Prep Information
2017

Our Learning Place
Our Growing Space
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**Date to Note In Your Diary:**

- First day of school - Monday 23rd January, 2017
- Australia Day holiday – Thursday 26th January, 2017

**Items to Purchase**

- Lunch Box- Plastic/Not insulated
- Water Bottle
- School Bag- Standard size
- Uniform –Including black shoes, Wamuran State School hat and jumper
Welcome to Wamuran State School Prep.

This booklet contains information that is specific to the Prep year. It should be read in addition to the Wamuran State School Information Handbook.

Our vision

Our Learning Place - Our Growing Space

Our values

At Wamuran State School we value:

- Caring for self, others and the environment
- The feeling of belonging
- Love of learning
- Success at all stages

Communication

We encourage you to maintain regular contact with your child’s teacher.

Telephone contact-
Absence line – 5429 9460 Leave a message: 24 hours a day/7 days a week
School office – 5429 9444 – Messages will be passed on to staff.

Email:
admin@wamuranss.eq.edu.au

Website:
www.wamuranss.eq.edu.au

Keep up to date with our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/WamuranSS
Arrivals and Departures

Prep classes begin at 8.50am and finish at 3.00pm.

On arrival at school, all students should sit in their class line. The first bell is at 8.50am when they will be escorted to class by their teacher. Parents are welcome to wait with their child. There is no supervision before 8.30am. Students arriving before 8.30am should use before school care, WOOSHC.
Please encourage your child to be responsible for carrying and organising his/her belongings on arrival each day.
All Prep students will be escorted to the plaza area at 3.00pm. Prep students should be collected by a responsible adult known to us. Please let us know if you want your child to wait for car pick up.
Please inform the school if you arrange for someone else to collect your child or if you are going to be late.
If requested, students will also be escorted to bus lines.
Students arriving at school after 9am should report to the office for a late note. Please ring the school absent line if your child is absent. Phone-5429 9460

Wamuran before and after school care is provided by WOOSHC
(Subject to vacancies/Fees apply) Phone- 0405 419 959
If you need to collect your child before 3.00pm please sign them out at the office and then proceed to the classroom to collect your child. Class teachers display a Where Are We Chart near their door to indicate where the class can be located if the classroom is vacant.

Children’s Requirements

Wamuran State School uniform is compulsory.
Each day children need to bring the following items to Prep
  o A school bag
  o A water bottle filled with water only- for class room use. No juice or cordial.
  o A piece of fresh fruit or vegetable for healthy snack time (9.30 - 9.45)
  o A nutritious lunch and afternoon tea. These should be stored in a simple, standard lunch box – not the padded style. As we have limited fridge space, only essential items may be stored in the Prep fridge. Healthy lunch suggestions are provided on page 10 of this booklet
  o A school hat- purchased from the uniform shop
  o A spare set of clothes kept in your child’s bag in case of accidents- optional
  o School uniform polar fleece jumper
Please clearly name all items!
The Prep Program

Prep is an exciting year when children are introduced to school life while learning in the friendly and supportive Prep environment. Throughout the year students are gradually immersed into school life through participation in activities such as parade, sports day, fun run, library lessons, music lessons, PE lessons, swimming, Life Education, book week, gymnastics and Year One transition activities. Prep students learn through active learning processes as they prepare for more formal learning. The Prep day follows a regular routine however it remains flexible to students’ needs and interests.

Wamuran Prep uses the **Early Years Curriculum Guidelines** that incorporate the following:
- supporting play as a context for learning
- understanding each child as an individual
- developing supportive partnerships
- providing flexible learning environments
- assisting children in exploring the world around them and the ways in which they learn

**At Prep your child will learn in a variety of contexts:**

**Play**- such as organised games, imaginative play, manipulative play, physical play, exploratory play

**Real life situations**- such as excursions, incursions, visitors, sports day.

**Investigations**- such as observing and researching an insect from the garden

**Routines and transitions**- such as lunch, tidy up time and transition games

**Focused teaching and learning**- such as story time, discussion time or small group and individual teaching time

At Wamuran we implement the **Australian Curriculum** and Prep students work through a unit each term for literacy, numeracy, science, geography, history and health. Prep students participate in daily literacy and numeracy experiences. Learning occurs in both small and large groups. Once the Preps have settled in, we welcome parent help to assist with small groups.
Language learning and literacy
Prep students develop oral language skills through daily activities and interactions. They learn to follow instructions and express their ideas developing their vocabulary, grammar and an understanding of language which is the foundation of early literacy. The Rose-Blank questions in the back of this booklet will assist you to develop your child’s language.

Using the Getting Reading Right program, Prep students are taught phonemes (the sounds that letters represent). They segment these phonemes to spell and blend phonemes to read simple words. Prep students also learn to recognise “sight” words and develop their understanding of written language such as rhyming words, punctuation, using picture information and sentence structure. They use this information to read and comprehend short predictable texts. The Preps are exposed to a variety of stories including stories from other cultures. They discuss features such as characters and settings. They are encouraged to form opinions and innovate on ideas. We also use the ABC Reading Eggs program at Wamuran State School. Prep students are encouraged to communicate their ideas through drawing and to use their developing knowledge of letters and familiar words to write. They learn to hold their pencil correctly, form letters and spell simple words. By the end of the year Prep students are expected to independently write 2-3 sentences using punctuation.

Early mathematical understandings- Numeracy
Prep maths focuses on several concepts including numbers to 20 (counting and writing), patterning, sequencing events, 2D and 3D shapes (naming and describing), adding small groups, sharing equally, comparing length, capacity and weight and sorting. We also offer the Mathletics program at Wamuran State School.

Science
Prep students learn about the world through weekly science lessons. They learn about topics such as the needs of living things, materials and properties, how the weather affects us and how things move.

History
Prep students learn about personal and family histories. They explore family histories by posing questions and investigating how stories of the past can be told and shared.

Geography
Prep students investigate what places are like, what makes a place special and how we can care for places.

Health
Prep students learn about emotions and feelings, making safe and healthy choices and interacting positively with others. They participate in activities that develop gross and fine motor skills.
Other Early Learning Areas:

Social and personal learning - Opportunities to develop social skills are provided daily through everyday routines and experiences.

Active learning processes - Thinking, investigating, imagining and responding.

The Prep students engage in weekly investigations when they independently explore a range of areas. This assists the development of social skills, oral language and the consolidation of new and prior learning experiences.

Homework

Prep students are introduced to homework in term one. They practise phonemes (letter sounds) and sight words. Home reading is introduced as the year progresses. Learning to read requires consistency between home and school and the individual support that home can provide is invaluable. Students thrive with parental support and encouragement.

Support services

Prep students may also access speech, guidance, behaviour and chaplaincy services if required. Please discuss any concerns with your child’s class teacher.

Hand Writing

When your child is writing his/her name, please use the correct beginner’s alphabet provided at the back of this booklet. Use a capital for the first letter only and lower case for the others. Please encourage correct pencil grip as well. This script should also be used when modelling writing for your child.

Behaviour

Wamuran Prep students are taught the Wamuran State School Rules - Be Positive, Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Safe. We foster skills such as getting along, confidence, organisation, persistence and emotional resilience.

Prep Folios and Reports

During the year the Prep teachers develop a folio for each student. This folio is a record of development and learning throughout the year. Parent/teacher interviews will be offered throughout the year to discuss your child’s progress; however you are welcome to request an interview at any time. Parents will receive a report card at the end of each semester and a folio of work samples at the end of the year.
Family Participation

Families play an important and valued role in the education of their child. You can become involved in Prep by:

- Asking the teacher about helping regularly with activities, play or preparation of materials.
- Visiting the class room - See what the students are learning, view the work on display or your child’s work folio.
- Attending parade, class meetings, parents/ teacher interviews, parent information sessions and special events.
- Volunteering in the Tuckshop, market stall and Children’s Community Carnival stalls.

Parent Responsibility

- Homework – Sight word lists, phonemes and home reading books.
- Reading notices - Your child will be issued with a plastic folder to keep newsletters and diaries safe in their bag. Please be sure that the contents are read daily and the folder is returned daily to school.
- Returning permission forms and payments promptly - Please enclose all money in an envelope and label clearly. These items can be returned to school in the plastic folder for safe keeping. Due dates will be adhered to – please ensure your child does not miss out on activities.
- Sharing information and discussing any concerns with your child’s teacher.
- Sharing skills - playing a musical instrument, cooking, craft etc.
- Encouraging your child to be independent and positive at Prep.

Additional ways to support the Prep classes

- Collecting recyclable materials - A list of suggestions is provided in this booklet on page 9.

Consumables levy

A booklist is not requested for students attending Wamuran Prep, however there is a Prep consumables levy of $120 per child. As young children learn best through hands on experiences, many consumable items are needed on a daily basis e.g. play dough, stationery, art and craft materials. The levy is also used to provide each student with personal items such as scrapbooks and folders. The levy does not cover the cost of special activities such as excursions, swimming program, gymnastics and Life Education. You will be informed of these events as they occur throughout the year.
Birthdays

Students are welcome to bring a cake or patty cakes to celebrate their birthday at Prep. Please discuss a suitable time with the class teacher as occasionally school activities clash with birthday celebrations. Please hand out private party invitations discretely to avoid disappointing children that are not invited.

Tuckshop

Prep students may order tuckshop, however they will not be able to purchase ice blocks or other over the counter items. Each class has a box for tuckshop orders. Tuckshop days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Hot food should be ordered for lunch only.

Treasures from Home

It would be appreciated if toys brought from home were limited to those received on a special occasion e.g. Birthday, as they may be lost or broken and can be distracting at Prep. If your child has special items of interest or news please see the teacher.

Health and Medication

Please refer to the Wamuran State School Hand book for these policies. Please note- Sunscreen should be applied at home.

Personal Information

It is important that you inform the school of any changes to your contact details (phone numbers and address) so that you can be notified in case of illness or emergencies. This is a condition of enrolment.

We look forward to sharing a fun and rewarding year with you and your child at Wamuran Prep.
Recycling Materials for Prep

Children develop creativity and problem solving skills when they design and create from recycled materials. We welcome you support by saving the following items for use in the prep program.

**Dress up props**
- Hats
- Jewellery
- Baby clothes and blankets
- Ballet costumes
- Dresses
- Shirts and ties
- Handbags and purses
- Scarves
- Flat heeled/ pretty shoes
- Kitchen utensils
- Old cameras

**Boxes**
- Boxes of all sizes
- Cardboard cylinders

**Containers**
- Ice- cream
- Yogurt
- Margarine
- Chinese take away
- Plastic jars

**Other useful items**
- Lace
- Ribbons
- Sequins
- Trimmings
- Material scraps
- Buttons
- Feathers
- Wool
- String
- Straws
- Pop sticks
- Corks
- Pine wood off cuts
- Sandpaper
- Vinyl scraps
- Bottle tops

**Paper**
- Computer paper
- Magazines
- Cardboard
- Wall paper
- Used greeting cards
- Wrapping paper
- Cellophane
- Crepe paper
- Foil
- Chocolate wrappers

In fact we can use almost anything at Prep!

Please do not send items that are difficult to clean such as milk/ juice and washing powder cartons. For safety reasons we do not use Styrofoam. Please give all donations of recycled materials to the teacher or teacher aide for sorting.
Planning interesting school lunches can be difficult. The following are some suggestions and ideas for you.

- Fresh fruit- Apples, bananas, apricots, berries, cherries, oranges, grapes, pears, peaches, pineapple, plums, rock melon, strawberries. Prevent pre-cut fruit from browning by dipping it in orange or lemon juice.
- Fresh fruit salad.
- Hard boiled egg
- Sandwiches- egg, cheese, chicken/ cold meat, tuna, salad
- Wraps
- Salad- tossed, coleslaw, pasta, egg, avocado, cold meat.
- Raw vegies- carrot sticks, celery sticks, lettuce, spinach leaves, beans, snow peas, cauliflower florets, cucumber sticks, cherry tomatoes.
- Cheese and crackers.
- Dried fruit or seeds- sultanas, raisins, apricots, apple, banana, prunes, peaches, pears, pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds
- Scones
- Muffins
- French sticks
- Crisp breads
- Pikelets
- Yogurt
- Custard
- Raisin bread
- Weetbix
- Plain popcorn
- Puree fruit
- Preserved fruit
- Rice pudding
- Baked beans
- Fried rice
- Plain biscuits
- Milk

Notes-

Please avoid nuts.

Please transfer the contents of tinned foods to a safer plastic container.

Please provide a plastic spoon if your child needs one.

Please note that we are not able to heat food for the children.
Lunch box food should be presented in a way that allows your child to be as independent as possible e.g. cut and placed in manageable containers or wrapping. Children benefit from practising opening their lunch box and containers prior to the commencement of their Prep year.

**Fresh food** is often cheaper and has more nutritional value than processed and packaged items. Foods which should be limited are those containing excessive amounts of fat, sugar and food additives such as dough, nuts, sticky cakes, cookies, muesli bars, processed fruit sticks, flavoured yogurt/custard and pastries. Prep is a wonderful opportunity to teach children to make healthy eating choices. Wamuran Prep students will be encouraged to eat the fresh items in their lunch box first i.e. sandwiches, salad, fruit. School is not the venue for eating lollies, chocolates or soft drink.