

Welcome to Prep 2025!



Term 1 Newsletter



Term 1 Important Dates

Week 1

27th Jan - Australia Day PUBLIC HOLIDAY

28th Jan - Term 1 Commences

Week 3

10th Feb - Prep students can bring iPad to school

Week 5

28th Feb - Active School Travel Breakfast

Week 6&7

3-14th March - Book Fair

Week 7

14th March - Cross Country running races

Week 9&10

24 Mar - 4 April - Parent Teacher Meetings

Week 10

4 April - Easter Hat Parade - parents welcome

4 April - Last Day of Term 1

We are looking forward to an enjoyable year ☺
We understand it can be a somewhat confusing and nervous time for little ones whilst settling into a new routine.

Rest assured, it just takes **time, patience and repetition** for things to be less stressful. There is so much to remember.... that is why we try to make it easier for your child by supplying you with notes and reminders on a regular basis.

Please find below important information relating to your child's first year of school. Please read this information sheet carefully and send your child's teacher an email if you require further clarification or assistance.

Prep Teachers

This year we have 5 x Prep classes, with other teachers visiting the Preps to cover specialist lessons.



Prep A

Mrs L. Fitzgibbons

lwill194@eq.edu.au



Prep B

Mrs K. Bird

kpine4@eq.edu.au



Prep C

Mrs A. Williams

atlow0@eq.edu.au



Prep D

Mrs C. Theunissen

ctheu2@eq.edu.au



Prep E

Mrs E. Stanton

ejstal@eq.edu.au

Specialist Teachers



STEM

Miss K. Lord



Sport

Mr D. Kutcher



Music

Mrs A. Harding



Well-being

Mr S. Maxwell



Japanese

Miss M. Bedser

Prep School Day

8:20am	Before school reading / settling time
8:30am	Learning Time Begins Rolls Marked
10:30am	Morning Tea - Eating time
10:45am	Morning Tea - Play time
11:05am	Learning Time
1:05pm	Lunch - Eating time
1:20pm	Lunch - Play time
1:45pm	Learning Time
2:35pm	School day ends

Arriving at school

Please help your child settle into a routine. School starts at **8:30am** and arriving late can be very unsettling for all students and teachers.

- **If you arrive late after 8:30am**, your child must go to the office to receive a “late slip”. Your child will then hand this late slip to their teacher on arrival at the classroom. This procedure is the same if you wish to collect your child early throughout the day. You must sign your child out through the office before you collect your child from their classroom and hand this “early slip” to the classroom teacher.
- Parents/carers are asked to give their child a **quick kiss at the classroom door**, and to **leave promptly** after. This will reduce morning tears and will help with developing independence. We understand it may be hard to leave your child upset, but in most cases students settle within minutes once engaged with the learning content. Allowing your child to enter the classroom themselves, gives them an enormous sense of independence and increases their confidence.
- The school day concludes at **2:35pm** and parents/carers are required to wait outside the classroom until students are dismissed.
- Students should not arrive to school before 8:00am as there is no supervision prior to this time. If for any reason your child is at school **before 8:00 am**, they must remain seated in the **Year 1 undercover area with their bag** before being released by a staff member to wait in the Prep area. Students can also put their hat on and play in the supervised Prep playground **from 8:00am**.
- The morning times can be busy for teachers as they are setting up activities for the day as well as having meetings. Email is our preferred communication. If your child has had an upsetting morning or weekend (eg. pet has died, injuries, family upset etc.), a quick email or note in the B.E.E. Folder is all we need 😊
- **NO USE OF iPads BEFORE / AFTER SCHOOL; They can very easily be damaged and smashed so please ensure your child is NOT on their iPad before or after school or they will be asked to put it away.**

Payments

Throughout the year there are many events that will need payment for students to be able to participate e.g. swimming, Life Education. Payment options are:

- **B-POINT**: payments are easy and can be done by simply clicking on the BPOINT link in the bottom left hand corner of your invoice, which will be emailed to you.

- **Q-PARENTS**: Q-Parents is a secure EQ website which is linked to our schools OneSchool database. You can view your student’s invoices, and pay them immediately. It also provides information regarding upcoming excursions, absences and copies of your child’s report card. Please contact the office for assistance on registration.



Flexischools Ordering Tuckshop, uniforms and event tickets

Flexischools is an app which allows you to order and pay for tuckshop and school uniforms, as well as other things such as School Discos.



Our School tuckshop ‘**Snack Shack**’ is open both Morning Tea and Lunch Time. Orders can be placed through the app Flexischools by 8:30am.

We would prefer for **no tuck shop or icypoles to be ordered in the first three weeks** as students are still settling into routine during lunch times. It is important they learn how to independently prepare themselves for eating times and know which foods to eat at which break times, (e.g.) learning to eat their sandwich/fruit first before they open their treats.

**SNACK
SHACK**

Food and Eating Times

• **Fruit / Vegetable Snack:** At around 9:30am each day, students will have a **quick** 5-minute “Fruit Break” snack. This must be fruit and/or vegetables that are cut up, small and ready to eat. This does not include fruit flavoured yoghurts etc. Please have fruit in a small, named container with a quantity you know your child will be able to eat in about 5 minutes. Fruit snacks sit on the child’s desk so it is readily accessible while they work. Examples of suitable fruit snacks are:



• **Food packaging:** We encourage a “nude food” policy whereby students bring lunches without disposable packaging. If your child does have packaged food, please cut a “slit” in the package so they can open themselves or put it into an easy-to-open container. It is a good idea to get your child practising how to open packages independently. It is preferred that staff do not handle students food packages to reduce the amount of contact via hands/fingers and maximise hygiene practices.



• Students will have **2 x Eating Times** throughout the day. These are **15 minutes**; however, students may opt to stay and continue eating if they wish. We do find students may eat a small amount as they really want to go and play or are busy chatting /giggling with their friends. Teachers on duty do their best to remind students to eat their wholesome food first (e.g. sandwiches, fruit, muffins, etc) but if your child is coming home with a lot of food each day, it is ideal to have a conversation with them about which foods to eat first.

Uniforms and Spare Clothes

Spare clothes: Accidents do happen in Prep for a number of reasons. Please provide a spare set of underwear and socks (and shorts/skorts if you can) in your child’s bag for any accident that may occur. If your child does not have spare clothes, the office will provide them with new clothes and parents will be asked to pay \$3 for the cost of new underwear.

School uniform: At Pimpama we pride ourselves on our uniform. Therefore students must wear the correct full school uniform day. Please see our daily dress code below:



Girls hairstyles

- Long hair is neatly tied back
- No undercut
- Use blue and yellow hair accessories



Boys hairstyles

- No comb overs
- No mohawks
- No undercut
- No tracks
- One consistent length all over

Hairstyles should be neat and tidy AT ALL TIMES.

For more information about how to order uniforms, please visit:

<https://pimpamass.eq.edu.au/facilities/uniform-shop>

Communication

• **Email** is a convenient way to communicate. Information, messages, and report cards are emailed regularly so please ensure that your current preferred email address is kept up to date (Please inform administration and your teacher of any changes). Please check your emails regularly and a reminder that all emails must be conducted as professional documents.

• **BEE Folder:** The BEE Folder is the most important bridge for communication between home and school. This folder will come to school each morning and go home each afternoon. In this folder will be your child's homework documents, important notes to go home, etc. Please check this folder each afternoon. If you have any permission forms or items to return, please put these in the folder as it will get checked every morning.



Behaviour Card	Term 3 Week 1
Very High	
High	
Sound	
Developing	
Support Required	
Teacher:	
Parent Signature:	
The contents of my child's iPad have been reviewed.	
Parent Initials:	

• **Behaviour Cards:** A green behaviour sheet can be found in the back of your child's Award Book .The ticked boxes indicate where your child's behaviour sits for the week. Parents are required to view this each week and sign to acknowledge that you have been informed about your child's behaviour. If you would like to read more about Pimpama State School's behaviour policies, please visit:

<https://pimpamass.eq.edu.au/our-school/policies>

Weekly routines

• **Friday** is assembly day and in keeping with the formality of this, the children are expected to wear their formal (checked) shirt. Parade will commence at 8:30 on alternate Fridays. If your child is receiving an award, we will do our best to let you know beforehand in case you would like to attend.

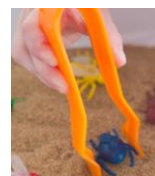


• **Library Day:** will commence around Week 3. Students **must** have a library bag to do so and return books weekly. Library bags must be big enough to fit 2 books and also waterproof. Students may borrow 2 school library books to take home. If books are not returned the following week, students will not be able to borrow until they are returned or a payment is made to replace the book. The uniform shop sell library bags with the school logo.

FINE MOTOR

• Fine motor skills refer to the **coordination between your child's small muscles**, like those in their hands, wrists, and fingers in coordination with their eyes. In order for children to have the skills to hold a pencil and write correctly, they need to develop these muscles.

• It would be beneficial if your child had opportunities to practise their fine motor skills at home. Some easy ideas are: using kitchen tongs & tweezers, cutting with scissors, drawing/colouring, doing up buttons, playdough, threading, lacing, using pegs, etc.



iPad Program

As you may be aware, we incorporate a 'Bring Your Own Device' Programme in our school, supporting the delivery of 21st century learning. Did you know 65% of children will end up having a job that doesn't exist yet! The rapid pace of change in our world is generating new social, personal and learning demands. We are responding to this change by creating inclusive school communities that nurture wellbeing and build the skills students need for their future. **In our Junior years, (Prep - Year 3), students are encouraged to bring their own iPads.**

- **BYO Device Acceptable Use Agreement:** Please make sure that you read and complete the iPad Agreement Policy. It is compulsory in order for your child to be able to bring their iPad to school. This will be emailed out in Week 1.
- Ensure you **check** the contents on your child's iPad every week (**camera roll, internet history, etc.**) and sign the weekly behaviour card inside their Awards Book.
- **Charging:** Please make sure iPads are charged daily to ensure your child's iPad has enough battery to last the day - we are not able to charge everyone's iPads at school. It is very difficult when students are half-way through a lesson and their iPad battery dies.
- **NO USE OF iPads BEFORE / AFTER SCHOOL;** They can very easily be damaged and smashed so please ensure your child is NOT on their iPad before or after school or they will be asked to put it away.
- Please ensure your child's iPad is protected with a **case (shock-proof is ideal).**
- **Apps:** Please download and setup 'Intune Company Portal'.
Apps will then be downloaded on BYO iPad at school.



Curriculum Overview



We follow the Australian Curriculum to plan, deliver and assess learning.

Please find below the many wonderful things your child will be learning this term.

English: Students will learn the sounds of all 26 letters of the alphabet and begin to read short decodable words (e.g. s-a-t). They will also be immersed in authentic, rich texts to develop their listening comprehension, vocabulary and speaking skills.

Mathematics: Students will explore the different ways we can make numbers 1-10 (numeral, picture, tens frame, word, etc). They will also engage in activities to develop their skills on 2D shape attributes, sorting collections and positional language.

STEM (Science/Technologies): In Technology, students will explore the functions of an iPad. In Science, students will investigate the needs of living things such as plants and animals.

HASS (History): Students will explore their family history and how members are related.

Social/ Emotional Wellbeing: Students will recognise and identify different emotions they may feel. They will also learn how to use our playground appropriately and safely with others.

Sport/PE: Students will apply fundamental movement skills and practise running stamina.

Music: Students will respond to music using their voice, movements and percussion instruments.

Art: Students will explore the elements of Colour and Line to create various artworks.

Transition from Kindy

The transition from Kindergarten to school can be a big one for some kids. Children go from play-based learning at kindergarten to more structured learning at school, which is 5x full days of formal schooling. The first few weeks can be a huge adjustment for children as they learn their new routines. The Prep teachers endeavour to make the days as seamless as possible and make the transition a smooth one; however, some students may take a little longer to adjust.

Here are our top tips for a successful start to Prep:

1. Keep discussions about school positive. E.g. “What was fun about school today?” Tell them how proud you are of them. Avoid overloading in the evenings. A story at bedtime is ideal.
2. Develop a consistent morning routine and excite them about school. This can be talking about how you will get to school, involving them in packing their lunch, supporting them while they pack their bag.
3. If there are issues with separation, you can try: reminding them who is picking them up, an incentive after school, rewards, positive talk and please do not linger around.
4. Arrive to school between 8:00-8:20am. Students can play on the playground from 8:00am onwards. If you arrive earlier, it can create nervousness for students as they “wait” around for a long time.
5. Develop a positive relationship with your child’s teacher. We love to support and assist with settling your child into Prep. We are available for a chat **after** school most days (before school is our class set-up time).
6. Pack your child nutritious, wholesome food. Packaged and processed foods often cause students to experience very high then very low behaviours. Leaving a note/picture in their lunchbox or banana is nice!
7. Support your child to develop self-help skills such as putting their shoes on, packing bags and putting things away themselves.

Please find more information below: <https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/school-learning/school-choosing-starting-moving/starting-school>

PIMPAMA STATE SCHOOL IS A UNIQUE SCHOOL AND YOU AND YOUR CHILD HAVE MADE A GREAT CHOICE BECOMING A PART OF THIS WONDERFUL COMMUNITY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO OUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE EDUCATION OF YOUR CHILD.

The Prep Team

