Preparatory Year Information Booklet

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Rewarded for Effort

Currumbin Valley State School

Preparatory Year Information Booklet

Reward for Effort

Currumbin Valley State School
Calendar of Events

Holidays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resume</td>
<td>23 January</td>
<td>22 January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter</td>
<td>3 Apr – 17 Apr</td>
<td>1 Apr – 17 Apr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter</td>
<td>26 Jun – 8 Jul</td>
<td>24 Jun – 9 Jul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>18 Sept – 4 Oct</td>
<td>16 Sept – 2 Oct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>11 December</td>
<td>9 December</td>
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</tbody>
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Term dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>23 Jan – 31 Mar (10wks)</td>
<td>22 Jan – 29 Mar (10wks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>18 Apr – 23 Jun (10wks)</td>
<td>16 Apr – 29 Jun (11wks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>10 Jul – 15 Sept (10wks)</td>
<td>16 Jul – 21 Sept (10wks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>3 Oct – 8 Dec (10wks)</td>
<td>8 Oct – 14 Dec (10wks)</td>
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Pupil Free Days for 2017

19, 20 January; 3, 4, 5 April; 16 October

Please note these are professional development days for staff and no students should be sent to school on these dates.

Public holidays in Queensland in 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Year’s Day</td>
<td>Monday 2 January</td>
<td>2 January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia Day</td>
<td>Thursday 26 January</td>
<td>26 January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>Friday 14 April</td>
<td>14 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Saturday</td>
<td>Saturday 15 April</td>
<td>15 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
<td>Monday 17 April</td>
<td>17 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANZAC Day</td>
<td>Tuesday 25 April</td>
<td>25 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labour Day</td>
<td>Monday 1 May</td>
<td>1 May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen’s birthday</td>
<td>Monday 2 October</td>
<td>2 October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gold Coast Show Day</td>
<td>Friday 29 August</td>
<td>29 August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
<td>Monday 25 December</td>
<td>25 December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boxing Day</td>
<td>Tuesday 26 December</td>
<td>26 December</td>
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</tbody>
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Bell times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prior to 8:30am</td>
<td>Students must sit in the undercover area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>Students can play under cover and around buildings in appropriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:55am</td>
<td>First bell: assemble for parade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 11:00am</td>
<td>Morning session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 – 11:15am</td>
<td>Morning tea: eating time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15 – 11:30am</td>
<td>Morning tea: play time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 – 1:00pm</td>
<td>Middle session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 – 1:15pm</td>
<td>Lunch: eating time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15 – 1:45pm</td>
<td>Lunch: play time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45 – 3:00pm</td>
<td>Afternoon session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>End of school day</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Students should not be at school prior to 8:00am.
Welcome

We would like to warmly welcome all children and parents to Prep for 2017. To your child, Prep will be a whole new world full of exciting things to do. Here your child will find new friends to share experiences with as well as staff who are committed to creating a supportive environment that promotes educational and social learning.

About Prep

Prep was introduced into Queensland schools in 2007. Prep is the first year of schooling and is a full-time program. Children attend from Monday to Friday during normal school hours.

Children must be aged 5 by 30 June in the year they start Prep.

Prep is the start of the early stage of learning which continues until Year 2. Prep is a part of the whole school.

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;
♦ a positive approach to learning;
♦ independence and confidence;
♦ creativity and problem solving skills; and
♦ 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.

Goals of 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; and
♦ 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; and
♦ music and movement.
What does Prep look like at Currumbin Valley?

This booklet can be used before and during the year your child starts Prep and should be used in conjunction with the school’s Parent Handbook.

Prep students will be involved in the life of the whole school:

♦ Attending parades
♦ Sharing the same
  o Eating area
  o Drinking and toileting facilities
  o Play areas
  o Break times
  o Variety of whole school activities
  o Extra curricula activities

Older children within the school are encouraged to assist Prep student adapt to life in the whole school community.

Prep staff

Mrs. Helen McCabe and Mrs. Jayne Ahmat will continue as the classroom teachers, working alternate weeks.

Mrs. Helen has been the Prep Teacher at Currumbin Valley for many years and is an experienced and passionate early years teacher. Mrs. Jayne took up the teaching role alongside Mrs. Helen in 2016 and shares the same passion and vision for learning.

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential to your child’s progress. Please give the office a call or send an email if your child is going to be absent or send a note with your child on their return to school. It is important that you notify us of long absences in advance. Absences of 10 days or more are required to be approved by the Principal.

Every day counts.

Learning

The Prep curriculum has been guided by the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Agenda.

Our classroom has been designed to be fun and to offer challenges for children through play based and structured learning activities. Planning incorporates teacher and child initiated tasks.

Five key early learning areas explore what children learn:

  Social and personal learning
  Health and personal learning
  Language learning and communication
  Early mathematical understandings
  Active learning processes

Five contexts for learning:

  Play
Real life situation
Routines and transitions
Appropriate focussed learning situations
Investigations

Reporting and Assessment

Report cards are used as the basis for discussion during the parent teacher interviews offered at the end of term. However, if you would like to discuss your child, their learning and goals please contact the class teacher to arrange a suitable time.

The school curriculum is based on eight key learning areas (KLAs) that have been mandated. Information of all of the KLAs is available from ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority).

The learning areas may include more than one subject:

- English;
- Mathematics;
- Science;
- Humanities (History, Geography, Economics and Business, Civics and Citizenship);
- The Arts (Drama, Dance, Media, Music and Visual Arts);
- Technologies;
- Health and Physical Education

The first vital weeks

It is important that children settle into school as quickly as possible. Some children and parents will naturally experience some separation anxieties at this time. Experience shows that it is best for parents to leave after 5 – 10 minutes to allow children to develop a relationship with other students and teachers. You are welcome to telephone the office during the day to check on your child’s progress, if you are concerned.

We encourage you to become actively involved in your child’s education by:

- visiting school and joining in the class program. Please organise an appropriate time with the class teacher prior to arrival;
- discussing any problems or issues with teaching staff;
- reading the noticeboard and newsletters;
- supporting the student group;
- collecting recyclable materials (notes will be sent home indicating the items we need);
- sharing your interests and hobbies with us; and
- supporting and encouraging your child in his / her work.

Parents may like to volunteer to:

- come into school and help with activities;
- cut up or draw up activities at home; and
- make resources or help to set up the classroom in the mornings or afternoons.

Important Information:

- Be prepared the night before so that your morning runs smoothly.
- Make sure your child is well rested (at least 10 hours sleep each night).
- Make sure your child has a substantial breakfast before coming to school.
- Initially, Prep staff will be in classrooms to welcome you and your child at 8.30am. Over time, the students will be well versed in their morning routine and won’t need constant supervision.
- Prep students will be supervised at all breaks for the first few days.
Encourage your child to use school toilets and ask for help if required.
Ensure that the first day of Prep is not the first time your child has been away from you.
Organise times for them to be left with family or friends.
Ensure your child can communicate their needs and feelings.

Drop off

Children should carry their own bags and belongings and be responsible for unpacking these.

During the first week, parents are welcome to stay until healthy snack time (9:30am) when you will be asked to head home.

After the first week of school, parents are asked to say their goodbyes before or when the bell rings so that their child can follow the routine and transition of the school day, starting with a brief parade.

Pick up

Prior to bell time the class teacher will organise the Prep students to clean up and pack up their belongings. The students will move orderly to the undercover area where they can be collected by a parent/carer. Students are not permitted to move off independently.

Parents, we insist that you wait in the undercover area for your child and not in front of the classroom windows.

After being dismissed from the undercover area, parents are then able to come inside and celebrate the day’s learning and successes or discuss items with the class teacher.

Parent involvement

Parents are encouraged to take an active interest in:
* their child’s learning experiences, growth and development;
* the classroom program;
* whole school activities and functions; and
* P&C activities and meetings.

We would appreciate parents sharing information which can assist a child’s learning.

Teachers will reciprocate with sharing information obtained from their child’s time at school.

Please discuss with the classroom teacher any areas of school life that you would like to be involved in and negotiate appropriate times to assist with classroom learning. From time to time requests may be made for parent assistance. Your participation in programs is valued as it helps us to provide better educational outcomes for your children.

Confidentiality and Code of Conduct

As a parent volunteer and helper you are governed by the rules of confidentiality and code of conduct to ensure:
* safety of students is paramount;
* a safe and respectful learning environment;
* modelling of good behaviour;
* positive relationships are built and maintained; and
* maximum student participation.
Parents are requested to respect confidentiality and not discuss the learning and abilities of children outside of the classroom.

**Visitor’s register**

Please sign this register located in the office, if you are at the school for any activities other than “dropping off” your child at school each day.

**Communication**

Please don’t hesitate to discuss with us any queries you have regarding your child’s education as the year unfolds. Any concerns should be directed towards teaching staff.

Communication from the school will take the form of:
- face to face discussions between teachers and caregivers;
- school newsletters;
- class communications;
- P&C notes;
- phone calls as required;
- email; and
- SMS (text messaging).

**Illness**

As most parents are aware, it is best to keep your child home when they are ill. This will ensure your child recovers fully from their illness as well as preventing the spread of illness towards other children in the class.

Remember to notify the school of the reason for any absences. A phone call, note, email or personal communication with the teacher or administration staff are all accepted.

If children become ill throughout the day they will be taken to the office where they can rest quietly while a parent is notified to come and collect them.

Some contagious diseases require a specific amount of time away from school. If your child has a contagious disease please inform the school immediately.

**School Uniform**

The wearing of the Currumbin Valley State School uniform is compulsory.

A high standard of uniform and presentation has been identified as being important to our community and we appreciate your support.

The P&C of Currumbin Valley State School resolves that it does support a student dress code for Currumbin Valley State School because it believes that a student dress code at Currumbin Valley State School promotes objectives of Education (General Provisions) Bill 2006.

In particular, the P&C of Currumbin Valley supports the intention of a student dress code in providing a safe and supportive teaching and learning environment.

The school uniform for Prep to Year 6 is as follows:

**Boys**
- Currumbin Valley State School red and blue polo shirt
- plain navy blue bottoms (eg. shorts)
- Currumbin Valley State School hat

**Girls**
- Currumbin Valley State School red and blue polo shirt
• Plain navy blue bottoms (e.g. shorts, skirts or skorts)
• Formal CVSS checked dress
• Currumbin Valley State School hat

Winter – both boys and girls
• A plain red or navy jumper
• Plain navy tracksuit/pants
• Blue tights/leggings

Additional items
• White or sport socks (short/ ankle length) and fully enclosed sand shoes (ankle height) (Scuffs or sandals are not acceptable)
• Year 6 students are permitted to wear their senior shirt on school days during which they are not representing the school at internal or external events (such as sports days and excursions)
• Plain red (Cougals) or plain blue (Talganda) shirt to represent sporting houses to be worn on school and interschool sports days only

Sun safety policy
We are very conscious of sun safety at our school and recommend that you apply sunscreen prior to your child’s arrival at school. The school also has sunscreen which you are welcome to use.

All children must have their own hat to wear. The school has endorsed the wearing of the school hat as part of the Dress Code. Hats can be purchased through the uniform shop.

We strongly adhere to the rule: NO HAT, NO PLAY.

On free dress days, which will be advertised, all children must wear appropriate sun safety clothing.

Spare set of clothes
For term 1, it is always a good idea to leave a spare set of clothes in your child’s bag (including underwear and socks) in the case of an accident or spill at school. Your child will be assisted to clean and change themselves if you cannot be contacted to assist with this procedure. We do have shower facilities for this purpose. If any school provided clothes do go home, please wash and return to school as soon as possible, as we have limited supplies for this purpose.

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, lunch boxes, hats, library bags and clothing. This allows any lost items to quickly be returned to their rightful owners.

Money and permissions
If money or permission notes are sent to school, please ensure that any money is secured in a sealed envelope and labelled with the amount enclosed, child’s name and what the money or note is for.

Encourage your child to deliver these to the office before school. Staff will also remind students about notes and monies as required.
What to bring to school

The Prep parents are provided with the option to pay a one off Resource Levy of $180. This will ensure all students have access to quality, functional resources at the time that they are needed. This levy includes the purchase of theme craft items throughout the school year.

School Bag – the bag needs to be large enough to hold a drink bottle, lunch box, books and spare jumpers, raincoats etc. The backpack style is recommended. Please choose a bag that your child can carry and pack easily. Remember, it is their bag and therefore it is their responsibility to carry their bag.

School lunches

Healthy Snack: (10.00am)

*Fruit, vegetables or tree nuts are required for healthy snack each and every day at school. Please ensure that these are cut up and ready to eat, if required.*

Here are a few suggestions…
- Fruit- apple, banana, orange, grapes, mango, pineapple, kiwi fruit, melon, strawberries etc…
- Dried Fruit- apricots, apple, sultanas etc…
- Vegetables- carrot, beans, peas, celery, capsicum etc…
- Tree Nuts– almond, macadamia, pecan, pistachio (NO PEANUTS– due to allergies)
- Avoid yoghurt

Morning Tea: 11.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. (15 minutes eating)

Students will have approximately 15 minutes to eat their food and drink from their lunchboxes. Students are encouraged to select their food choosing healthy selections to eat first.

Lunch: 1.00 p.m. – 1.45 p.m. (15 minutes eating)

Students will eat remaining lunch items/afternoon tea before being released for play.

Hints & Tips:
- nutritious lunches are important;
- plastic containers (named) are most suitable for food. Make sure these can be easily opened by your child;
- place an icepack in lunchbag to keep food at correct temperature;
- children should take home any food that has not been eaten that day;
- pack spoons or forks if required; and
- glass containers are not appropriate to send to school.

Foods to avoid/keep to a minimum:
- foods high in saturated fats, sugars or harmful additives (chocolates, chips etc);
- fizzy soft drinks are not allowed; and
- food in tins can present safety issues. Please empty contents of tinned food into a plastic container.

Water Bottles:
- children need to have a full water bottle at school for ready access;
- do not freeze this water; and
- water does not need to be refrigerated.
Birthdays

Birthdays are a special time for children and we love to celebrate them at school. This celebration can be on the actual day or the nearest school day to their birthday.

If parents wish to provide a simple cake or patty cakes to celebrate their child’s birthday, they are more than welcome to do so. Please inform the teacher of your plans and organise an appropriate time for the celebration.

Classroom programs

Oral language presentation - We would appreciate it if toys were not brought to school.

Your child may be encouraged to bring science/nature objects, family photos/postcards etc., during times when we are researching for a particular unit.

We have a rostered session when children are only to bring in these items on their rostered day and place it on the shelf where it is to remain until it is handed out to take home at the end of the school day.

If parents wish to bring in particular items that need to be accompanied (eg. pets) they need to organise an appropriate time in advance with the class teacher. The bringing of toys, jewellery and money etc. is not acceptable.

Classroom computer programs - Preps are introduced to the ICT programs used within our school in a supportive, safe, enjoyable learning environment. These include:

♦ Reading Eggs.

Library

Children are encouraged to borrow one book from the library within their designated library lesson each week. They are to read it at home with their family and return it by the end of the week to the returns’ box.

Children are required to use their library bag to protect the books during lending period. Parents will be asked to replace books lost or damaged whilst on loan.

Mobile library

The Gold Coast City Council Mobile Library attends the school every second Thursday and is visited by children from Prep to Year 6. Library card can be issued through the Mobile Library or any branch of the Gold Coast City Council Libraries.

Applications were provided in your enrolment pack and are available from the school office.

Rest time

Rest time is not generally offered to Prep students in a multi-age context. However, children who are obviously tired will be allowed to rest in the book corner.

Support Services

Prep students can be referred to Speech Language Pathologists, special education teachers, advisory visiting teacher, guidance officers and other specialist staff if required.

Contact the school if you require these services. If Prep teachers have a concern in this area, this will be discussed with you and a referral form will be sent home for parental signature and approval. These services are free of charge.