GET SET FOR PREP AT FREESTONE

Very soon, your child will be commencing Prep at Freestone State School. To ensure that both you and your child have a stress-free start, here is some information that you might find useful.

THE STAFF

A qualified teacher and teacher aide supervise the multi-age class which caters for students from Prep to Year 3. They are responsible for the curriculum, organisation and running of the class as a whole. At times, Prep students work with a teacher aide to develop a negotiated learning plan for the day.

Current Staff (Subject to Change)

Teachers
😊 Mrs Laura Watson
😊 Miss Jacinta Allen
😊 Ms Jennifer Lane

Teacher Aides
😊 Mrs Annette Sinden
😊 Mrs Marguerite Walsh
😊 Mrs Lynn-Marie Cremasco
😊 Mrs Marie Gould
WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL NEED FOR PREP

✧ All the items on the Prep Book List.

✧ A royal blue broad-brimmed school hat available from the school.

✧ A lunch box with a small piece of fruit for our mid-morning fruit break (e.g. cut watermelon, grapes, carrot sticks, small apples, cherry tomatoes). Please pack food for lunch break and also afternoon tea. Students on the late bus run must bring a snack to eat after school.

✧ Tuckshop is offered on a Friday and orders must be placed by Thursday. Tuckshop forms are sent home at the beginning of the week with the eldest sibling.

✧ A school bag big enough to hold a lunch box, a library bag on borrowing day and a jumper.

✧ Two spare sets of clothes and underwear (in a named plastic bag). These are kept at school. A reminder will be sent home for replacement sets. In winter, we request a warm change of clothing.

Names and labels:

As young children often do not recognise their own belongings, we cannot emphasise enough the need to label absolutely everything – bags, shoes, lunchboxes, hats, library bags and clothing.
WHAT YOUR CHILD WEARS AT PREP

We encourage Prep students to wear the school’s uniform. Boys are to wear royal blue shorts and girls are required to wear either royal blue skirts (with navy blue bike pants) or skorts. The preferred footwear is socks and joggers with velcro straps, although laces are acceptable. White socks should be worn on formal occasions. Please note that new style uniform shirts are available from Lowe’s. Older style red shirts are still available for purchase through the school.

We are very conscious of sun safety at our school and recommend that you apply sunscreen prior to your child’s arrival. Children are encouraged to wear the school’s wide-brimmed hat. Regular caps are not an option.

HOURS OF OPERATION

School will be operating five days a week starting at 8:50 am and finishing at 3:00 pm.

Students travelling by bus are supervised in the Year 4-7 room until 8:30 am. After this, students move outside to play until 8:50 am when classes commence.

Doors will open from approximately 8:30 am. This provides an opportunity for teachers and parents to communicate and develop partnerships for a successful transition to school.
ARRIVAL PROCEDURE

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:

On arrival, the student will put their bag on the port rack outside the P-3 room.

Place his/her hat on top of their bag.

If it is before 8:30 am; the student will go to the Yr 4-7 room.

If it is after 8:30 am; the student will put their bag away, put on their hat and join others in the playground until 8:50 am.

At 8:50 am; follow the teacher/staff directions and move to the undercover area for parade.

COLLECTION TIME

At 3:00 pm students can be collected by a parent, caregiver or an older sibling. Students will not be allowed to leave until the teacher sights the person collecting the child. A teacher or teacher aide will supervise bus runs.
PUNCTUALITY

The Prep program starts promptly at 8:50 am so please ensure that your child is at school on time. This way, your child does not miss out on any valuable group learning experiences.

When the Prep day finishes please make sure that whoever is collecting your child is here on time. A child quickly becomes distressed when it is time to go and no-one is here to collect him/her.

In addition, teachers may have meetings to attend, bus duty, etc. and cannot always be there to supervise.

PREP OPEN MORNING/SESSIONS

The Prep Open morning is usually held in Term 3, with the possibility of further sessions in Term 4. During the interview session at the Prep Open morning, you will be able to discuss any specific issues concerning your child. Please be mindful that if you need longer than a few minutes, an appointment should be made with the Principal.

THE FIRST FULL DAY OF PREP IS:

Tuesday, 28 January 2014

WHAT DO WE DO?

Arrive at school at approximately 8:30 am and go to the P-3 classroom.
Help your child to find his/her name at the Prep tables and assist your child to put on his/her name tag. You may sit with your child until the teacher indicates it is time to start. Say your goodbyes and reassure your child that you will be coming back to get him/her in the afternoon.

It is best to cheerfully say goodbye and quickly leave rather than dragging out the parting process. As soon as the parents have left, the students will be settled with a story or a song. The teacher or teacher aide will support your child and let you know if he/she does not settle.

MORE BITS AND PIECES TO REMEMBER

Open Door Policy

Our door is always open and we encourage parent participation in all aspects of our program. Parents are most welcome at any time. This will give you the opportunity to work with your child, meet his/her friends and gain an insight into the daily activities.

We are always happy to discuss any matters regarding your child in Preparatory Year. This can often be done informally before or after class but we may need to make an appointment for a mutually suitable time.

Sharing Information

Events in family life, such as a major illness; visits by grandparents or other relatives; an accident or death of
relatives, friends or pets can impact greatly upon children and may markedly affect their behaviour.

It is important for home and Prep to share information which may affect your child. We would be most grateful if parents would inform the teacher of any unusual happenings.

**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 in the office or classroom until the end of the day. Staff cannot assume responsibility for any loss or breakage. Parents will be notified of “show and tell” days.

**Birthdays and Other Celebrations**

Birthdays and other special celebrations are wonderful ways to build relationships with one another. From past experience, we have found that patty cakes are more practical to share than large birthday cakes. However, whichever you choose, please ensure there is enough for everyone in the P-3 group.

**Parent Help**

Parents are encouraged to contribute to the Prep program. Once the children have settled at Prep, all parents are welcome to help. Grandparents and other relatives are also welcome to
visit but need to be aware that a Blue Card will be required of any helpers who are not parents of a Prep student. Parents can also assist by taking small tasks to perform at home such as cutting up materials or making play dough. The Prep teacher will put up a parent roster once they feel the children have settled and routines have been established. Parents are asked to please sign the Visitors/Voluntary Helpers Book in the foyer/office.

Lost Property

Please make regular checks of the lost property box located in the foyer/office area.

Excursions

From time to time during the year, we will organise tours of educational interest for the children. Written permission from parents will be necessary before a child may participate in any such outing.

At times the school may request parent helpers. Please contact the school for details.

Early Years Curriculum

Freestone Early Years Curriculum Guidelines 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.
The five learning areas in the curriculum are:

- Social and Personal Learning.
- Health and Physical Learning.
- Language Learning and Communication.
- Early Mathematical Understanding.
- Active Learning Processes.

Children come to Prep with different experiences, interests and learning needs. We plan programs that aim to promote the achievement of every student.

At the beginning of the year as children settle into school life, play forms an integral part in their learning. As the year progresses, there is greater emphasis on focused teaching and learning as the students continue to develop and move towards Year 1. The Australian Curriculum will guide the content to be taught and achievement standards expected of the students in Prep.

NOTES:

We hope to see you in our Prep classroom.
FOOD FOR HUNGRY KIDS

Please consider carefully the foods you include in your child’s lunchbox. We encourage children to make healthy choices; to eat first and leave the ‘treats’ for later. Containers need to be easy to open, food should not need reheating or cutting up and spoons need to be included so that your child can independently manage their food. A fridge is available in the classroom for lunchboxes.

Suitable Healthy Choices:

😊 Bread – sandwiches, rolls, French sticks, pita or lavish bread

😊 Crackers – Rice, Ryvita, Sao, Salada

😊 Savoury biscuits

😊 Cheese/salad/olives

😊 Salami/meat

😊 Vegetables – carrot sticks, beans, capsicum

😊 Baked beans (in a container they can open)

😊 Boiled eggs

😊 Fruit – fresh, dried or canned

😊 Natural popcorn

😊 Yoghurt/milk
😊 Custard (not flavoured)

😊 Buns – plain or fruit

😊 Leftovers

😊 Cereal or nuts (subject to change)

😊 Tuna (in a container they can open)

😊 Muesli bars (preferably not chocolate)

Unsuitable Food for Lunches:

😊 Chips or lollies not recommended
   (Maximum one packet of chips per day)

😊 Cakes with lots of icing or cream

😊 Chocolate or chocolate flavoured or chocolate coated foods

😊 Roll-ups

😊 Soft drink
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