allows your child to develop all the abilities, skills and dispositions needed for a successful transition into Year 1.

## REPORT CARDS AND PARENT INTERVIEWS

Each Prep child will receive an individual report card at the end of Semester One and Semester Two. Parent/teacher interviews will also be offered.

## SPECIALISTS

Prep students will attend a Music lesson and a Physical Education lesson each week with specialist teachers. Prep classes will visit the Library on a weekly basis for book borrowing. They will also visit the computer lab and with support from their teacher will engage in the development of Information Communication Technologies.



### OUT AND ABOUT SIGHT WORDS APP – level 1 Available @ iTunes/ Qld Schools

This fun and free app will give your child a flying start in literacy by helping them practise their sight words when they are 'out and about'. Out and About has been designed for parents to give to young children when they are in transit or waiting and want to fill the time in a fun and educational way. We use the Magic 100 sight words at Marian State School.

## SUNSHINE ONLINE

*Sunshine Online* is an interactive and animated online literacy and early numeracy program. With P&C support, Marian State School subscribes to *Sunshine Online*, teachers and students, both at home and school, have access to over 560 levelled e-books and 1000 interactive activities and games that focus on phonics, comprehension, fluency, spelling and writing. Maths stories and activities help children learn essential early maths concepts and skills. *Sunshine Online* has been designed to help children aged 4 to 10+ learn to read and develop the skills needed for continuing reading independence and success.

Access to Sunshine Online: <http://www.sunshineonline.com.au/>

Username: marianss

Password: marianss



## ATTENDANCE TIMES

The Prep programme is a full school day, 5 days per week. The school day commences at 9:00am and finishes at 3:00pm. For term one, Prep children are required to be brought into the classroom at the start of the day and collected from inside the classroom at the end of the school day by their parent/carer. Should this request be problematic, please talk with your child's classroom teacher. All children who arrive at school before 8.45am are required to wait in the supervised Covered Games Area.

## OPEN DOOR POLICY

School starts at 9:00am, however, classrooms will generally be open from 8:45am.

From 8:45am – 8:55am, parents are encouraged to enter the room with their children and engage in specific activities provided such as books and puzzles. When children come into the classroom, they are expected to be responsible for their own belongings. Please encourage your child to follow the routine outlined by the teacher. This routine may include: putting their belongings, including bag, hat, and water bottle away, in the appropriate places, in readiness for a successful start to the school day. We believe that regular contact with parents or caregivers adds significantly to the sharing of information to provide for the safety, learning and development of your children.

## **PUNCTUALITY**

Being punctual before and after the school day is very important. Arriving on time allows your child the best opportunity to participate in getting organised for the day ahead, allows them to build friendships with their peers and assists in continuity for all involved in the learning process. It also assists in developing your child's sense of security. Should you be delayed collecting your child for any reason please telephone to let us know, so that we can reassure your child.

## **DEPARTURE FROM SCHOOL**

School finishes at 3.00pm. It is important that the Prep teacher knows who will be responsible for collecting each child – Outside School Hours Care, older sibling, parent, carer, etc. Please provide this information to your child's teacher. Children will be dismissed to parents/carers from inside the classroom. Please be respectful when waiting for the bell in the afternoon. Teachers are busy at this time settling the class in readiness for the farewell and a safe dismissal.

Please notify us, personally, by phone or in writing, when anyone, other than yourself will be collecting children from the school. Your child's safety is paramount.

## **ILLNESSES**

Understandably, children with an infectious illness must be kept at home. This includes vomiting, diarrhoea, flu and severe coughs and colds, which are extremely contagious. We are not allowed to administer non-prescription medicines (e.g. Panadol, cough mixture) without a doctor's certificate.

It is necessary to complete a permission form for prescription medicines and these medicines must be in their original containers. Often, though, if a child is ill enough to be just stating a course of medication, they are probably ill enough to be at home.

If your child becomes ill during the day, every attempt will be made to contact parents. If this fails, we will notify a nominated emergency contact person to collect your child.

## **FAMILY INVOLVEMENT**

Parents play a vital role in the education of children and we welcome you to become involved in our classroom.

You can help by -

- Volunteering to assist in the classroom when requested by the teacher
- Sharing any particular skills or hobbies you may have – e.g. playing a musical instrument, gardening, cooking, etc.
- Keeping informed of classroom happenings by reading the School Newsletter, Notice Boards and notes from your child's teacher
- Discussing any problems or concerns with teachers
- Collecting appropriate junk materials (see junk items list).



## **BIRTHDAYS and other CELEBRATIONS**

Everyone loves a birthday and other special celebrations, as these are wonderful ways to build understandings about each other. We have found that patty cakes are the most ideal and fair way for children to share their special event with their friends. We will provide the candles, matches and napkins. Please advise your child's teacher if you do not wish them to participate in these celebratory activities.

It is important to advise us of any allergies your child may have. We are happy to accommodate these needs with alternative foods which you provide so that they do not feel isolated from the birthday or other celebration. Having an alternate supply in the freezer means no child will miss out!

## **BUDDIES**

Prep students participate in our School Buddy programme. The program utilises the potential of students to support and befriend other students. Each Prep student will be paired up with a year 6 student. They will participate in structured meetings and activity sessions every week to encourage children to share friendship, responsibilities, knowledge and trust. The programme develops and improves student assertiveness, confidence and tolerance.

## **BREAKS**

Snack Break is an informal short 10min break during the first 2hr learning session. During this time students can enjoy a small healthy snack, generally 1 small piece of manageable fruit. 1<sup>st</sup> Break commences at 11:00am where students play first for 20min and eat second for 15min in a designated area. 2<sup>nd</sup> Break commences at 1:40pm where students play first for 15min and eat second for 10min, again in a designated area.

Learning about healthy eating and drinking is an important part of our curriculum, so please keep this in mind when buying for and packing children's lunches. Sandwiches with healthy fillings, fruit, cut up vegetables and cheese are all good examples of suitable food. These can be kept cool during the summer months with an ice pack or a frozen popper.

Children must be able to manage their own lunches without scissors, knives, etc. There is no refrigeration available nor will microwaves be available to heat up lunches. Spoons and forks will not be supplied so please ensure you pack these if necessary.

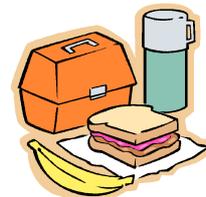
Water bottles are essential every day. Children will use these throughout the day and take them to specialist lessons as well. They must contain **WATER ONLY**.

Please encourage and remind your child about toilet practices and hygiene. During the school day students are encouraged to use the toilet during their break time to minimise learning disruptions. It is important that your child is confident and capable of independently using the toilet.





## HEALTHY LUNCHBOX IDEAS

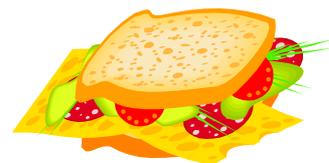


Children need to eat a variety of foods every day to stay healthy, so it is important to pack their lunch box with foods that are good for them and taste great too!

### LUNCH IDEAS

**Sandwiches** Vary the bread and the fillings. Some interesting combinations are:

- Tuna, corn and sweet chilli sauce
- Roast vegetables, pesto and baby spinach
- Chicken, lettuce, grated carrot and mayonnaise
- Baked beans and cheese
- Ham and salad



**Mini pizza** Top half of a bread roll, muffin or pocket bread with the following and grill until golden brown:

- Tomato paste
- Ham
- Capsicum
- Pineapple
- Onion
- Cheese



**Rice salad** Add chicken or lean meat, carrot, celery, pineapple or other combinations to left over rice.

**Finger salad** Combine a selection of meat, cheese, egg, vegetable sticks and serve with a bread roll or wrap.

**Winter warmers:** Fill a small flask with leftover-

- Vegetable soup
- Stir fry
- Spaghetti bolognaise



### SNACK IDEAS

Children are often hungry at morning tea and afternoon tea and some children are hungry all of the time. It is important to encourage nutritious snacks from the five food groups rather than extra foods (chocolates, cakes, lollies etc).

- Fresh or canned fruit
- Vegetable sticks
- Cheese sticks
- Wholegrain crackers
- Homemade muffins or slices