

WINDSOR STATE SCHOOL



GET SET FOR PREP

Prep is an early education program, only offered in primary schools. It is a full-time program and children attend from Monday to Friday during normal school hours, generally from 9am to 3pm. Children must be 5 by 30 June in the year they start Prep. Prep is integrated fully into the rest of the school. Classrooms and other facilities are located in school grounds.



GET SET FOR PREP @ Windsor SS

STARTING SCHOOL

Starting school can be an exciting but stressful time for you and your child. For some children it may be the first time that they have been away from their parents. They may be going to an unfamiliar environment with unfamiliar people and things around them.

There are a few simple steps you can take to help make your child's time at school more enjoyable and relaxed.

Encourage your child to be independent by helping them get used to:

- Putting on and doing up his/her shoes.
- Eating and drinking without help (opening lunchboxes; wrapping and unwrapping school lunches and drinking from drink bottles.
- Caring for and putting away play things.
- Using a handkerchief or tissues.
- Going to the toilet independently.
- Using playground equipment safely.
- Carrying his/her bag.
- Identifying his/her belongings.

Work with your child to develop his/her communication skills. Help your child to:

- Make his/her needs known.
- Use appropriate greetings.
- Respond verbally when spoken to.

Positive Partnerships

We believe that:

- The positive partnership between parent and child is fundamental to the child's long term success at school.
- Parents or caregivers are active partners with children in fostering learning at home and at school.
- Effective learning programs are developed through partnerships with other professionals.

COMMUNICATION – FOLDERS

Each child is asked to provide a clearly named folder as per the booklist. All classroom notes will be sent home in these folders.

Please ensure you check to see if the folder has been sent home and return it to school the following day. It is

important to encourage your child to become responsible for returning the folder to the correct location in his/her particular classroom each day.

INTERVIEWS

Please inform us of any major change in your family situation or your child's routine as this may affect his/her behaviour or participation at school. Similarly, we will communicate any significant information to you.

The period between 8:50am and 9:00am is usually quite busy as we welcome children and parents to school each day. It is best to organise an interview before or after school, if there is anything of importance to be discussed.

HELPING IN PREP

During the year there will be many opportunities to assist in your child's education. Although each Prep classroom operates differently, teachers usually organise a Parent Roster system towards the end of Term one, when the children are settled into their new environment. You may be required to help individuals or small groups of children with a variety of tasks ranging from literacy, numeracy, art and working with computers. The activities will depend entirely on the learning taking place in a particular room but you are sure to be kept busy and to have fun.

Volunteers are also required to assist our Physical Education Specialist with swimming lessons in Term 4 and for an excursion in Term 3.

FOOD

Your child will have three eating sessions each day. Being at school is hard work and your child will need filling and nutritious food if they are to concentrate and learn.

Because many children have had an early breakfast, they may become hungry well before the 11am Morning Tea break. For this reason, we have introduced CRUNCH TIME in our Prep Classrooms.

You are asked to send along a small snack (in a separate container), only a piece of fruit or vegetable that your child can easily consume in a couple of minutes.

For example, pieces of apple, pear, carrot or cheese, a small banana, rice or corn crackers. No yoghurts, custards etc. please. More substantial items such as sandwiches, rolls, pasta/rice dishes and yoghurts are best saved for Morning Tea (11am) or Lunch (1:10pm), when your child

has more time. Please note that the children's food must be kept chilled in their lunch boxes, as they do not have access to a refrigerator. It is a good idea to practise eating foods from their lunch box over the Christmas holidays.

TUCKSHOP

The tuckshop operates Monday to Friday and orders are to be placed at the tuckshop before 9:00am or online at www.munchmonitor.com

If you have ordered tuckshop for your child, please indicate on the whiteboard just inside the doorway of the Prep classroom. If your child attends Before School Care, please organise for a staff member to record your child's name on the list. The tuckshop is collected by a teacher aide and delivered to your child's room.

Please note: Because many Prep children still have difficulty navigating their way around the school and managing their money, they are not able to purchase items directly from the tuckshop. All items must be ordered through the bag system.

BIRTHDAY AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS

We love to celebrate birthdays and other significant events at Prep. Individual patty cakes or muffins are our preferred options for birthdays. Although some parents are exceedingly generous, we would ask that other party foods, lollies and party bags be left for private parties at home. They can pose problems with respect to food allergies, choking hazards etc, depending on their contents. If your child is unable to eat cakes due to allergies, please provide your teacher with some freezable treats.

UNIFORMS

All Prep students at Windsor SS wear a light blue band around the crown of their hat so that they are easily identified by all staff as Prep students. Shoes are to be worn all day.



What will my child learn in the Prep Year?

At Windsor State School, we implement the Australian National Curriculum in English, Maths, Science, History, Geography and the Early Years Curriculum Guidelines (EYCG) in all other Learning Areas. Teachers at Windsor State School provide relevant and challenging learning experiences that encourage all students to develop confidence, persistence, organisational skills, an ability to get along with others and emotional resilience. Our curriculum is founded in the syllabus documents produced by ACARA.

At Windsor, teachers implement "Curriculum to Classroom" (C2C) units of work which have been developed by Education Queensland for each year level to ensure that the National Curriculum is delivered consistently for all students in Queensland. These units incorporate the need to differentiate and cater for the diverse learning styles of each student in Prep to Year 6. They have a strong focus on developing the knowledge, understandings and skills students will need to participate and shape their social, cultural and economic futures. These units enable teachers to engage learners to ensure that high expectations are maintained in all classrooms.

What will I see my child doing?

ENGLISH

- Unit 1: Exploring Our New World.
- Unit 2: Enjoying Stories.
- Unit 3: Interacting with Others.
- Unit 4: Responding to Texts.

MATHEMATICS

- Unit 1: Me, Myself and I.
- Unit 2: Myself and Others.
- Unit 3: How Things Grow.
- Unit 4: What's Out There?

SCIENCE

- Unit 1: Weather Watch
- Unit 2: Our Material World
- Unit 3: Our Living World
- Unit 4: I Like to Move It, Move It!

HISTORY

Personal and Family Histories

- Unit 1: Exploring My Family History
- Unit 2: Remembering My Family History

GEOGRAPHY

People Live In Places

- Unit 1: What is my place like?
- Unit 2: How do we care for special places?

www.australiancurriculum.edu.au

How does Prep help my child for Year 1?

The Year 1 curriculum builds on the curriculum in the Prep Year. The curriculum in the Prep Year is designed to provide the foundation that children need for success in later schooling.

How can I help my child?

- Share information about your child with the teacher. This information is always confidential.
- Chat with your child about what they're doing at school.
- Visit the classroom for a brief chat or to take part in daily activities or special events.
- Encourage your child to experiment with various materials and equipment.
- Encourage your child to explore different ways to organise areas, e.g. their bedroom, play area, cubby.
- Read together and talk about everyday items such as signs, notices, letters, catalogues, magazines, TV guides, food packaging and bills.
- Read and talk frequently about storybooks, factual books and rhymes.
- Make available a variety of materials and containers for measuring such things as water, grain and sand.
- Involve your child in family activities that investigate mathematical ideas, e.g. cooking, setting the table, matching socks, sharing a meal.
- Provide "junk" materials for drawing, making patterns, and building things.

How can I get involved?

Windsor State School recognises the vital role of parents in their child's education. There are many opportunities for you to participate in your child's learning. Contact the school for suggestions on how to become involved in the school and your child's experiences in the Prep Year program.



WINDSOR STATE SCHOOL

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School hours

8:50am-3:00pm

