



Coolum State School

COMMUNITY

STRENGTH

SUCCESS



“GET SET” FOR PREP





Dear Parents/Carers

We welcome you and your child to Coolum State School and look forward to your child starting their education with us.

Our friendly staff are looking forward to sharing in this time of change and great excitement as you commence the beginning of your child's educational journey.

Our Prep enrolment process involves:

1. **Completion and return of enrolment documents**

Documentation to be provided to the school office includes:

- a. Enrolment Form
- b. Consent Forms
- c. Birth Certificate
- d. Proof of residence: Documents to be provided include:
 - i. Lease Agreement (current) OR Rates Notice
 - ii. Utility bill e.g. electricity, gas (showing the same address and parent's name)

2. You are warmly invited to attend the following:

a. Coolum State School Open Day

- i. Sunday, 13 October, 2019 (9am – 11am)

b. "Get Set" for Prep Days

You and your child will join us at school. Parents will drop their child to our Prep classrooms and then attend an information session close by...

- i. Monday, 21 October, 2019 (8.30am – 10am)
- ii. Wednesday, 13 November, 2019 (8.45am – 10.15am)

We trust that your child's learning experience is an exciting and positive one supported by all members of our school community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'P. J. Cavanagh'.

Pat Cavanagh
Principal

*"Children are strong, rich and capable.
All children have preparedness, potential, curiosity
and interest in constructing their learning and negotiating
with everything their environment brings to them."
Gandini, 1993*

Our Early Years Philosophy

Coolum State School's Early Years philosophy believes that children are capable learners and come to us from our community with a wealth of knowledge, experience and skills.

- Our curriculum is supported by the in depth knowledge we have of how children learn and develop
- learning programs are child-centred in an environment that is supportive, safe and conducive to life-long learning
- the provision of a wide variety of learning experiences and teaching approaches cater to and enhance the development of all children, assisting them to reach their potential

We are committed to supporting children's development by:

- ✓ cherishing individual differences
- ✓ helping them to learn, live and work cooperatively
- ✓ promoting positive self esteem

2020 School Calendar

Monday 20 - Friday 24 January:

School Office open for information and payments. Uniform shop is open.

Term Dates 2020

Term 1:	<i>Tuesday 28 January – Friday 3 April</i>
Term 2:	<i>Monday 20 April - Friday 26 June</i>
Term 3:	<i>Monday 13 July - Friday 18 September</i>
Term 4:	<i>Tuesday 6 October - Friday 11 December</i>

Pupil Free Days for 2020

Monday 19 October

Public Holidays 2020

*Australia Day- 27 January; ANZAC Day – Saturday 25 April; Labour Day- 4 May;
Queen's Birthday- 5 October*



The Preparatory Program

It is widely acknowledged that the early years of learning are among the most significant periods of growth for children. Experiences at this time not only affect cognitive, social and physical development, but deeply influence dispositions to learning and children's view of themselves as learners.

During the Prep Year at Coolum, our staff plan for student learning using the Foundation level of the Australian Curriculum.

The curriculum in the Prep Year is designed to provide the foundation that children need for success in later schooling. Research has identified several factors that are connected with success at school.

These include:

- ✓ independence
- ✓ social learning
- ✓ health and physical development
- ✓ language development
- ✓ early literacy & numeracy understandings
- ✓ ability to think and solve problems
- ✓ imagination and creativity
- ✓ a positive approach to learning

Prep children will learn through:

- ✓ play
- ✓ investigating
- ✓ real life situations
- ✓ routines and transitions
- ✓ focussed learning and teaching



What will my child learn?

During Prep children will enhance their:

Skills to learn and work with each other

- ✓ ability to take on responsibilities
- ✓ respect for other people
- ✓ co-operation with others
- ✓ development of their oral language

Skills to transfer learning and to adapt readily to new circumstances and environments

- ✓ make sensible choices about their health and safety
- ✓ develop their physical skills
- ✓ learn about their environment

Skills of problem solving

- ✓ learn how to be thinkers and problem solvers
- ✓ use their imagination and creativity
- ✓ develop their early literacy and mathematical understandings

Self-knowledge and self-esteem

- ✓ become more independent

What will I see my child doing?

Your child will be:

- ✓ investigating
- ✓ making choices
- ✓ talking with teachers and other children
- ✓ engaging with a range of technology
- ✓ designing and making things
- ✓ singing, dancing and painting
- ✓ listening to stories
- ✓ responding to stories
- ✓ writing and reading
- ✓ playing games indoors and outdoors
- ✓ climbing, balancing, jumping
- ✓ planning and sharing in make-believe play
- ✓ using technology to access learning, draw pictures, publish and play games
- ✓ learning about size, shape, weight and measurement as they construct things indoors and outdoors

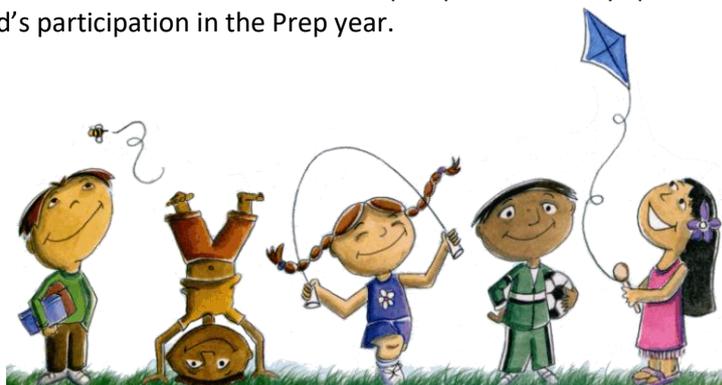
Children come to our school with a diversity of understandings, capabilities and dispositions that have developed as part of their social and cultural experiences since birth. These provide a rich and valuable starting point for learning in school.

Teachers support learning by linking the knowledge valued at home and the knowledge valued at school. Learning experiences encourage children to make links between their prior knowledge and new learning.

Families and carers make significant contributions to children's learning and development before and after children enter the preparatory setting.

Our Prep classrooms are vibrant, lively, dynamic and ever-changing. Within these classrooms you will find passionate professionals and actively engaged children who will work together to produce a year of fun-filled and exciting education. Coolum teachers look forward to building partnerships with families to develop a learning environment to make this learning transition smooth and successful.

Prep classes operate under the same policy and procedural guidelines as the rest of our school. Please consult the relevant sections of the school prospectus for any questions that you may have regarding your child's participation in the Prep year.



Uniforms

Coolum State School has an endorsed school uniform. Our Prep children wear a uniform just like the rest of our students. Please refer to the Dress Code information flyer in our enrolment package for full details.



Uniforms are available in person at the school's Uniform Shop, online via www.coolumss.eq.edu.au or by phone (5471 9371) with a credit card. Uniforms can be delivered to your child's classroom or collected from the Uniform shop.

We accept Mastercard, Visa, cheques and cash. Laybys are welcome.

Prior to the commencement of school in 2019, the Uniform shop's hours are:

Monday 20 January	9 am – 4 pm
Tuesday 21 January	9 am – 4 pm
Wednesday 22 January	9 am – 4 pm
Thursday 23 January	9 am – 6 pm
Friday 24 January	9 am – 4 pm

All children are required to wear footwear to and from school. Enclosed footwear such as sneakers are encouraged and expected due to Health and Safety Regulations. Shoes that are easily put on and taken off by the children are recommended, as there will be times/activities when shoes are removed. Velcro tab shoes are simple, time efficient and promote independence. Acceptable shoes include:



Preparing for Prep.

Many parents ask how best to prepare their child to be “ready” for school. Here are some simple tips:

ORAL LANGUAGE:

The BEST gift you can give your child is to further develop their oral language. Being able to use language to express and communicate ideas is the greatest asset to learning. It helps children to communicate with adults and children and prevents frustration.

In order to develop their oral language skills children need to have many, many hours of practice to speak in a range of different situations. Your modelling of language is **VERY** valuable.

Encourage correct pronunciation when speaking. Baby talk or poor speech patterns make reading and writing difficult. Insist on initial sounds being clear. Your child’s reading and spelling development depend heavily on speech and hearing. Do everything you possibly can to support your child in this area.

HELPFUL HABITS:

Encourage your child to develop helpful habits that will support their transition to school. Can your child:

- ✓ put on and fasten their own shoes (laces, velcro)
- ✓ put on and fasten their own clothes (buttons, zips)
- ✓ cooperate and share with others
- ✓ engage respectfully:
 - asking to go to the toilet politely
 - not interrupting others
 - using names when speaking to others
 - saying ‘please’ and ‘thank you’
- ✓ manage his/her own lunch box (taking off lid, unwrapping food)
- ✓ use the toilet and wash hands independently. This includes routines such as paper use, washing and drying hands and for boys – using a urinal
- ✓ listen carefully and follow simple instructions
- ✓ persist with tasks and complete them – asking for help if needed
- ✓ adhere to a regular home routine – medical advice recommends that Prep and Year One students should have 10-12 hours sleep each night
- ✓ organise their school bag each night before the school day



TEACH YOUR CHILD TO BE SAFE:

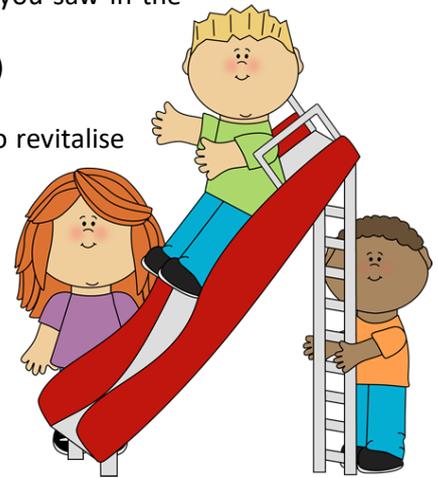
Your child should know and be able to answer the following using a clear voice:

- Name – first and surname
- Method of getting home and where to wait if being collected by an adult/sibling
- Traffic rules e.g. crossing the road using the crossing, wearing a helmet
- Discuss protective behaviours with your child i.e. who to go to for help; appropriate touching

To support the safety of your child, we ask that an adult collect them from the classroom each day. OSHC provides this service to all students attending the Coolum OSHC facility.

How can I help my child at the start of school?

- share information about your child with the teacher. This information is always confidential.
- talk to your child about fruit break, morning tea and lunch and what they will eat at these times. Children are encouraged to eat their sandwiches/wraps along with other refrigerated items at this time. Treats should always be left for second break
- create an organised routine for the beginning (getting to school – right from waking up to arriving at the classroom door) and end of each school day
- be organised for the transition to school every day – a set routine REALLY helps
- chat with your child about what they're doing at school in a positive way – try to avoid “what did you do today?” and instead talk about your day or a specific item you saw in the classroom
- visit the classroom at the beginning or end of the day (after dismissal)
- volunteer to take part in classroom activities or special events
- provide a healthy lunch, fruit snack and a fresh water bottle helps to revitalise your child so their brain is ready to learn
- encourage your child to develop independence and self-reliance
- celebrate your child's personal bests and recognise positive attitudes towards learning
- work in partnership with the school
- share your own knowledge and supporting classroom interests and programs



Preparing for the first day: A checklist

There is a lot to remember when preparing for the first day of school. Here is a quick checklist to ensure you are on track:

- Purchase all items on the book list for Prep. There is no need for you to name books and stationery items
- Purchase your child's school uniform
- Practice eating lunch. Your child should have the opportunity to use their new lunch box, drink bottles and yoghurt containers. Also provide opportunities for your child to open plastic wrappers and unwrap lunch items independently. For summer months, pack your child's lunch with a freezer brick. At school our children must eat their healthy food items first e.g. sandwiches and yoghurt and save treats until later
- Provide fresh fruit or vegetables for “Fruit Break”
- Ensure that your child's school bag is large enough to accommodate all items required each day
- Get your child in the habit of wearing a hat for outside play. You might like to add an identifiable item to it e.g. a button, ribbon to help them identify it
- Name all items of clothing – hats, jumpers, shoes, school & library bags etc. We also recommend having a change of underclothes in a named plastic bag left permanently in their school bag
- Discuss travel/pick up arrangements
- Talk about the excitement of coming to school and be positive about this stage in their life. Highlight the fun and interesting things that they will do such as making friends, learning new things.
- Discuss problem solving skills to help social interactions/conflicts with other students

The first day:

In the week prior to school commencing (20-24 January), class lists and room allocations are posted on notice boards in our under cover area.

It is strongly encouraged that your Prep child be brought to and collected from the classroom by an adult each day. If another adult or older child is to collect your child from Prep, please inform your child's teacher of these arrangements - a note is best.

On the first day, please ensure you bring along all items listed on the Coolum Prep Booklist. These will be organised at school by the classroom teacher. As our resources are used communally, there is no need to name pencils, glue sticks or books.

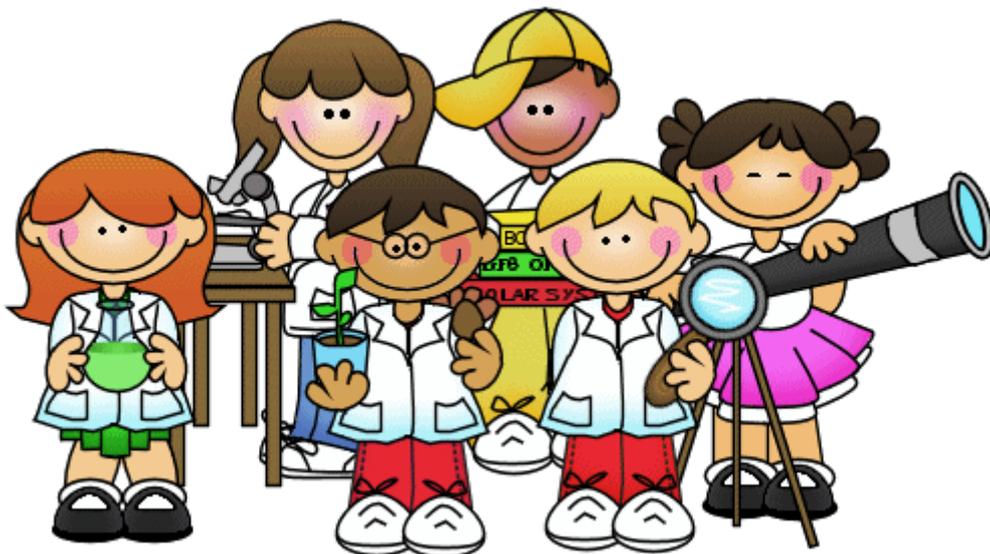
Please label library bags, homework folders, clipboards and whiteboards clearly with your child's name.

Once you have arrived at your child's class...

- Come in and say "hello" to the teachers
- Find your child's name tag
- Have your child put their school bag on the racks
- Join in some of the fun activities set out in the room for your child e.g. read a story, do a puzzle etc

Follow the teacher's lead about when it is time to go. Please be assured that if your child does not settle we will call you.

Morning tea will be provided to parents after they have dropped off their Prep child on the first day. You are warmly invited to join us in our Outside School Hours Care facility for a coffee and have a chance to start a conversation with other Prep parents.



Becoming successful learners

WRITING - THE BEGINNERS ALPHABET

These are the letters and numerals that your child will be learning to write. We encourage you to use these letters to write whenever you are modelling writing or writing your child's name. Using all capitals for name writing is discouraged as it is a most difficult habit for your child to break once it is mastered.

aA bB cC dD eE fF gG
hH iI jJ kK lL mM nN
oO pP qQ rR sS tT uU
vV wW xX yY zZ

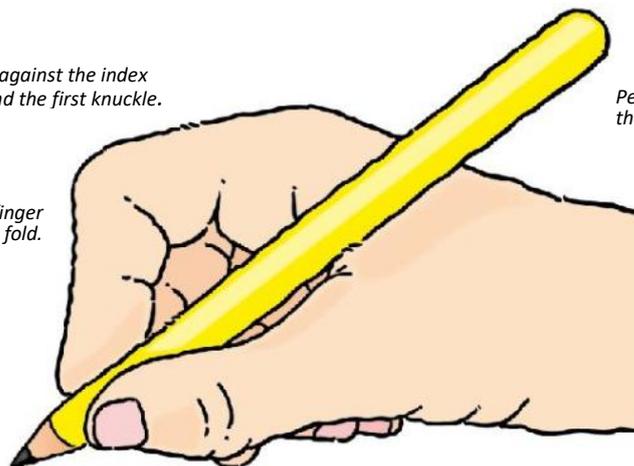
NUMERALS

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

PENCIL GRIP

Pencil should be held against the index finger on or just behind the first knuckle.

Pencil rests on the middle finger on the nail fold.



Pencil should not rest in the web between the thumb and index finger.

*The little finger and the side of the hand become the support point.
index finger.*

Support the pencil between the thumb and index finger. Try to use the tip of the thumb not the 'pad' underneath.