

How Can I help my Child?

The first few weeks of Prep are a critical time for helping your child to settle into their new learning environment. You can help by:

- Buying or borrowing a children's book about starting school, reading it with your child and discussing it afterwards.
- Involve your child in getting all the things they will need for school – school bag, uniform, hat, books etc. Make a bit of a fuss about it.
- If your child hasn't been to kindy or day care, practise leaving your child with friends or family for a few hours at a time before starting Prep.
- Tell your child in advance that you will be leaving with the other parents when the teacher says it is time to say goodbye to mums and dads, and that you will be back to pick them up when school is finished. The sad tears of some children soon disappear once you have gone.
- Get into a calm organised morning routine. Children thrive on both predictability and organisation.
- Encourage your child to be independent by helping them get used to: organising their shoes and socks, eating and drinking without help, caring for and putting away play things, using a tissue, toileting, carrying their own bag, identifying their own belongings and using play equipment safely.

Once your child settles in, there are many other practical ways to help your child get the most from their Prep year:

- Insist on an early bedtime. Both the routine and the sleep are important to learning the next day.
- Use a set morning routine, encouraging your child to be organised and ready. Progressively get your child to be more independent in doing these routine tasks as the year progresses.
- At school, take the time to supervise your child doing before and after school routines, rather than doing them for your child.
- Use set times and events such as dinner or meals to discuss your child's day at school. Ask about what they did, but also about what they learnt.
- Read to your child regularly. This is really important.
- Get to know other parents in the class so you can invite your children's new friends over to play.
- Play games that involve using dice and moving up to six spaces. Alternate between dice that have dots and numbers.
- Get involved in your child's classroom by attending special events and offering to help out when asked.

Making a difference
Achievement focused
Relationships matter
Inclusive
Altogether
Never give up



B Be safe
E Everyone
R Respectful
T Together
I I learn
E Everyday



Marian State School

'Developing lifelong learning skills in a supportive environment, enabling all to reach their future potential'



Is your child growing up and off to Prep?

Marian State School

Prep 2020

'Success Crowns Effort'



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Welcome

Going to school for the very first time can be a daunting experience for children and some parents.

Please ask our friendly staff any questions you may have that will allow us to best meet the needs of your child.

All students enrolling at Marian State School are required to complete a personal interview with a member of the **L e a d e r s h i p T e a m**. An interview time can be booked once all completed enrolment paperwork has been returned to the school office.

Interviews—Monday 19 August—Friday 15 November 2019.

Parent Information Session 1 - *Tuesday 15 October, 5:30—6:30pm*.... Meet the School Leadership Team and school orientation walk.

Prep Orientation and Parent Information Session 2
Wednesday 4 December 9.00am—10.45am.

9.00	Meet in the undercover area.
9.15	Children move to classrooms with their teacher. Parents move to hall for information session. 2, meet the wider school community
10.15	Parents move to classrooms, join activities and collect child

Marian State School has strong partnerships with both Marian C&K Kindergarten and Petit. With a newly established onsite Playgroup in 2019, initial transition links are being adopted. Term 2 begins our official transition process with the C&K, Petit Kindy and Playgroup students. Library visits, Prep class visits and Music and PE lesson visits are just a few of the inclusive transition activities offered. Children from both centres and our Playgroup are also invited to join our school students in extra curricular activities such as Sports Days and Under Eights Day.

What your child will learn at Prep

Your child will be following a course of learning that:

- Is specifically designed for children of this age.
- Starts with what your child already knows and what they can already do, and builds from there.
- Has proven to be critical in preparing children for success in Year 1 and beyond.

This will involve helping your child to develop:

- Independence and initiative.
- Friendships and cooperative ways of interacting with other children.
- Fine (eg pencil manipulation) and gross (eg jumping, running) motor skills.
- Imagination and creativity.
- Thinking and problem solving skills.
- Early reading, writing and mathematical skills.
- A positive attitude to learning at school.

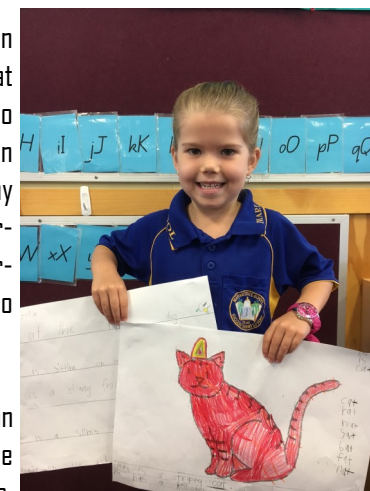
These are the skills that international research has shown to have a significant impact on your child's subsequent success at school.

OUR SCHOOL DAY	
1st Session	9.00—11.00 <i>(fruit break included to nourish the mind and body)</i>
1st Break	11.00—11.40 <i>(Play first (20min) & Eat second (15min))</i>
2nd Session	11.40—1.40
2nd Break	1.40—2.10 <i>(Play first (15min) & Eat second (10min))</i>
3rd Session	2.10—3.00

How your child will Learn at Prep

Our Prep teachers use an approach to learning that will help your child to bridge the divide between the learning-through-play approach used in kindergartens and the more formalised approach to schooling used in Year 1.

Prep is full of hands-on learning and you will see your child making things, drawing, listening to stories, playing games, using computers, role playing, singing as well as more formalised reading, writing and number activities.



As with kindergarten, *play* continues to provide an important vehicle through which we help your child to learn and mature. Yet in Prep, *play* is just one of the ways we assist your child to learn. We also use:

- Lessons on a range of topics such as letters, sounds, numbers, social interactions and how to cooperatively learn together.
- Investigations, where the teacher works with a group of children and sometimes the whole class to find out more about topics that have stimulated the children's interest.
- Activities to prepare your child for real life events within both the school (eg assembly, sports day) and the community (eg birthdays, ANZAC day) as a stimulus for reflection, discussion and learning.
- Routines and procedures encouraging children to structure their day, develop personal skills (eg unpacking their bag) and ways of interacting (eg hands up) within the school environment.