

Prep Transition 2017



**Westgarth
Primary School**
Safe, Fair & Friendly



Getting ready for school



- chopped fruit is best for brain food as it can be eaten quickly



- Ensure students can open and close their lunch boxes, containers and food packaging such as yoghurt-pouches

carolyn

- Recognise their name
- Be confident in asking for help

- Be able to identify brain food, morning tea and lunch



Starting school is a big milestone, mainly for parents. The Prep teachers are here to help and support your child. It is important to be positive about starting school.

You do not need to 'teach' them things before school. Teachers are there to teach your child how to read, write and count etc...

However, there are things that a child of school-age needs be able to do, independently:

- open and close their lunch containers and drink bottle (new lunchboxes/drink bottles can be stiff to open, practise over the holidays!)
- Please take the time to identify brain food, morning tea and lunch
- independently use the toilet
- wash and dry their hands
- attend to their shoes and clothes
- blow their nose

Please let your child experience using public toilets and for boys, ensure that they are familiar with how to use a urinal. It is also important to flush the toilet afterwards.

Ensure students can tie their own shoelaces and footwear needs to be either secure sandals or runners.

Please help them to follow a regular bed time and waking up routine. Closer to the start of school, get your child to go to bed and wake-up in accordance with school times.

A big part of Prep is about making friends, social skills (such as sharing pencils, taking turns, waiting, learning how to deal with a challenge, joining-in, working with others) Creating a positive experience and building on this each day will be a focus of the Prep year.



Independence

- Organisation
- Responsibility



We work on developing independence in all students and strongly support them along the way. Regular, daily routines help students to gain confidence and feel safe at school.

Once a prep student has said goodbye and walked in the door, they will be required to organise their belongings and make their way to the mat ready for their morning lesson. This includes: their bag on their hook, their home-reading pouch, drink bottle, take some chairs down and sit down quietly and wait for their teacher. As you can see, being ready for prep means being able to follow routines. The prep teachers are there to help any students who might find this difficult.

PLEASE give your child as many opportunities as possible to take responsibility for their belongings. Otherwise, you will end up hunting through lost property at school! Start by allowing your child to carry their own schoolbag.



First Day of Prep

- A great day at school starts at home

Quick kiss and a wave goodbye

A great day at school starts at home

- be organised and avoid a morning rush
- keep the morning as calm as you can
- talk to your child about having two goodbyes, a big goodbye at home with lots of kisses and hugs and then a quick goodbye at school
- have a play in the playground or with other students before the bell
- once at school give a quick kiss and a wave at school then leave - giving a hug is an opportunity for a child to cling on rather than separate

It is normal to feel discomfort if your child is upset and you just leave. By 9:05am, an unsettled child will usually be engaged, calm and learning almost every time. I have never in my almost 3 years as a prep teacher called a parent to come back and pick their child up after separation struggles at the door.

Rest assured that separation issues usually settle by the end of term 1. Building confidence when separating will need guidance from you and persistence and resilience from your child. Please use each drop-off as a chance for your child to continue developing their emotional resilience. The best way you can help your child is to leave. Don't hide around the corner, they know you are there and will not settle.



First Day of Prep

- Come into the classroom and help your child unpack their bag, encouraging increasing independence
- Teachers will have a morning-routine that they will explain to their class
- Tea and Coffee in the staff room after drop-off on the first morning
- At the Prep Information Night in 2018, you will be provided information about the Prep curriculum and have an opportunity to ask further questions

Teachers will have a morning-routine that they should become familiar with quickly.

Students might be excited, or they might be anxious, these are all normal feelings. Be positive about starting school and remind your child about how much fun it will be meeting new friends.

Also remind them that you will be back to collect them at 3:30pm.



Wednesdays

- Preps have the first 6 Wednesdays at home.
- A day for teachers to conduct one-on-one assessments
- Preps will start full-time the week beginning Monday March 12

On Wednesdays all students will have a one and a half hour assessment with their teacher.

- it is an opportunity for your child's teacher to sit down with your child to get to know them
- you do not need to teach them anything before the assessments

Preps will start full-time the week beginning Monday 12th March 2018. Monday 12th is Labour day, so it will still be a 4-day week.



Home / School Communication

- Plastic pocket
 - Notices
 - Notes to the teacher
 - Take-home reading books (starts in Term 2)

The home-reading program will commence in term 2, once students have concluded the first stage of the 'Little Learners Love Literacy' program. This is also when will require parent or carer volunteers.



Important Dates - 2018

- Prep Information Night – February/March 2018 (date to be confirmed)
- Welcome Picnic (date to be confirmed)
- First 6 Wednesdays at home
- Labour Day – Monday, March 12 (Public Holiday)
- School Photographs – Thursday, March 18
- Last Day of Term 1 – Thursday 29th March
- Prep Swimming Program begins Tuesday May 29 and concludes Wednesday June 13 (8 sessions)

Don't worry about writing these dates down. They are printed on a piece of paper here that you can collect at the end.



Questions

- Many questions will be answered next week at the 'café style' session where you will have an opportunity to quiz current parents at the school.

You might like to write them down today and save them for next week.