



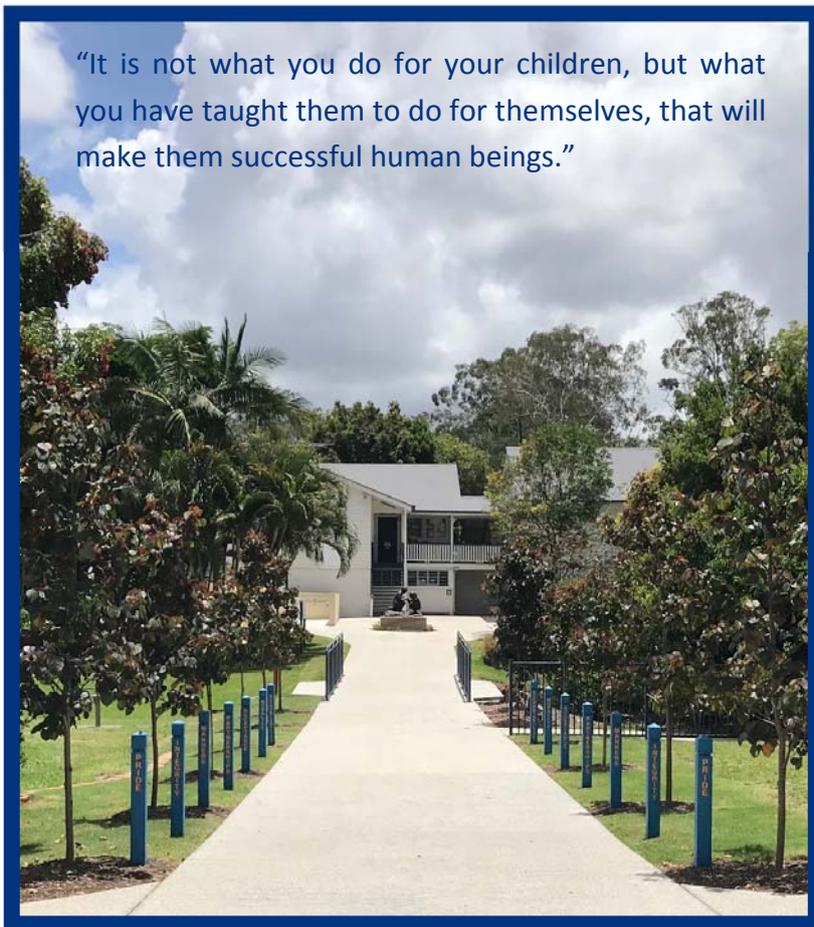
Prep Year Handbook



Pimpama State School

Independent Public School

“It is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves, that will make them successful human beings.”



Principal: Marius Marx

Deputy Principals: Liz Langford & Paul Finger

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9 Hotham Creek Road North, Pimpama, 4209



Dear Parents and Guardians,

With the methodology of a the Australian National Curriculum, parents will see an emphasis on focused teaching in;

- * Literacy
- * Mathematics
- * Science
- * Humanities & Social Sciences (HaSS)
- * Technologies
- * The Arts
- * Health & Physical Education
- * Languages—Japanese



Our program is based on the philosophy that optimum learning occurs in a positive, fun and stimulating environment, of which children feel a sense of ownership.

At Pimpama State School our Prep classes are part of the whole school campus where children can continue on from their learning at home, kindergarten or child care. Our Prep Year is therefore designed to provide the foundation children need for success in later schooling.

The staff of Pimpama State School Prep further aim to promote independence through positive thinking and learning, and through negotiating learning experiences. We encourage children to:

- ◆ ask questions, solve problems in real-life or life-like situations
- ◆ express ideas and feelings with appropriate language
- ◆ be responsible members of the group.

This is done through:

- ◆ modelling language
- ◆ behaviour
- ◆ thinking/problem-solving strategies
- ◆ providing age appropriate, relevant resources and experiences.

In this way the development of the whole child is fostered, i.e. thinking and reasoning, communicating, development of a sense of self and others, social living and learning, health and physical understanding, cultural understanding and regard for environments.

Our school vision is "Partners in Education". We believe that the values and characteristics of our families are reflected in the feeling of the community and in productive partnerships between the community and our school. Fundamental to the success of this important year is the partnership established between child, parent and teacher.

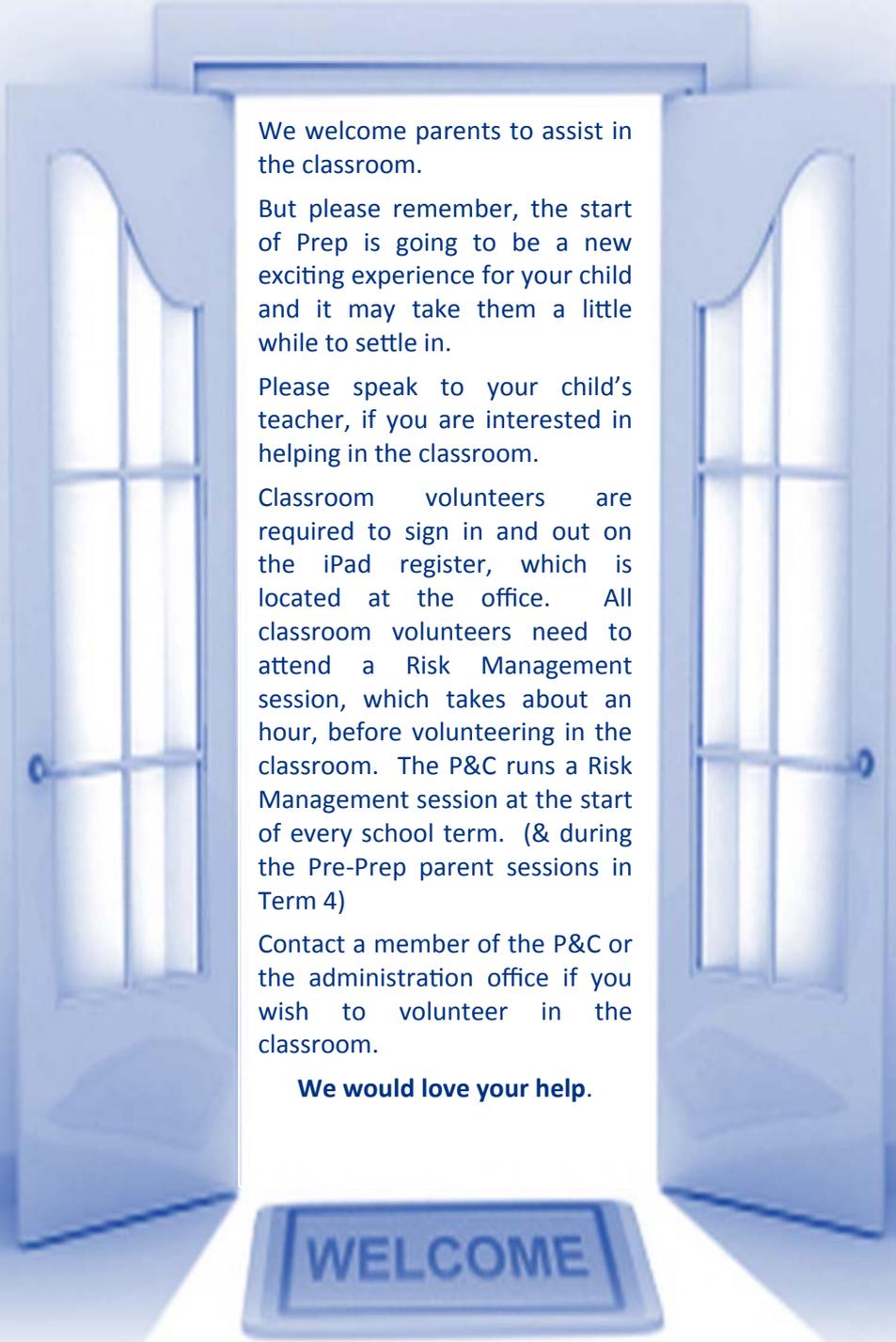
We welcome you and look forward to sharing with you your child's first year at school.

Regards,
Marius Marx
Principal



PRE-PREP Program: It is highly recommended that your child attends our Pre-Prep Programme which is offered in Term 4 of the previous year. Please ensure your enrolment has been processed to access this wonderful opportunity. Contact the office for more information.

All Prep students will attend from the first day of school. During the first week parents will be encouraged to come and explore with their Prep child their new surroundings, prior to the beginning of the school day. This is an important way to let your child know that you are interested in their classroom, and that it is a safe place for them. Teachers aim to bridge the gap between home and school and establish a warm rapport with each child.



We welcome parents to assist in the classroom.

But please remember, the start of Prep is going to be a new exciting experience for your child and it may take them a little while to settle in.

Please speak to your child's teacher, if you are interested in helping in the classroom.

Classroom volunteers are required to sign in and out on the iPad register, which is located at the office. All classroom volunteers need to attend a Risk Management session, which takes about an hour, before volunteering in the classroom. The P&C runs a Risk Management session at the start of every school term. (& during the Pre-Prep parent sessions in Term 4)

Contact a member of the P&C or the administration office if you wish to volunteer in the classroom.

We would love your help.

8:40am Starting the Day with Quiet Reading

Once your child has organised themselves in the morning, parents are welcome to stay for 15 minutes to read quietly with their child prior to the commencement of the school day.

Parent help in the classroom is highly valued and supports children's learning. Teachers will advise when help is required.

Prep is a part of the whole school

Children attending Prep will have access to:

- ◆ Music Specialist Lessons
- ◆ Physical Education Specialist Lessons
- ◆ Science Specialist Lessons
- ◆ Language Specialist Lessons (Japanese)
- ◆ Coding Specialist Lessons
- ◆ School Library Borrowing
- ◆ GCCC Mobile Library Borrowing
- ◆ School Assemblies
- ◆ Incursions
- ◆ Swimming Lessons
- ◆ X-Country & Athletics Days
- ◆ Computer Labs / iPads
- ◆ Award Days
- ◆ Canteen



The prep class will have an allocation of Teacher Aide time. During this time the Teacher Aide will work with the children and teacher in the classroom and will also supervise children outside.

Our Perceptual Motor Programme is an important extension of the classroom. It is designed to develop the children's physical coordination by participating in a series of gross-motor activities. Whilst interacting with a variety of equipment, students are developing their hand-eye and foot-eye coordination, as well as spatial awareness through lateral and bi-lateral movements. These skills are an integral part of a child's development that enables them to read and write and focus on learning tasks at hand.



What will my child learn in Prep?

The learning experiences in the Preparatory Year will help your child to:

- ◆ Take on responsibility
- ◆ Become more independent
- ◆ Respect other people
- ◆ Co-operate with others
- ◆ Make sensible choices about their health and safety
- ◆ Develop their gross motor and fine motor skills
- ◆ Learn about their environment
- ◆ Develop their oral language
- ◆ Develop their early mathematical understandings
- ◆ Learn how to be thinkers and problem solvers
- ◆ Use their imagination and creativity
- ◆ Develop their early literacy understandings



What can Parents do to help their child in Prep?

It is our wish that the first day at Prep will be happy for your child. We will be working hard to make sure that everything goes as smoothly as possible. We'll have lots of smiles and lots of time to get to know your child. Our routine will be simple and consistent until the children feel confident. *Plan the beginning of the day so that your child is not rushed.*

- Be **Positive** - Talk about new things in a happy way, familiarise children with staff names.
- Take time to go and look at your child's classroom and all of the interesting things they have been doing.
- When leaving say goodbye and let your child know when you will be back, try to be on time or your child may worry.
- Value the work your child brings home. If you show you value it, it makes your child feel happy and successful and ready to tackle more difficult things.
- Come and visit the Prep classroom and volunteer some time to work in the classroom.
- If you need to discuss any issue concerning your child please make an appointment as the teacher will always be happy to find a place somewhere out of earshot to talk with you.
- Ensure your child is to wearing the school uniform everyday. *(Formal uniform on Wednesdays)*
- Most of all, enjoy the time you have with your child during this year as time travels quickly and they are years we must cherish.



Attendance

Please ensure that your child be brought to and collected from the classroom by a responsible adult nominated by the parent or carer or older sibling known to the teacher. If you cannot collect your child personally, ring the school office or write to say who will be doing so. Your child is not legally allowed to leave school with someone else unless you have informed us. Attendance for Prep is 5 days a week, so please help your child settle into good routines for future schooling by being punctual and letting us know if your child is going to be away for any reason. A phone call to the school office is required.

Birth Certificate

An original birth certificate must be sighted by the principal before your child commences Prep. This is an essential requirement.

Birthdays

Birthdays are special!!! If you are celebrating a party at home, please be discreet when issuing invites if not inviting all class members. Please note however, under the Healthy Foods for Schools guidelines, birthday cakes / lollies are not able to be brought to school to share. Please save these special treats for home / parties.

Communication

Open communication between parents and teachers facilitates positive home/school relationships based on mutual respect, trust and co-operation. Where a parent has questions about their child's progress or concerns relating to the program or any other issue, we advocate that the parent make direct contact with their child's teacher, email is preferred. Where discussion is needed it is important to make an appointment to speak with the teacher at an appropriate time outside of session times rather than take the teacher's attention away from the children.

iPads

The Personalised Pathways Through iPads @ Pimpama Program is designed to help students keep up with the demands of the 21st century. Helping students become responsible digital citizens will enhance not only what we do in the classroom, but also give students skills and experiences that will prepare them for their future studies and career.

Library

Prep children will be able to borrow books from the school library and operational details of days and times will be advised early in the year. Your children will need a strong library bag to protect the valuable books. Please note that lost books, damaged books or books not returned must be paid for.

Mobile Library (Gold Coast City Council)

Prep children will attend the mobile library once a fortnight. Books and borrower's card will be kept at school to use during class & Book Buddy times. Please let your child's teacher know should you need their GCCC library card during holiday times.

Medication at School

Education Queensland has ruled that medication may only be given to children at school strictly in accordance with instructions by the pupil's medical practitioner and with the written consent of the parents.

No naturopathic medication can be administered by the school unless prescribed by a doctor.

Should your child require medication of any kind, during the school day, **PLEASE INFORM** the school office, your child's teacher and then fill in the appropriate form.

WE WILL NEED:

- ◆ Your written permission to administer the medication
- ◆ The medication with the pharmacist's written instruction noting the exact dosage
- ◆ Specific time at which medication is to be administered

Where a child requires ongoing medication e.g.: inhaler therapy for asthma, or emergency medication e.g.: for a child who is allergic to bee stings, the requirements are:

- ◆ Written permission from the parent
- ◆ Letter from the doctor detailing what the medication is specifically for, exact dosage and specific time to be administered.

Health Policy

Children are best kept at home if they are ill or unwell. Parents or emergency contact will be telephoned to collect a child who becomes ill during session times. Children with infectious diseases must be excluded from all activities for a specific time. Parents are asked to contact the school to report any contagious illnesses.

In cases of minor ailments, parents are asked to use their own judgment about whether a child is fit to attend school.

If your child has a specific health problem, please discuss this with the teacher, so that they can act in a manner that is most helpful for him/her.

Head Lice

Pimpama State School has a whole school policy regarding head lice and Prep follows these same procedures. We recommend you regularly check your child's hair and treat if required. Please advise your classroom teacher if you find head lice in your child's hair.

Money

If you are required to pay for school activities, you need to place the correct money in a sealed envelope and hand in at the school office window. On the front of the envelope please write your child's name, class, amount and reason. Money is only accepted on **Tuesday and Thursday between 8:15am-10:00am**. No money will be accepted on other days of the week. Payment on-line is available.



Voluntary Contribution Scheme - \$50 per family per calendar year
The voluntary contributions are used by the school to provide enhanced educational service and enhance resources available to students.



Uniform Shop

The uniform shop is open on **Wednesday & Friday** mornings from 8:00am - 8:50am.

School hours - 8.55am - 2.55pm (8:40am Reading Bell)

Children must be delivered to the Prep Classroom and collected by a responsible adult or older sibling.

Student Daily Requirements:

- ◆ **Hat** - wide-brimmed sun safe school regulation **NO HAT- NO PLAY!**
- ◆ **School bag** - big enough to fit lunch, jumper, spare clothes, raincoat, Home folder, iPad, etc.
- ◆ **Spare underwear** - in a named plastic bag, kept in the school bag.
- ◆ **Water Bottle** - please supply **water only**
- ◆ **Lunch in a lunch box**- include fruit for a snack and other nutritious choices. This brain food needs to fuel growing bodies for a whole day of learning and exercise.
- ◆ **Fruit Break** - a small container with pre-cut fresh fruit for a mid-morning snack.
- ◆ **Uniform** - checked shirt is the formal dress and is to be worn on Wednesdays. The blue and gold/yellow sports shirt may be worn on other days.
- ◆ **Shoes** - students are required to wear black closed in shoes with white socks to and from school. Practice tying shoe laces at home would be helpful. Black (no colour) 'velcro' shoes are preferred in Prep.



Pride
Integrity
Manners
Partnerships
Acceptance
Morality
Accountability

