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The Prep Year is a preparatory year which aims to develop in each student: -

- A desire to learn
- An awareness of school routines
- An increasing sense of independence
- A respect for the rights and opinions of others
- An ability to work co-operatively

Much of the Prep Year Program involves students being actively involved in developmental learning activities.
This promotes the development of:-

- Foundation skills in Literacy, Numeracy, Technology & Inquiry Big Ideas
- Relationship skills (co-operating, sharing etc)
- Manipulative skills
- Problem solving and decision making skills
- Student’s self-esteem

PLEASE NOTE A CHILD CANNOT BE ADMITTED TO THE SCHOOL UNTIL ACCEPTABLE PROOF OF AGE HAS BEEN SUBMITTED AND AN IMMUNISATION FORM PRESENTED (must be 5 years of age by April 30th of the year of enrolment).
THE TRANSITION FROM HOME TO SCHOOL

Beginning school is an exciting time in the life of your child. The first year of schooling is a very important one. Together teachers and parents can provide the support and the encouragement needed to make your child’s introduction to school both enjoyable and successful.

We believe that the transition from home to school or from pre-school to school can be made easier if parents: -

• Provide a wide range of experiences for their children
• Talk to their children regularly
• Read to their children
• Are positive about the school and the teachers
• Provide opportunities for their children to mix with and trust other adults
• Look on school as a happy and secure place
• Develop realistic expectations about school (i.e. the ability to read isn’t required on the first day)
• Please refrain from comments such as: “Don’t do that or the teacher will be cross”, or “I’ll tell your teacher”, or “School boys/girls don’t do that!” Teachers should not be feared, and should never be used as a threat. They will do their utmost to make your child feel happy and secure- they are friends.
Before school starts you might like to:

- Point out the school as you drive or walk past, play in the playground
- Talk about road rules and safety
- Discuss the dangers of talking to and/or accepting rides from strangers
- Teach your child his/her name and address
- Check to see whether your child can recognise his/her own name
- Have a practice run at eating a packed lunch. Check the time taken to eat it. Past experience has shown us that too much food is often packed for the Prep child.
- Establish routines for bedtime, eating breakfast, getting dressed etc
- Read to your child as often as you can

Training your child to have independent habits will assist them to adjust quickly to school life. Please help your child to be able to:

- Dress themselves, particularly to put on and take off items such as jumpers and coats
- Put shoes on and tie shoelaces or provide velcro strap shoes
- Attend to themselves at the toilet and wash hands afterwards
- Recognise their belongings and take care of their own property
- Put away their own toys and materials
- Use a tissue
- Correctly use a rubbish bin
It is important for you to be aware that each child is different.

Some students will be just starting to handle writing implements while others will be writing their names. Some will want you to read to them while others will want to do the reading. The Reading and Writing Program ensures that all students are catered for according to their academic needs.

You will be curious to know what is going on at school and may question your child about the activities of the day. Do not be concerned if your child is not anxious to talk. He/she will tell you about school when they are ready. A good conversation starter is “Tell me something good that happened today”.

You can assist us by making sure your child comes home to a suitable activity and that he/she gets the required amount of sleep.

Above all, remember that the school and the home, the parents and the teacher, need to work together to ensure that your child has the chance to develop at his or her own rate.

If you are concerned about any matter, or you have some questions, you are always welcome to come to school to discuss these with the class teacher, the Assistant Principal or the Principal. Please make an appointment, as this will assist us to give you our utmost attention.

Sometimes......

Although most students adapt to school quite happily, others may take longer to settle in. Your teacher will discuss with you the best strategy for starting the school day.

Some students will not understand that school is not just for one or two days. They would rather be home with Mum or Dad, especially if the parents are going to be doing something special. They may find it hard to get going in the morning or feel unwell. If this occurs, talk with your child’s teacher.

A problem shared is often a problem solved 😊
ON THE FIRST DAYS...

All Prep students will begin school on 
**Monday, 9\(^{th}\) February, 2015 at 9.00am**

The teacher will be on hand to greet students and show them where to place their belongings. The accompanying parent or carer may like to assist in settling the child into an activity and then head off to use your coffee voucher that can be collected from our Principal, Daniel Vella.

*If it has been a tearful farewell, some people like to ring later in the day to see if everything is OK. Please feel welcome to do this.*

We understand that the first few weeks of your child’s Prep year is very tiring for them. For this reason; from **Monday 9\(^{th}\) of February through to Friday 27\(^{th}\) of February, your child’s school day will end at 3:00pm.**

This will allow time for students to be picked up before the rush of the whole school and time to quickly catch up with your child’s teacher, if needed.

**From Monday 2\(^{nd}\) of March, your child will be dismissed at 3.15pm** with the rest of the students at Hamlyn Banks Primary School.

At dismissal time, please do not wait on the decks, as this causes congestion. Your child’s teacher will bring the students out to you. You will be notified about an appropriate place to wait at the Information Evening on December the 9\(^{th}\), 2014.

If parents decide to have Prep students accompanied home by an older child, the older child should collect them from the Prep classroom.

*Prior to your child starting their Prep Year, a Literacy and Numeracy Interview time will be allocated to them and will be confirmed in a letter sent out to you in the school holidays. **Interviews times will be in the first week back - Friday 30\(^{th}\) January and Friday 6\(^{th}\) February, 2015.**

These interviews are usually enjoyed by students and are a positive experience. Not only does the teacher discover the skills and understandings the child is bringing to school, there is also the opportunity to have some one-on-one time for the child and the teacher to get to know each other.
WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL NEED...

You are asked to supply your child with the following articles - clearly marked please 😊

✓ An **Art Smock**

✓ A **Library Bag**

✓ A **Large Box of Tissues**

✓ **Headphones** *(a cheap set is fine 😊)*

✓ **Spare Clothes**
   If your child occasionally wets him/herself please include a clean change of underwear, dress, shorts etc in a plastic bag and inform the Prep teacher.

✓ **Playdough** *(please see the attached recipe)*
   At the beginning of the year, manipulation is a vital aspect of our Literacy and Numeracy programs. For this we need an ample supply of Playdough. It would be appreciated if you could send along a batch in an airtight container clearly labelled with your child’s name.
Extra Items!

- A Playdough Recipe 😊
- The Alphabet (Victorian Cursive Script)
- Handwriting pages (trace over)
  (Upper & Lowercase - Victorian Cursive Script)
- Numbers to 25 page (trace over)
  (Victorian Cursive Script)
- Snakes & Ladders Game Board
- Maths/Reading & Writing Tips
- An Oral Language Handout 😊