

Caring and Learning Together in Prep



Term 1 Prep Newsletter

Welcome to Windaroo and to your child's first year at our wonderful school. We hope that our children and families have all enjoyed the start to the new school year. It is a special and exciting time as we welcome our new Prep learners into the school community.

The first weeks in Prep help prepare our learners and classes for what is a very busy year of learning and development. During these early days we work together to establish our classroom routines, procedures and expectations. Activities and experiences in the first weeks provide us with lots of opportunities to get to know one another and to explore our learning environment. Our Early Years students work so hard to develop friendships and positive relationships with their new classmates and peers. Our Preps also gain confidence as they begin to negotiate their way around the school's physical environment and start to participate in specialist lessons such as Physical Education, Music and Science. We always find that they are very proud to know the names and faces of special teachers and staff members in their school and are so keen to become part of our Windaroo community.

A core part of our learning journey in Prep is of course the development of fundamental literacy and numeracy skills through the Australian Curriculum in English and Mathematics. Opportunities for students to learn about language, literacy and literature as well as number, algebra, measurement and geometry will include a range of age appropriate learning and teaching experiences. These learning contexts make our classrooms active, challenging, engaging and vibrant learning environments. Students in Prep also engage in a wide range of learning experiences designed to share and develop their knowledge and skills in Science, History, Geography, Health and Physical Education and The Arts.



As we launch into the school year in earnest, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and carers for your enthusiasm, interest and support. Thank-you in particular for your hard work in preparing and encouraging your child as they enter the school environment for the first time. Your efforts have contributed greatly to such a positive start. We look forward to working in partnership with your family and prep student throughout the year to help develop a lifelong love of learning!

Caring and Learning Together in Prep

Settling in...an emotion filled time!

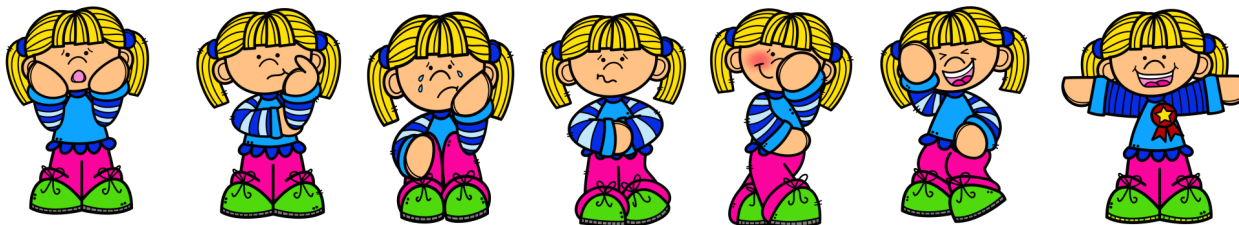
If your child is anxious or worried while settling in, continue to explain to them what will happen each morning so that they are informed and reassured. This will help them feel a little more prepared each day. As they familiarise themselves with classroom routines, the children will continue to gain confidence.

If your child is experiencing difficulties it is best that you leave no matter how upset they appear. They always settle once you are out of sight and they begin to join in with other children. Teacher aides and support staff will help children and teachers with this process.

Even for children who are confident with the routines of the school day, it is always important to continue to discuss and practice routines for the start and end of the school day.

First week and first term is always a very busy and exciting one with so many new people, experiences and places for our early years learners to encounter. As teachers we know and expect that each child will face the experiences and challenges of starting school with varying degrees of confidence and independence.

A significant part of learning and teaching in the early weeks and also throughout Term 1 is a focus on reassuring and encouraging all children as they negotiate learning and playtime in their new school environment. Emphasis is on developing our Prep children's understandings; social skills; problem solving abilities; thinking and learning strategies. Parents, teachers and staff work together to nurture these abilities and to encourage our Preps to develop their independence and confidence in both the classroom and playground setting.



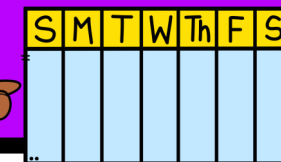
Arrangements before and after school

As this first term is a busy one, it would be appreciated if you could provide your child's teacher with some initial details about the arrangements your family have for dropping off/collecting your prep child at school. While many prep parents are able to personally bring their child to and from school, particularly first week, we understand that that is not always the case for all students.

Please make sure to detail any arrangements should you not be the one to drop off or pick up your child. For example, share details of the bus your child will catch or the after school care arrangements made (e.g. PCYC). Should you ask a friend or neighbour, or even an older sibling to come with/for your child, it would be very helpful if you could provide this information and perhaps even introduce this person face to face.

Should you ever be running late or need to change pick up arrangements, simply telephone the school office. A message will be given to the classroom teacher so that we can prepare your child and offer extra help and support at home time.

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Our Prep Team

Deputy Principal P-1

Mrs Michelle Leadbeater

Our Teachers

PB: Mrs Kim Burdett

PC: Mrs Charlotte Turner

PJ: Miss Jane Elsby

PK: Mrs Karen Ham

PWA: Mrs Melanie Welch and Mrs Samantha Allen

P1A: Mrs Alycce Crompton



Our Amazing Teacher Aides

Mrs Janelle Cook

Mrs Sue Hubinger

Mrs Kylie Jordan

Mrs Joanne Lake

Ms Kathy Smith

Mrs Paula Teale

Mrs Lesley Thomson

Mrs Natasha Wright



Our Specialist/Support Teachers

Ms Deme Chalkias : Enhancement Teacher

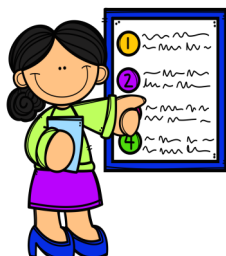
Ms Kelly Maurice: Science

Mrs Caroline Kuss: Science

Mrs Cara Naabs: Music

Mrs Karen Cope: Physical Education/Health

Ms Taylor Donnelly: Digitech teacher



Term 1 Calendar

Week	Date	Event
1	Tuesday 28/01/2020	1st day of school! Welcome to Prep!
2		
3	Monday 10/02/2020 Tuesday 11/02/2020 Thursday 13/02/2020	Junior Assembly 2:10pm Lone Pine Hall "I am Me. You are You." Free Performance P&C Fundraiser: Fill the Bucket
4	Thursday 20/02/2020	P&C Fundraiser: Fill the Bucket
5	Monday 24/02/2020	Junior Assembly 2:10pm Lone Pine Hall
6	Thursday 05/03/2020	Yarn and a Cuppa 3:15-4:15pm
7	Monday 09/03/2020	Junior Assembly 2:10pm Lone Pine Hall
8	Monday-Friday Individual bookings	Parent Teacher Interview
9	Monday 23/03/2020	Junior Assembly 2:10pm Lone Pine Hall
10	Friday 03/04/2020	Easter Bonnet Parade (P-1) 9:15am Lone Pine Hall Prep Vision Screening across Week 10

TERM 2

Anzac Day
Sports Day
Grandparent's Day
Under Eights Day
Report Cards Issued

TERM 3

School Art Show
Parent Teacher Interviews
School Disco
School Musical
Evergreen Puppet Show Performance
(cost: approximately \$6.00 per Prep student)

TERM 4

Remembrance Day
Prep Excursion to Jacobs Well Environmental Education Centre (cost: approximately \$20.00-\$25.00)
School Carols Night
Report Cards Issued



Keeping in Touch...

The first few weeks of term are always such a busy time for parents, students and teachers. If there is anything at all you would like to know, should you have any questions, or should you feel the need to inform the school of any matter regarding your child please do not hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher. Either write a note, email, make an appointment, or should only a brief time be required, please approach teachers **before or after** the school bell.

We aim to inform families of any special events/activities within our school and classrooms as soon as possible, particularly where payment may be required such as for excursions. There are many avenues we take to keep you informed. Forms of communication between home and school include the following:

QParents: has been created by the Department of Education and Training to provide parents with secure online access to their child's information. See separate flyer for details. qparents.qld.edu.au

Email/SMS reminders: School Newsletters, invoices for excursions, notes from administration, Report Cards will be sent via email. You will receive payment notifications via SMS.



P&C Facebook Page

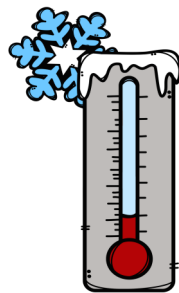
School Newsletter: our school Newsletter is emailed to families and contains valuable information including current events and updates from our Principal and Deputy Principals. If you have not registered to receive the newsletter or would like to request a print copy each fortnight, please contact the school office.

School Website: you will also find information including important dates on our school website. Each term our Prep team will publish this online newsletter to keep you informed regarding our curriculum focus and any events. (You also receive this Year Level Newsletter via email each term)

School Sign: our electronic message board is located at the front of the Lone Pine Hall and is visible from the road. This is constantly updated for your reference.

Notes Home— Sometimes notes will come home with your child in Homework folders/school bags or will be in your child's pigeon hole/ information pocket. Your

Thank-you



School Voluntary Contribution

Thank-you for your support of this voluntary contribution.

The voluntary payment of \$80.00 per family contributes to the maintenance of our air-conditioning to provide our students and staff with comfortable classroom learning environments.

An Age Appropriate Curriculum



What does learning in Prep look like?

In Prep, children learn in many different ways, including play, focused teaching and learning experiences, organized games, projects and investigations. They develop important life skills and strategies to support lifelong learning alongside other peers and adults. Prep continues to explore the connections between school learning and learning in the home/community environment, as well as extending learning that took place in early childhood and care settings. Windaroo State School uses the Foundation Year of the Australian Curriculum to guide teaching, learning and assessment. The Foundation Year in the Australian Curriculum refers to the year before Year 1. In Queensland, this is called Prep.

At Windaroo we believe that having a successful transition to school has the potential to positively impact a young child's early learning and development as well as their future academic success. Research tells us that young children learn best in active, engaged, constructive and interactive environments where the material they are learning is meaningful to them. In their first year of school, students learn through teaching interactions with others, experimentation, practice and play in the classroom and school community. Priority is given to literacy and numeracy as these are the foundations upon which further learning is built.

When children move into Prep they will move towards a more structured learning environment where they will participate in longer periods of focused learning and teaching over time. Our Prep curriculum continues however to involve a range of meaningful contexts including play, focused teaching and learning experiences, organized games, investigations, special events and projects, routines and transitions and real life experiences.

In Prep, you will observe that children learn in many different ways as they develop important life skills and strategies to support lifelong learning alongside other peers and adults. During play in particular, children learn very effectively as they actively construct meaning; make decisions; discuss and solve problems; role play; and develop key skills for investigating, thinking and collaboration. Learning through play enhances a child's broader development and capabilities and can take many forms. The types of play teachers plan for and support children's engagement in are varied and responsive to student needs, interests and experiences.

Holistic Development

Some of the many abilities our Prep learners will develop include:

- a positive and confident approach to learning
- independence and confidence as a learner, a student and a friend
- oral language and communication skills
- early literacy and numeracy knowledge/ skills



- listening and social interaction (communication) skills
- thinking and problem solving skills
- physical abilities including fine motor and gross motor skills
- values such as care and respect, self reliance and cooperation

The Prep Curriculum: Term 1

Attendance



Every day, at school and on time. Our school day starts at 8:50am and concludes at 3pm. Children arriving after 9am are considered late and must sign in at the office. Each parent of a child who is of compulsory school age has the legal obligation to ensure their child is enrolled and attends school on every day for the educational program in which the child is enrolled, unless the parent has a reasonable excuse.

Why does school attendance matter?

Regular school attendance gives students a better chance at life. Students achieve better when they go to school all day, every day at school because:

- they have increased access to learning opportunities
- they maintain friendships
- they stay connected to the curriculum progression
- they develop self-efficacy as a learner
- they have better long term life outcomes



All absences must be reported to the Administration Office.

An answering machine is available 24 hours a day for messages advising of student absence 33824333. Parents/carers are also able to advise of absences via QParents; email to absent@windarooms.eq.edu.au; or by contact with class teacher via note or email to explain the reason for absence.

English

Our English Curriculum this term will provide our students with opportunities to develop and share their beginning knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and creating. In Term 1, Prep learners will explore a range of texts including fiction and non-fiction books and everyday texts. Texts will include traditional oral texts, picture books, various types of stories, rhyming verse, poetry, non-fiction, film, multimodal texts and dramatic performances. Students will listen to and participate in the shared reading of texts to explore predictable text structures and common visual patterns. As students engage with these texts they will begin to recognize the purpose and importance of reading for enjoyment and information. Exposure to quality literature will help stimulate the children's imagination as they plan and participate in imaginary play which includes developing story retells, characters and vocabulary. Students will prepare a short oral presentation in response to a favourite character and story.

In English this term, our prep learners will have opportunities to:

- understand how different types of texts are organised
- discuss how authors create characters using language and images
- express preferences for specific texts and authors
- use comprehension strategies to build literal and inferred meaning



Term 1 Curriculum

Acknowledgment of Country

At Windaroo we Acknowledge and pay respects to the Traditional Custodians of the land we work and live on. We extend that Acknowledgment to their Elders past, present and emerging and thank them for allowing us to work together, share knowledge and walk alongside them in the education of our jarjums.



Mathematics

Our Prep learners will explore, develop and apply a variety of mathematical concepts in real-life, life-like and purely mathematical situations. They will continue to make connections between number names, numerals and quantities up to 10. They will develop the ability to compare and sort shapes and objects and to identify connections between events and days of the week.

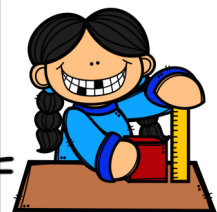
Term 1 Overview

Patterns and Algebra: identifying how objects are similar or different; sorting objects based on similar features; identifying a rule for a 'sort'; identifying patterns in the environment; copying and describing simple patterns; identifying patterns within counting sequences.

Using units of measurement: sequencing stages within an activity; comparing duration of events using time language; directly comparing the size of objects; describing objects.

Number and Place Value: counting in ones, identifying numbers in the environment; representing quantities; comparing numbers; recalling counting sequences; representing quantities; visualising arrangements to five; matching numerals to quantities; counting forwards and backwards from different starting points; comparing quantities (more/less/same); identifying numbers before, after and next in a sequence; ordering quantities and numerals.

Location and Direction: using positional language to describe location; identifying positional opposites; representing locations with models/images.



Science

Our school is very fortunate to have a wonderful team of Science Specialist Teachers. Students in Prep-Year 6 access the school Science room each week for a range of exciting and engaging Science learning experiences. Science News and updates can be located on our school website each term. Our Preps participate in Science investigations with their classroom teachers and also on a weekly basis at the Science room with their specialist teachers Mrs Caroline Kuss and Ms Kelly Maurice.

