

**Surfers Paradise
State School**



42 St Andrews Avenue, Isle of Capri Qld 4217
PO Box 94 Isle of Capri Qld 4217
☎ +617 5582 0333 Fax +617 5582 0300
www.surfparass.eq.edu.au
E-mail info@surfparass.eq.edu.au

Getting Set for Prep

2018



We are very proud to introduce you to Surfers Paradise State School. We have a great school that is committed to delivering a high quality education to all students.

Our experienced and committed staff provide quality teaching and engaging learning activities that match children's interests and developmental needs as they progress through each year level. We have high expectations of all students and we work hard to support every one of them to achieve their best. Surfers Paradise also embraces the diversity that exists within our school community. Children enrolled in the school have the opportunity to make friends with children from across the globe. We believe that every student is capable of learning and it is important that they readily experience success. We ensure that students with particular gifts, talents, interests and needs are supported through our curriculum and extra-curricular programs offered to students.

As parents, you play a major role in your child's educational development. Your positive attitude towards education, the teacher and school in general will assist in your child's enthusiasm for learning. Trusting and positive working relationships between the child, teacher and parents is vital at Surfers Paradise as this leads to greater success for our students. Building a consistent work ethic is also very important to us. We support children to develop positive classroom and playground behaviour. Our behaviour standards are very high and I am constantly impressed by the manners, attitudes and enthusiasm of our children.

Students, parents and staff find that Surfers Paradise State School has a very positive school climate where community and parental involvement is a key feature. Our P&C Association provide a great support to our school as well as opportunities for parent to contribute and get to know each other. Our children, parents and staff take pride in being part of our community and I invite new families to come and find out more about our excellent school.

We look forward to a wonderful learning journey with both you and your child in 2018.

GETTING READY FOR SCHOOL

The Getting Set for Prep booklet is designed to assist you with preparing for entry into the early years sector of our school. Additional information outlining the school philosophy and requirements can be found in our Information Handbook.

Starting school is an important time for children and their families. Children who make a positive start to school are more likely to feel:

- Comfortable, relaxed and valued
- Good about themselves as learners
- A sense of belonging to the school community



To enjoy and succeed in school, children will need personal, relationship and learning skills.

Personal skills include the ability to look after yourself and your belongings, manage your time and get tasks done and understand that particular rules and routines apply in each situation.

Relationship skills include being able to join in games, take turns, make and maintain friends and learn how to talk with less familiar adults.

Learning skills include being able to keep going with a task, knowing how to ask and answer questions, how to listen to and follow instructions and having a positive disposition or attitude towards learning new things.

Tips for parents: to build your child's personal, social and learning capacity

- ✓ Gradually ask your child to take responsibility for organising their belongings eg setting out clothes for the next day
- ✓ Give your child small, manageable responsibilities at home, such as setting the table, putting their toys away
- ✓ Talk about the different rules that apply at the pool, in the park, at the cinema and why we have rules such as wearing a seat belt in the car
- ✓ Play games as a family and remind children about rules and turn taking
- ✓ Sit with your child doing small tasks, encouraging them to persist and solve problems
- ✓ Read books and develop your child's listening skills, concentration, thinking and conversation
- ✓ Encourage your child to explore, be curious, come up with questions and investigate how things work

STARTING SCHOOL

Lunches

At Surfers Paradise State School we have three eating times. The first one is our 'Munch N Crunch' time. 'Munch N Crunch' is food that is eaten in the classroom as an addition to the main meals such as lunchtime sandwiches and recess fruit.

'Munch N Crunch' time is not a play-break. It is a time when students are encouraged to eat small amounts of brain-healthy food. Students are encouraged to bring bite size pieces of fresh vegetables and/or fruit to nibble for 'Munch N Crunch'.

First break lunch starts at 11.05am. The students have 10 minutes of eating time. Students can continue to eat their lunch even if the 'play' bell has rung. Our last lunch break starts at 1.45pm, in which the children have another 10 minutes of eating time before the 'play' bell goes.

We would appreciate if parents DO NOT send in soft drinks or cordials. Drink bottles may be brought into the classrooms providing they contain water only.

Each classroom has a fridge, which can be used to keep food fresh and cold. Please label all food that goes into the fridge, i.e. yoghurts, ham sandwiches etc. Whole lunch boxes cannot go into the fridge as they take up too much room.

Tips for parents

- ✓ The best way to get your children to eat lunch at school is to pack what you know they like; even then they maybe too excited or busy to eat all of their lunch
- ✓ Encourage them to bring home uneaten food so you can monitor whether they are getting a balanced diet and adjust their food intake at home if necessary
- ✓ Make sure that your child can open the containers and unwrap their food
- ✓ It usually works best not to make a fuss over what children eat, even if you notice that they have not eaten much of their lunch. Providing a sandwich and a piece of fruit after school is a healthy solution

Toileting

As a part of making sure your child has a successful start to prep, our Prep teachers plan for regular toilet breaks throughout the day. If your child needs to go to the toilet outside those regular break times, they will be accompanied by either a teacher aide or a buddy.

Uniforms

Our uniform shop is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 8.30am and 9.30am. It is located next to the tuckshop in the undercover area. We encourage that our full school uniform is worn every day, this includes a broad brim hat as we are a Sun Safe school.

There are options for parents to purchase good quality second hand uniforms at the uniform shop.

Attendance

Regular attendance is very important. Making sure your child has every opportunity to a successful start of school includes regular attendance. Attending school regularly not only builds on skills and content of learning outcomes, it also supports children's sense of belonging and helps them to maintain friendships.

Please make sure that your child is at school and ready to start their learning by 8.45am every day.

Sickness

If your child is unwell in the morning it is advisable to keep them at home. A child who is not feeling well cannot learn properly and may infect others. If your child is staying at home due to illness, please ring the school to advise. The **student absence phone number** is: **55 820 360** or you can email: studentabsences@surfparass.eq.edu.au

Toys

Toys or trinkets from home very often become lost or broken at school, so it saves a lot of time and heartache if they are left at home. Any toys that find their way into school will be cared for by the teachers until the end of the day. Staff cannot assume any responsibility for loss or breakages.

Please explain to your child that toys are NOT to be brought to school. Children may bring along items of interest for weekly news eg: bird's nest, shells, photos, etc to show the other children.

STARTING ON THE FIRST DAY

School will commence on **Monday 22 January 2018**.

- **8.30am** Arrive at school, allow plenty of time, be early rather than late. Our office ladies will call you prior to school starting advising of your class teacher and room. Check class lists on the prep doors. This is where you will find your child's teacher, class name and room. Come into the correct classroom and spend some time playing with the activities in the room.
- **8.50am** The classroom bell will ring; the children will join their teacher for a group story. Parents are asked to say a **quick goodbye** and leave the classroom. If your child is distressed or having separation difficulties, please seek help from our Prep staff. Remember that in this situation, the kindest way to separate is to make it short and sweet and rely on our experienced staff to settle your child into a wonderful first day at Prep.
- **9:00am** If you have the time please make your way to the library for morning tea and an opportunity to meet other new parents and a number of school staff. Please do not return to the classroom after this session, as it could trigger the children becoming upset again.
- **11.05am** First lunch break. This is the long lunch break - 40 min. Children will eat most of their lunch at this break.
- **1.45pm** Second Lunch break. This is a short break – 30 min. Children will eat remaining lunch.
- **2.55pm**. End of school day. Children are collected from inside the classroom.

SPECIAL CLASS ACTIVITIES

Swimming: Term 1 and 4

Prep swimming commences in Term 1. In this term, Preps will have a pool swim lesson once a week. Term 4 lessons will be a structured swim class. Students must wear swimmers and a wet-shirt in all lessons but should not wear swimmers to school for hygiene reasons.

PE: Weekly specialist lessons during Term 2 and 3. Term 1 and 4 will be swimming lessons.

Music: Weekly specialist lessons

Religion: Prep students do not attend religion class



Assembly: Junior Assembly is held weekly on Wednesday afternoons at 2.15pm. Preps attend assembly from week 2 and will give class presentations in either term 2, 3 or 4.

Sports Day: Prep students participate in all events at the junior athletics carnival

Celebration of Learning: During each term, parents will be invited to come to school to celebrate their child's learning

Excursions & Incursions: During the year, students may have the opportunity to participate in special school based events and outside school excursions. These events or excursion may incur additional costs. Parents are notified via a letter 4-6 weeks prior to the event.

Library: Children go to the library once a week for borrowing

Birthdays and Other Celebrations: Please be aware that there may be a child/children in the class with serious life threatening allergies. You are welcome to bring in a cake for your child to share with the class but it is important you have a discussion with the teacher before arranging celebration food. (Cupcakes are very convenient as cutting is not required.)

COMMUNICATION

Building a partnership with your child's teacher and the school helps your child settle in, supports their learning and provides a foundation for discussing anything that you may need to address.

If you have any concerning issues that you would like to address with your child's teacher, please ask them if they are able to arrange a meeting time. Sometimes, teachers are unable to provide you the answers you may require, especially at bell times when many parents and students are wanting to discuss other issues. By asking for a planned meeting time, the teacher will then ensure that there will be minimal disruptions and will be able to address your concerns with full attention.

We look forward to a wonderful year with your child in 2018!