Calliope State School

PREP

Information Booklet
2017
Welcome to Prep Year  
Calliope State School

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Thank you for choosing to enrol your child at Calliope State School for their Preparatory Year. To enrol in the Prep Year, your child needs to be turning 5 by 30th June of that year.

The early years of schooling are very special and important and we look forward to sharing many exciting learning experiences with you as we work together to provide the best possible learning opportunities for your child.

We look forward to working in partnership with you now and beyond.

Yours faithfully

Jeremy Godden  
Principal
Welcome to Prep Year at Calliope State School

We offer an educational program which aims to develop your child in all areas of their development; that is emotionally, socially, physically, intellectually and creatively.

Our School rules are to be: safe, responsible and respectful.

Arrival and Collection
To ensure the safety of your child and with respect to his/her age and need for supervision, it is recommended that Prep Year children be brought into the Prep classroom and collected from the classroom for the first term of school.

School starts at 9.10am and finishes at 3.15pm.

Break times:
Session 1: 9.10am – 11.00am
Session 2: 11.45am – 1.15am
Session 3: 1.45pm – 3.15pm

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:
- Putting their bag on the bag hook or port rack
- Placing their water bottle in the designated place
- Going to the toilet before the starting bell rings at 9.10am
- Moving to the carpeted area and waiting for the teacher

Parent / Teacher Communication
Close liaison between home and school helps your child to achieve maximum benefit from the educational opportunities offered at our school. It is important that regular contact is maintained with your child’s teacher. You can go to the classroom or phone the school on 4975 8333 to arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient time.

Parent Meetings and Interviews
- Parent / teacher afternoon is held in early Term 1
- Parent / teacher interviews are held are the end of Term 1 and upon request

Special Tips for Prep Parents
- Please include a spare set of underwear in a plastic bag to be kept in the child’s school bag at all times.
- Prep students wear the school uniform including a sun safety hat.
- Closed-in shoes must be worn. Please consider velcro or buckles until your child is able to tie their own shoelaces.
- Children are expected to independently open all lunch packages.
- No ring/pull top cans due to high risk of injury – repackage in another container.
**Parent Helpers**

Calliope SS recognises the important role that parents and carers play in the education of their children. We invite parents to become involved in Prep in the ways that best suit you. Parents are most welcome to assist in classrooms. Supervision arrangements must be made for younger children. Teachers will advise of ways you can assist during parent information sessions.

**Attendance - Every Day Counts**

Parents/carers are asked to ensure that children attend Prep every day. Research shows that if your child has a good record of attendance they are more likely to achieve high results in the future.

If your child is away please let the school know the reasons beforehand, or in writing within two (2) days of returning to school.

It is just as important to ensure that your child arrives at their classroom early enough each morning to show you some of their work / activities and then be ready to start the school day when the bell goes.

If you would like to speak to your child’s teacher, it is important that you are not arriving near or at bell time, as this is an extremely busy time for the teachers as they prepare to commence the school day. If you have any concerns that need to be discussed at length it is advisable to prearrange a suitable interview time with your child’s teacher.

**Early Years Curriculum**

Our Prep year is a new learning environment with exciting things to do, see, touch and experience. Your child will find friends to share a range of experiences with and teachers who respect them as capable and competent learners. Learning involves developing a relationship of trust. We aim to create a relaxed, secure and supportive environment where children are encouraged to investigate and explore to their individual potential.

We utilise the *Early Years Curriculum Guidelines* that incorporate the following key components of an effective early years curriculum:

**Understanding Children:**

We as teachers develop an understanding of young learners by:

- Understanding children’s prior experiences
- Understanding children’s learning
- Understanding learning and development in educational contexts
- Building understandings about children.
Partnerships:
As teachers, we build and maintain partnerships for the benefit of the children. We build partnerships with:

- Children
- Families and carers
- Communities
- Professional Colleagues

Establishing Flexible Learning Environments:
We need to take into account the different types of environments the children will learn within. These environments include:

- Physical environment: Here we are talking about the indoor and outdoor learning environments.
- Social Environment: The children and all other partners in our Prep environment are made to feel welcome, safe and respected within the indoor and outdoor environments.
- Temporal Environment: This is concerned with building a sense of security through establishing predictable routines and procedures for their classroom.

Creating Contexts for Learning and Development:
It has been identified that there are also five Contexts for Learning and Development. They are as follows:

- Play
- Real-life Situations
- Investigations
- Routines and Transitions
- Focused Learning and Teaching

Exploring What Children Learn:
This Key Component is where we find all the skills the children will come to understand and develop throughout the Prep year. There are also five Early Learning Areas. These include:

- social and emotional competence with a focus on social and personal learning
- health and physical wellbeing, particularly in making healthy choices, gross-motor and fine-motor development
- language learning and communication focusing on oral language and early literacy
- early mathematical understandings with emphasis on early numeracy
- active learning processes with a focus on thinking, investigating, imagining and responding
- positive dispositions to learning.
Prep will give your child the very best start to school by helping them make a smooth transition into Year 1 and setting them on the path to lifelong learning.

It will provide the foundation your child needs to succeed at school by developing:
- a positive approach to learning
- independence and confidence
- thinking and problem-solving skills
- language skills
- early literacy and numeracy
- physical abilities, including gross and fine motor skills
- socialisation skills

In Prep children will be:
- using manipulative materials
- drawing and painting
- involved in dramatic play
- playing and investigating independently, in pairs, small groups and as a whole class
- making choices
- planning with the teacher and peers new learning experiences

**Australian Curriculum**
In 2012 we began the Australian Curriculum in the learning areas of Mathematics, English and Science for students in Prep – Year 6 at Calliope School. In 2013, History has been added as part of the Australian Curriculum.
Get set for Prep
Encourage your child to be independent by helping them get used to:

- putting on and doing up shoes
- eating and drinking without help
- caring for and putting away play things
- going to the toilet independently
- identifying and caring for their own belongings
- using equipment safely
- using a handkerchief or tissue
- greeting other children in an effort to make friends

You can help familiarise your child with the school environment and routine by:

- driving or walking past the school
- showing your child where things are
- making sure your child knows how to get home or where to wait
- getting information such as book lists from the school
- trying on their uniform before school starts

Things to bring daily:

- Hat (bucket hat or broad brimmed hat)
- Water bottle
- Fruit for 10 o’clock fruit break
- Lunch

Fridges are provided in all classrooms. All belongings must be labelled to allow the easy return of items.

2017 Term Dates
Term 1 – 23 January – 31 March (10 weeks)
Term 2 – 18 April – 23 June (10 weeks)
Term 3 – 10 July – 15 September (10 weeks)
Term 4 – 3 October – 8 December (10 weeks)

For further information please contact the school.

Phone: 4975 8333
Fax: 4975 6437
Absence Line: 4975 8366
Absence Email: absences@caliopess.eq.edu.au
NUMBER RHYMES

Start at the top, and left we go,
All the way round and it’s zero.

Tall and straight but leaning over,
Number one is a tired soldier.

Around and down, across we go,
Number two is made just so.

Around and around, like a little bee,
Sniffing the flowers is number three.

Slanted down to near the line,
Turn right and cross - a four so fine

His head is first, his body’s so fat,
Don’t forget, on top - his hat.

Straight little back and big round tummy,
Number six looks oh so funny.

Left to right and down we zoom,
Seven is standing in the room.

Make an ‘s’ and do not stop,
Until you reach the very top.

Along and round, up and down,
Number nine is a real clown
Handwriting
Queensland handwriting is a simple style which contributes to the ease, speed and fluency of writing.

Following is an example of the Queensland Modern Cursive style for the Beginner’s Alphabet.

Please use a capital letter for the first letter and then lower case for the remainder of the name.
Children can write their name on paper with crayons, on concrete with chalk or water or write in sand, mud or with playdough.

Parents wishing to assist children with the new format are asked to follow the directions and starting points as indicated on the chart.
Teaching correct pen hold.
Many of us find pen hold difficult to teach.
We twist their little fingers but they go back
to their old positions once we move away.
Try a story so they’ll remember for themselves:
Pencil is a car.

![Diagram of a hand holding a pencil with labels: Driver, Front seat, Engine, Back seat driver, Driver’s Helper, Boot.]

The Driver has to be comfortable so he has
the main seat and waves to the other cars.

The Thumb is the Driver’s helper. He helps
guide the car and does friendly things
like warning when a child is running.

The Back-seat driver is naughty - he keeps
wanting to drive the car, but you must
put him back in the back seat.

If you hold your pencil too close to the tip,
you’re in the engine. If it’s too far back
you’re in the boot. The driver sits in the
front seat.