Coolum State School
Prep 2017

PREP @ COOLUM STATE SCHOOL in 2017

Get set for Prep  Celebrating 100 years in 2017
Dear Parents/Caregivers,

We welcome you and your child to Coolum State School. Coolum State School welcomes students from Prep to Year 6.

Our friendly staff are looking forward to sharing in your child’s learning journey and celebrating their successes with you.

Our Prep enrolment process involves:
- Completion and return of enrolment documents by parents (commencing Term 3)
- Attending a parent information session (an evening and daytime option offered) during Term 4
- Two induction mornings at Coolum Prep Classrooms during Term 4 in 2016 for all 2017 Prep children

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

Pat Cavanagh       Linda Morse
Principal          Deputy 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 that they come to us from our community with a wealth of knowledge, experience and skills.

- Our curriculum is supported by our knowledge of how children learn and develop.
- The Learning Program is child-centred and negotiated in an environment that is supportive, safe and conducive to life-long learning.
- We provide a wide variety of learning experiences and teaching approaches that cater to and enhance children’s development, assisting children to reach their full potential.

Our teaching staff at Coolum State School are professionally active and keep up to date with current research through professional development, reading and networking.

School Calendar ~ 2017

Monday 16 – Friday 20 January: School Office open for payments & class information

Term Dates 2017

Term 1: Monday 23 January ~ 31 March
Term 2: Tuesday 18 April ~ Friday 23 June
Term 3: Monday 10 July ~ Friday 15 September
Term 4: Tuesday 3 October ~ Friday 8 December

Pupil Free Days for 2017

Monday 17 October.

Public Holidays 2017

Australia Day 26 January; Anzac Day 25 April; Labour Day 1 May; Sunshine Coast Show Holiday 9 June; Queen’s Birthday 2 October;
Starting Prep

In the week prior to school commencing (16 - 20 January), class lists and room allocations are posted on notice boards in our under cover area.

We would prefer that your Prep child be brought to and collected from the classroom by a responsible adult each day. Asking your child to meet you in the car park is not encouraged as it can be very congested and hazardous for unaccompanied children. 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. No need to name pencils.

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, once you are leaving- follow through
- Head over to Outside School Hours Care area for a coffee and a chance to start a conversation with other prep parents

Please be assured that if your child does not settle we will call you.

The Preparatory Program

Key Components of the Early Years Curriculum
Education Queensland has introduced the Early Years Curriculum Guidelines to provide teachers with a framework for interacting with children, for planning, assessing and reflecting on an effective Preparatory Year Curriculum.

The Curriculum in the Preparatory 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 are:
- 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.
At Prep Children will learn through:
✓ Play;
✓ Investigations;
✓ Real Life Situations;
✓ Routines and Transitions;
✓ Focused Learning and Teaching

What will my child learn?

Through co-constructing the curriculum 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;
✓ 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 computers to access learning, draw pictures, publish and play games
✓ taking part in early learning experiences for Science, Mathematics and Geography
✓ 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. Coolum teachers look forward to building partnerships with families to develop a learning environment to make this learning transition smooth and successful. Student learning is closely monitored during and early intervention is put in place to optimise learning.

Learning and reporting in the Prep year focus around:

**Early Learning Areas**
- Social and Personal Learning
- Health and Physical Learning
- Active Learning Processes

**Australian Curriculum areas:**
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- History
- Geography
- Technologies

**Uniforms**

Our school community has endorsed a light blue polo shirt, navy blue shorts/skorts, blue check dress and wide brimmed hat as a uniform for our Prep children. We ask that our Prep students wear this uniform as it not only promotes pride in our school but means that the children’s other clothes are not exposed to paint and the other joys of school life. Wearing a Prep uniform also makes these young students easily identifiable allowing staff to assist them and ensure their safety at all times.

Uniforms are available in person at the school's Uniform shop, online via [www.coolumss.eq.edu.au](http://www.coolumss.eq.edu.au) or by phone (5471 9371) with a credit card. During term time, the Uniform shop is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 2.00 - 3.15pm and other times by arrangement. Uniforms can be delivered to your student's classroom or picked up from the Uniform shop.

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

Prior to the commencement of school in 2017, the Uniform shop’s hours are:

- **Monday 16 January**: 9 am – 4 pm
- **Tuesday 17 January**: 9 am – 4 pm
- **Wednesday 18 January**: 9 am – 4 pm
- **Thursday 19 January**: 9 am – 6 pm
- **Friday 20 January**: 9 am – 4 pm
All children are required to wear footwear to and from school. Enclosed footwear such as sneakers is encouraged 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.*

**Preparing for Prep.**

Many parents ask how best to prepare their child to be “ready” for school. The BEST gift you can give your child is to further develop their oral language. Being able to use language to express ideas and follow directions is a great asset to learning. It helps children to communicate with adults and children and prevents frustration. Often children are spoken at - rather than *spoken with or listened to.* In order to develop good 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.

You can help your child to engage in learning by:

- encouraging your child to experiment with various materials and equipment.
- encouraging your child to explore different ways to organise areas, e.g. their bedroom, play area, cubby.
- reading together and talk about everyday items such as signs, notices, letters, catalogues, magazines, TV guides, food packaging and bills.
- reading and talk daily about storybooks, factual books and rhymes.
- making available a variety of materials and containers for measuring such things as water, grain and sand.
- involving your child in family activities that investigate mathematical ideas, e.g. cooking, setting the table, matching socks, sharing a meal.
- providing “junk” materials for drawing, making patterns, and building things.
- develop independent toileting habits
- practising putting on shoes and socks (Velcro makes life easier!)
- practising using a lunch box prior to beginning school (home picnics are great fun)
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 morning tea and lunch breaks and what they will eat at these times
- 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
- being organised for the transition to school every day – a set routine REALLY helps
- chat with your child about what they’re doing at school – 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 take part in classroom activities or special events
- a healthy lunch and fruit snack and a fresh water bottle helps to revitalise your child so their brain is ready to learn
- encouraging your child to develop independence and self-reliance
- celebrating your child’s personal bests and recognising positive attitudes to learning
- working in partnership with the school
- sharing your own knowledge and supporting classroom interests and programs
Handwriting

In Prep we write the children’s names using the Queensland Beginner’s Alphabet. We encourage you to also model writing your child’s name this way at home and we are only too happy to give you a few tips so that you can feel confident in doing this. Only use a capital for the initial letter and write the rest of your child’s name in lower case.

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

Pencil Grip

Encourage your child to use the correct pencil grip when writing and drawing as illustrated below.

Pencil Held

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.

There should be a distance of approx. 2–2.5 cm from the pen point to the tip of the index finger.

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.

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

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.