

Welcome to Prep 2024!

Welcome to 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. Thank you!

Prep school day

8:20am	Before school reading and settling time.
8:30am	Learning 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 finish time

Term 1 - Important Dates

Week 1 – 22nd January – Term 1 commences

Week 1 – 26th January – Australia Day
NO SCHOOL

Week 3 – 5th February – First Day to bring iPads to school

Week 7 – 4th – 8th March- Book Fair

Week 7 – 8th March – Cross Country



Week 9 – 18th-22nd March – Parent Teacher Meetings

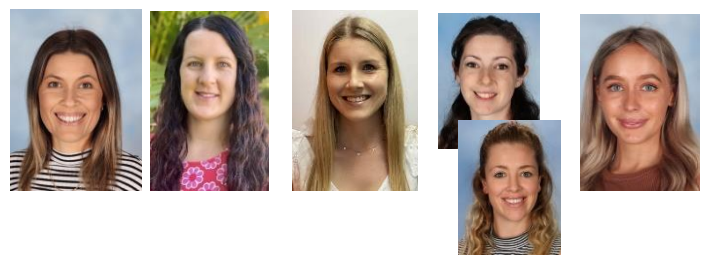
Week 10 – 28th March – Easter Hat Parade; Last day of Term 1

Week 10 – 29th March – Good Friday **NO SCHOOL**

The Prep Teachers

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

Prep A Mrs Fitzgibbons
Prep B Mrs Stanton
Prep C Miss Louw
Prep D Mrs Rodgers & Mrs Young
Prep E Miss Downey



Arriving to 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 collect their child from the classroom. Siblings may also come to collect their brother/sister at 2:35pm. We do not allow Prep students to leave on their own.
- 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 😊

Payments

Throughout the year, we have a number of events such as Swimming and Life Education visits which require parent payment. There are 2 options you can use to make payments:

- **B-POINT (preferred method)**: 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.



Tuckshop and Flexischools

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 tuckshop, called “The Snack Shack” is open both breaks. Orders can be placed through the app Flexischools by 8:30am that day.

We would prefer for **no tuck shop 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.

Icypoles



We please ask that **no icypoles** are to be ordered in the first term as this involves students leaving the Prep area to go to the tuckshop. We need the students to learn to stay inside the Prep gates and many students do not know the way to/from the tuckshop. Thank you for your assistance with this.

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 Clothing

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 \$2 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 each and every day.

 <p>Polo shirt – to be worn any day of the week EXCEPT for Wednesdays.</p>	 <p>Formal shirt – to be worn on Wednesdays for parade and to any special event at or outside of the school i.e. school photos, ANAZAC day ceremonies.</p>			
 	<p>Shorts/skorts – to be worn everyday. These need to be purchased specifically from our uniform shop and not other retailers.</p>			
 <p>A Pimpama State School wide brim hat.</p>	<p>Blue and yellow hair accessories.</p> 	<p>Black shoes and white socks.</p> 	<p>Girls hairstyles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long hair is neatly tied back • No undercuts • Use blue and yellow hair accessories  	<p>Boys hairstyles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comb overs • No mohawks • No undercuts • No tracks • One consistent length all over
<p>Hairstyles should be neat and tidy AT ALL TIMES.</p>				

Please note: shoes must be ALL black with no parts white or other colours.

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 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>

Solving Friendship Conflicts

At Pimpama State School, we encourage students to use the High-5 when having small disagreements.



Often, we can ignore minor issues and pretend we didn't hear it. We can ask them to "Please stop" and explain why, E.g. "I feel sad when you shout because...". Sometimes we can walk away and play somewhere else. In the playground, there are teachers on duty wearing orange jackets who problems can be reported to. We teach students to report issues **immediately** so the problems can be resolved at that instant. We do not allow students to physically or verbally retaliate to an issue. We encourage parents to adopt the "High-5" language at home if your child reports disagreements with others.

Weekly Routines

• **Wednesday** is assembly day and in keeping with the formality of this, the children are expected to wear their formal (checked) shirt. Parade is 1:45pm-2:15pm most Wednesdays. 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:** this will commence around Week 4. 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.



Siblings

• We understand this is an exciting time for older brothers and sisters, but siblings are not permitted to come visit throughout the school day. This can unsettle students and take away from their independence.

iPad Programme

• 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 green sheet inside their BEE Folder.

• **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.



Important:

iPads are not permitted to be used before/after school. They can easily be damaged or smashed and we cannot monitor the content being watched. Students will be asked to put iPads away before/after school.

Apps

Our school kindly funds all apps needed for your child's learning. This is done through an app called "**Intune Company Portal**". Please download this app onto your child's iPad. Further instructions and login details will be emailed during the first week of school.



Family Contribution

Unlike many other schools, Pimpama State School fund many subscriptions to excellent learning and communication apps (Reading Eggs, Maths Seeds, SeeSaw, etc). We also fund the cost of all apps needed for your child's learning. We kindly ask for **one \$50 contribution per family** that will help us hopefully continue funding these wonderful apps.

Toys from home

Any items from home such as toys, stationery and games (including balls) must **not** be brought to school. These items can get lost, damaged and cause disagreements. We have plenty of wonderful resources at our school. Thank you for you support with this.

Website

We maintain a highly professional and user-friendly website where much information can be found. For example: booklists, permission notes if you lose them, weekly newsletters and much more.

<https://pimpamass.eq.edu.au/>

Extra-curricular

Facilities

Calendar and news

Our community

[Support and resources](#)

Forms and documents

Payments



Curriculum Overview

Your child will be learning lots of new and wonderful things this term!



Literacy: Students will learn the sounds of all 26 letters of the alphabet and begin to read short decodable words. They will identify words that rhyme and be immersed in authentic, rich texts to develop their listening comprehension.

Maths: 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 shapes, measuring length and sorting objects.

STEM (Science and Digital Technologies): Students will learn about the materials objects are made from.

Health and P.E: Students will learn about hygiene practices and engage in movement games and activities.

Japanese: Students will learn how to say the names of colours in Japanese.

Art: Students will explore the primary and secondary colours then create their own artworks using these techniques.

Transition from Kindy

The transition from Kindergarten to school can be a big one for some kids. Children go from a freer style of play 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.

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