Welcome to Prep

Welcome to Prep at Dalby State School. Your child’s first year with us will be one filled with learning and fun.

As your child takes their next big step in their life journey and enters school, we will provide them with a caring and supportive environment that fosters and nurtures their development.

Thank you for choosing Dalby State School for your child’s education. We look forward to sharing with your family, an exciting year that will establish a sound foundation for your child’s future school years.

You’re never too young to read!

Reading Aloud:

In her book ‘Reading Magic’, Mem Fox, renowned read aloud advocate and children’s author, suggests that before children begin to read for themselves they need to hear a thousand books read aloud. She suggests three stories a day, this covers the thousand in one year alone.

When reading together:

- Sit comfortably with your baby, toddler or child.
- Let your child turn the pages.
- Read expressively. Be guided by the words on the page. Vary your voice: loud/soft, fast/slow, high/low vocal variations will help to create the mood.
- Use pauses strategically to create tension.
- Carefully choose books that sound wonderful when read aloud. Books such as ‘Big Rain Coming’ by Katrina Germein and Bronwyn Bancroft and ‘Where is the Green Sheep?’ by Mem Fox and Judy Horocek, sound magical when reading aloud.
- Encourage your child to choose books for this special read-aloud time.
- Encourage your child to join in with words or phrases that are repeated, or pause at the last word of a line that is easy to predict. Praise your child’s attempts at reading.
- Most importantly, have fun.
Every day counts in Prep

We know that your child will find their Prep year full of learning and fun. It will lay a solid foundation for their future school years. Please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher if you have any questions or concerns about your child. It is our aim to provide a caring and supportive environment that will nurture your child’s growth.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS IN PREP
MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT

The Prep Program

The Prep year will build continuity between your child’s prior experiences and their future learning at school. In Prep, the children will participate in a range of learning situations that encourage them to actively learn through their senses.

Your child will learn through the five contexts of learning:
- Routines and transitions
- Focused learning and teaching
- Investigations
- Real-life situations
- Play

The Prep program incorporates the Australian Curriculum, focusing on the areas of English, Mathematics, Science, History and Geography.

The Prep program also encourages children and teachers to work as partners in developing their learning through the early learning areas of Social and Personal Learning, Health and Physical Learning, Language Learning and Communication, Early Mathematical Understandings and Active Learning Processes.

Throughout the year, the children will take on responsibilities and become steadily more independent. They will be supported and encouraged to respect and cooperate with others and to make sensible choices about their health and safety. Their physical skills, oral language and early literacy understandings and early mathematical understandings will be developed. They will learn how to be thinkers and problem solvers while using their imagination and creativity. Their knowledge of their environment will also be enhanced.
School Times

Prep times will be the same as the school hours of Dalby State School.

8.50am Bell for Class Preparation
9.00am Bell for commencement of Class
   Morning Session
11.00am First break
11.45am Bell for Class
   Middle Session
1.15pm Second break
1.45pm Bell for Class
   Afternoon Session
3.00pm Bell for Home

Readiness for Prep

Attending Prep will be a big step for your child. Below we have listed some suggestions to assist you to help build your child's confidence with the notion of 'Going to Prep'.

- Take your child shopping to buy their school bag, lunch box, water bottle and library bag. Look for a school bag that will be big enough to carry a lunch box, spare clothes and the many wonderful things your child will produce at school. Children become frustrated trying to fit everything into a small bag.

- To help develop independence, make sure your child can open and close their bag and lunch box by themselves. Go through all your child's school belongings with them so they become familiar with them and can recognize them. Talk about what they will be used for, the colour and other distinguishing features. Clearly name all their belongings.

- Talk to your child often about the things they will do at Prep and the fun they will have. Always be positive when talking about Prep and school.
Parent Partnerships

As parents, you make a significant contribution to your child’s learning and development before and during your child’s school years. At Prep and within the whole Dalby State School community, your participation is greatly valued and appreciated. There are many ways that you may become involved in your child’s school.

Our P&C would also encourage your support and involvement in their projects throughout the year. P&C meets at 6:30pm on the second Tuesday of the month. Volunteers are also needed to help out in the Tuckshop every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

We welcome and encourage parents into our Prep classrooms. Children enjoy having their parents spend some time with them in Prep - even if it is just to read a book or do a puzzle with them in the morning before school.

We look forward to seeing you in Prep.

Prep Essentials

Your child will need a good sized school back pack, a lunch box, a water bottle, a library bag and a swimming bag. The children will need to bring their school hat on their first day. This will stay at school. Your child will be given a Communication Book on their first day. This book should be sent back to school each day. Messages, class information and letters will be sent home in the book and you can also send messages back to school via the book.

Families will also be given a list of school items to purchase for your child for the start of the school year. This list will be sent to your home in the last week of term 4 2015, along with notification as to who your child's teacher will be.

Uniforms

Dalby State School is a full uniform school. Our Uniform Store is open from 8:30-9:30am Monday to Friday. Prep children are required to wear the school uniform for safety and to develop a sense of belonging to their school. The children wear the blue polo shirt, blue shorts and blue socks, Monday to Thursday. On Friday students are required to wear their sports uniform - Polo shirt in the colour of their sport house, black shorts, house coloured socks and a school hat, which is reversible. Shoes must be black, closed in and allow for active play and comfort. Prep children are not required to have a 'formal' uniform.
**Eat Smart, Be Smart**

Our Prep program promotes good nutrition and a healthy lifestyle for the children in our care. Part of this program includes a ‘Fruit Stop’ each morning around 9.30am. Research shows that children who start the day by eating healthy foods have more energy and find it easier to concentrate throughout the day. Parents are asked to contribute a piece of fruit for our ‘Fruit Stop’ each day. We also encourage parents to supply healthy morning teas and lunches for the children.

**Tuckshop**

With the support of volunteers, the P&C operates our tuckshop on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The tuckshop is now online. You will be able to place orders and pay for them online. Login to [www.flexischools.com.au](http://www.flexischools.com.au) and register, the cut off time for ordering each day is 8:45am. Orders can still be placed using brown paper bag system and must be handed into the tuckshop in the morning before 9am.

**Swimming**

All the Prep children will also be involved in the school swimming program. There will be a cost involved to cover entrance into the pool and bus travel. You will receive more information about this during the school year.

**Library**

The best way to help your child learn to read is to foster a love of books. Each week, the Prep children will be provided with the opportunity to borrow a book from the school library. For this, the children will need a library bag to protect their book. They will then need to return their book each week in their library bag before they will be able to borrow again. Please take the time to read and enjoy this book with your child.

**Home Activities**

Now that your Prep child has begun their school journey, there will be activities that they will be asked to share with you and complete at home. These activities will develop, revise and consolidate their learning. These activities will include:

- **Sight Words** - an opportunity for students to practice the words they need to recognize to begin their reading journey.
- **Sound/Letter search** - children will find and share an object related to focused sounds and letters.
- **Read and Share** - Children will read and share a book with their family.

These are some examples of activities your Preppie will do at home. More information will be sent home in the new school year. Home activities will be a great way to share in and encourage your child’s learning.