

Starting Prep at Brunswick South-West Primary School in 2016

Before Day 1

There are many things that you can do to help your child get ready for Prep. These activities will help with building confidence.

- Visit the school over the summer holidays; play on the playground; look for birds in the garden or just walk around.
- Maybe have a picnic lunch in the school grounds, using school lunch-boxes and drink containers so that you can see that your child can comfortably open and close things.
- Practise getting to and from school, whether by car, public transport or walking.
- Don't forget locating 'drop-off' and 'pick-up' places so that your child knows where to meet you.
- Practise getting dressed for school, making sure that your child can fasten and unfasten clothes and shoes that will be worn to school.
- When shopping, have your child carry home some items in his/her school bag.

The First Day

2016 Prep students will start school at 9.30 a.m. on Monday 1st February, 2016. Prior to this a letter will be sent to parents and new students, informing them of the name of their teacher and the room number. From then on, Prep students will start at 9.00 a.m.

Parents are welcome to stay as long as they like. However, as the First Day can be a stressful time for both you and your child it is usually advisable for parents to leave quite quickly and without fuss. This allows students to settle in more quickly. Parents are invited for morning tea with a group of parents who already have children at school.

The First Month

Preps can find the transition to school tiring. Therefore we recommend Preps attend Mondays to Thursdays only, during February. If you feel that your child is exceptionally tired during First Term, particularly during the hot weather, please make arrangements to collect your child early. Please go to the Office first.

Buddy System

Your child will have an older ‘buddy’ both in the classroom and during recess and lunchtime. The courtyard area outside the Junior School classrooms provides an area for passive activities during the two break times.

What will your child need to do?

By the time children start school they should be willing and able to show that they can:

- dress and undress themselves
- recognise and take care of their own property, including clothes, bag and lunch-box
- use the toilet independently, including washing hands
- eat independently
- ask for help when it's needed.

Visits to the School

We encourage you to take an active interest in your child/ren's education. Please come and discuss any concerns that you have about your child. Arranging a meeting time in advance will ensure the teacher has time to spend with you.

Sharing Information

For your child to get the most from Brunswick South-West Primary School, it is important to share information that may have an impact on your child's day. Please let us know about any events or changes at home. This includes:

- a new baby;
- friend or relative dying;
- pet dying;
- parent being away;
- moving home;
- separation and divorce;
- custody arrangements ; and,
- sickness in family.

Information Sessions

Information sessions are held to inform parents:

- how children learn to read and write
- how support can be given at home.

Support at Home

Classroom learning can be supported by many everyday home activities. These include jigsaws, cooking from a recipe, building and very importantly, playing.

Teachers will provide students with books to take home. Please take a time each day to listen to your child read, and/or to read to your child. Maths tasks are also available for Years Prep to Two after term 1.

For More Information

For more information about your child's first year at School you may like to purchase a copy of the book 'Your Child's First Year At School: A Book For Parents'. This book is available from the School Office, or can be obtained from Early Childhood Australia. You can visit the website at:

www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/firstyear.