

JAMBOREE HEIGHTS STATE SCHOOL

Prep Year



Information Booklet

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WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to both you and your child as you step into this new chapter of their educational journey. Within these pages, you'll find valuable information, tips, and resources to help make the transition to Prep as smooth and enjoyable as possible. We look forward to partnering with you to provide a nurturing and supportive environment where your child can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Welcome to our school family!

Prep provides the foundation for your child's success at school by developing:

- the knowledge, understanding and skills detailed in the Australian Curriculum for English, mathematics, science and history (Foundation Year)
- a positive approach to learning
- independence and confidence
- creativity and problem-solving skills
- physical abilities, including gross and fine motor skills.

In Prep, teachers support children's learning by making connections between school and their experiences at home, kindergarten or childcare.

Learning in Prep

In Prep, your child will have opportunities to learn in many different ways. This includes active learning such as play-based and enquiry-based approaches. They make decisions, solve problems, develop thinking skills, collaborate, communicate and develop a positive sense of self.

Children learn about:

- speaking, listening, reading and writing
- mathematics and problem solving
- science, exploring interesting and important questions about the biological, physical and technological world
- history, beginning to examine and enquire about the past to develop curiosity and imagination.

Prep children also learn about:

- negotiating rights, roles and responsibilities and developing social skills for working and playing with others
- diverse social and cultural practices of people in their community
- making healthy choices
- experimenting with materials in a variety of creative, imaginative and innovative ways
- technology in everyday life
- music and movement.

The children learn through their inquiry into the materials provided, their play, and their contact with the school staff, parents, other children and community members as well as the focussed learning situations provided in prep.

Prep students are taught the Foundation Year of the [Australian Curriculum](#), which clearly outlines the expectations of the Prep (Foundation) Year for English, Maths, Science, HASS, Technology, HPE and The Arts.

Starting School

Starting Prep is an important time for all concerned. Children are often excited by their move from kindergarten to school, families are aware of their children growing up and educators often look forward to a new year with a new group of children. For many children and families, along with the excitement goes a sense of anxiety — a sense of not being exactly sure what will happen and what school will be like.

There are some simple steps you can take to help make your child's first day of Prep more enjoyable and relaxed.

- [Making the first day a success \(PDF, 476KB\)](#)
- [How to get involved \(PDF, 270KB\)](#)
- [Supporting your child's transition to school \(PDF, 284KB\)](#)

OPERATING HOURS

School starts at 8:45am and finishes at 3:00pm.

Staff require time to prepare their room and attend any meetings that are scheduled before this time. Please do not enter the room before 8.45am unless you have an appointment.

When children come into the classroom, they are expected to be responsible for their own belongings. Please encourage your child to follow the routine outlined by the teacher. This routine may include:

- *putting their bag into their locker or allocated space*
- *placing their water bottle into the appropriate storage container*
- *putting their hat on a hook, in their locker or other appropriate place*

PREP UNIFORM

The Jamboree Heights State School community supports, promotes and expects that all students will abide by the school's [Uniform Policy](#) and wear the correct school uniform every day at school.

Uniforms are available from the school's Uniform Shop (located in the hall foyer) Monday and Friday mornings from 8:15-9:15am, and Wednesday afternoon from 2:30-3:30pm. More information and a link for online ordering can be found on the [school website](#).

Sometimes a child may have an accident, which means that the clothes are too dirty to wear. In anticipation of such accidents, we ask you to leave a marked plastic bag containing spare clothes (including underwear) in your child's school bag. Please remember to label each piece of clothing.

In Prep, children develop the responsibility for taking shoes and socks off to access the sandpit and putting them away in the correct place. Prep children should be able to fasten and unfasten their own shoes. Parents should notify the staff if there are medical reasons why a child should not remove their shoes. Shoes can be a hazard in outdoor obstacle courses. The children need bare feet to grip as they climb and for sensory development.

ATTENDANCE

Please ensure that your child attends regularly and on time. [Every day counts in Prep!](#) Your child will benefit most, and settle into the routine more quickly and happily if they attend regularly and on time each day.

We believe that regular contact with parents or caregivers adds significantly to the sharing of information to provide for the safety, learning and development of students. Children must be brought into and collected from Prep by a responsible person known to the child and teacher.

All Prep students must be signed in and out by an adult during semester 1. From Semester 2, a sibling in the upper school (year 4-6) can take over this task.

To avoid stress to your child, please ensure that they are picked up promptly at 3:00pm. If you are unavoidably delayed, please contact the school office as soon as possible. If, at any time, you arrange for someone else to collect your child, please inform us beforehand.

In the interest of safety, children are not allowed into the playground area before or after school. **Playground equipment is used only under the supervision of school staff during school hours.** To preserve the plants and gardens, please ensure that your children stay on the grassed areas and paths.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

Your child will need:

- School bag, large enough to carry all school belongings
- Red legionnaires hat
- Healthy lunch for two breaks
- Drink bottle filled with water
- Library bag – a waterproof Jamboree Heights library bag can be purchased from the uniform shop
- Spare set of clothes
- Roll-on sunscreen

NAMES AND LABELS

As young children often do not recognise their own belongings, we cannot emphasise enough the need to label absolutely everything – school bag, shoes, lunch boxes, hats, library bags and clothing.

LUNCH

Lunches and snacks play an important role in supplying children with their daily nutrition needs, building healthy bodies and minds. Nearly half of a child's daily nutrition needs should be met during the hours they are at school.

Our school community is committed to providing and promoting healthier food and drink choices, in line with the Queensland Government initiative [Smart Choices](#). We promote healthy eating across all areas of the school environment including the tuckshop and the classroom.

Children have a 10-minute eating period before play time at break times, and are encouraged to eat their "main" lunch at first break (11:00am). You can find great lunchbox ideas in this ['Healthy Start to School'](#) brochure.

Our tuckshop is operated by the P&C and is open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for first break only. Details on how to order and the current menu can be found on [our website](#).

BIRTHDAYS AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS

Everyone loves a birthday and other special celebrations, as these are wonderful ways to build understanding about each other. We have found that cupcakes or ice blocks are the most ideal and fair way for children to share their special event with their friends. Keeping in mind allergies, if you wish to send along cupcakes or ice blocks to share, please check with the teacher.

COMMUNICATION

Messages

Please check your child's classroom pocket regularly to keep in touch with the children's activities, items of interest and generally, what's happening at school. Newsletters are emailed fortnightly, informing you about events happening in and around the school community. Additional information can also be accessed through the school's [website](#) or [Facebook page](#).

Sharing information

Events in family life, such as illness, new babies and visitors can be a prime source of excitement or concern for young children, and so affect their behaviour at home and/or at school. It is important for us both to share information that may affect your child, and we would appreciate it if parents would inform us of any unusual happenings of this nature. Please feel free to discuss any problems or queries with your teacher that you may have about your child's progress, the school or the program. We look forward to working with you and your child in building a supportive partnership.

ABSENCES

If your student will be absent, please notify the office no later than **8.45am** via:

- QParents
- Email absentees@jamboreeheightsss.eq.edu.au
- Phone 3725 5666, press 1

If no notification has been received and a student is absent, parents will be notified by SMS at approximately 10:00am. We ask you to respond to this message stating the reason for their absence.

If your child needs to leave early, please sign them out at the school office before collecting them from the classroom.

ACCIDENT/ILLNESS

We recommend that you keep your child at home if they are unwell. A sick child is happier and better cared for at home rather than at school, where they may feel uncomfortable and risk spreading germs to other children. Exclusion

periods for infections conditions can be found in the [Time Out poster](#).

In case of accident or sudden illness, every effort is made to contact parents. The school reserves the right to seek immediate medical aid for a child if this is considered necessary. This will most likely take the form of an ambulance being summoned. Please ensure all phone numbers, emergency contacts and custody arrangements are kept up to date at school.

SUN SAFETY POLICY

The outdoor learning environment is perfect for children to explore their gross motor skills, e.g. running, climbing and hopping. It also promotes body strength, balance, coordination, and supports growth in thinking processes and social learning.

We are very conscious of sun safety at our school and recommend that you apply sunscreen prior to your child's arrival at school. Children must have their own hat to wear. Additional sunscreen will need to be applied during the day. We recommend a roll-on sunscreen be kept in their school bag for this purpose.

Our school rule is "**NO HAT, NO PLAY**". Prep students have a red legionnaire style hat for easy identification.

MEDICATION

All medications you provide for the school to administer to your child must be prescribed by a qualified health professional e.g. doctor, dentist, optometrist. All medicines are kept securely in the office. Information on administering medication at school can be found on our website's [Medical page](#).

EXCURSIONS/INCURSIONS

Throughout the year there will be additional educational experiences that will involve a change from the normal school day routine. We will let you know in advance when these days are planned. There will also be visitors who are invited to support our program at various times throughout the year. These experiences will involve a small cost, which will be invoiced to you. Payment in full by the due date is required to ensure participation.

TREASURES FROM HOME

Toys and trinkets from home very often become lost or broken at school, so it saves a lot of time and heartache if these are left at home. Any toys that find their way to school will be cared for by the teacher until the end of the day.

PARENTS IN THE PREP CLASS

As parents, you play a vital role in the education of your children and therefore, we welcome you to become involved in our classroom.

You can help by:

- Visiting the classroom and joining in the program. Once children are settled, parents are invited to visit and assist in the classroom through a roster.
- Offering to share hobbies, interests and any special expertise
- Discussing any problems or concerns with the teachers

Please feel free to discuss any problems or queries that you may have about your child's progress, the school or the program with your child's teacher. We look forward to working with your child and yourself in building a supportive partnership.

We hope you will have an enjoyable and rewarding year with us. We look forward to working closely with you to ensure the best possible start in education for your child. We are excited about sharing a happy and productive first year of schooling together.