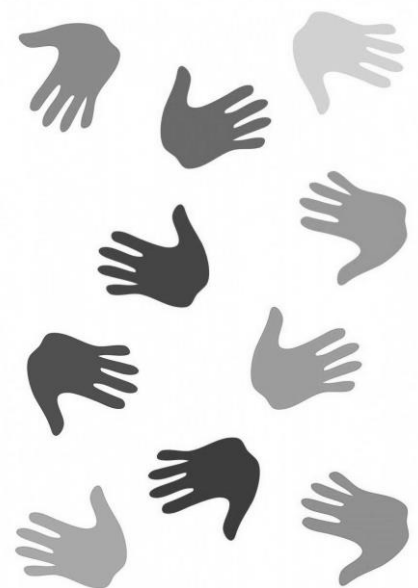


*Prep is an exciting and memorable year in your child's life. We build on the solid foundation set up by parents as your child's first teachers and continue to develop in each child, the love of learning.*

*At St Ignatius School, we acknowledge the importance of this transitional year. It is a year where the development of independence, social skills, confidence, resilience, intellectual growth and taking ownership of their own actions and choices are highly valued and nurtured.*

*We will provide learning experiences to interest, challenge, inform, and celebrate your child's individuality.*



# Learning and Teaching in the Preparatory Year

The Prep program at St Ignatius School encourages active learning, problem solving, effective communication, creativity, social adjustment and participation. These areas benefit children's long-term success in education and citizenship.

We plan, teach, assess and report on Religion, English, Mathematics, Health and Physical Education, Science, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Technologies and Languages using the Australian Curriculum and the Brisbane Catholic Education Religious Education Curriculum. We refer you to the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) [www.acara.edu.au](http://www.acara.edu.au) – where you can read more about the curriculum.

## ***What do children learn in the early phase of schooling?***

<b>Early Learning Area</b>	<b>Specific focus within the early learning areas</b>	<b>Australian Curriculum Learning Areas</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social &amp; personal learning</li><li>• Health &amp; physical learning</li><li>• Language learning &amp; communication</li><li>• Early mathematical understandings</li><li>• Active learning processes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social learning</li><li>• Personal learning</li><li>• Healthy choices</li><li>• Gross-motor</li><li>• Fine-motor</li><li>• Oral language</li><li>• Early literacy</li><li>• Early numeracy</li><li>• Thinking</li><li>• Investigating</li><li>• Imagining and responding</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Religion</li><li>• Health and Physical Education (HPE)</li><li>• English</li><li>• Mathematics</li><li>• Languages other than English (LOTE)</li><li>• Science</li><li>• Technologies</li><li>• The Arts</li><li>• History</li><li>• Geography</li></ul>

# **General Information**

## **Communication**

Communication is paramount to the parent-school partnership. Below are some of the opportunities provided to share learning, to collaborate and to set future goals.

- Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews
- Parent Information Nights
- Celebrations of Learning
- Term Overviews
- Semester Reports

Parents are encouraged to contact their child's class teacher in regard to personal issues with your child either via email or setting up a mutually convenient time for a phone call or brief meeting.



### **Parent Portal and the BCE Connect Application**

The Parent Portal and BCE connect app are our official points for all communications within our school where you will find fortnightly school newsletters, events and class blogs along with classroom communication and resources.

### **Class Blogs**

Class blogs are accessed through our Parent Portal or BCE Connect. These blogs give a snapshot into the learnings within the prep classrooms. They can be a great stimulus for discussion.



### **Qkr! Application**

This easy application is used for school fundraising and student meal deals.

### **Communication Pouch**

Each child has his/her own pouch. This pouch goes between home and school every day. Any notes to go home or sometimes activities completed at school are placed in the pouch. Please check and empty the pouch each evening and return to school each day in your child's bag.

### **Class Facilitators**

Parent Class Facilitators will communicate with you regularly throughout the year regarding social and pastoral care matters. All other matters will be through the school communication channels.

## ***Drop Off and Pick Up Arrangements***

### ***Collection Procedures***

#### **Morning Drop Off:**

##### **For the first week (starting 29 January - Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) - 8:20am in Prep Classrooms**

Parents are asked to accompany their Prep child to the Prep classrooms at 8:20am when the classroom doors will be opened. Parents are welcome to stay until 9:00am if they wish. This time is provided to ensure a smooth and gentle transition.

##### **From Week 2 onwards (starting Monday 3 February) - 8:35am in Covered Area**

Children are met by their class teacher at the Covered Area at 8:35am each morning. This is a time when all classes gather as a whole school community. Parents are asked to say their goodbyes at the Covered Area so the children can begin their school day. There is teacher supervision every morning in the covered area from 8:15am.

#### **Afternoon Pick Up:**

##### **For the first Week (starting 29 January - Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) - 2:30pm in Covered Area**

Prep will conclude at 2:30pm. Children will be accompanied by their Teacher and School Officer to the Covered Area for collection by parents/carers. Children with older school siblings may be collected from this area by parents or school siblings at 3:00pm.

##### **From Week 2 onwards (starting Monday 3 February) - 3pm Grove St drive through collection or OSHC/After School Care**

Children who are collected from **Grove Street** wait inside the school gates under teacher supervision until their name is called. **OSHC/After School Care** students are accompanied to supervisors at 3pm.

## **Meal Times and Belongings**

**Our first break** is from **10:35 - 11:20am**. During this time the children are encouraged to eat a sandwich or other healthy food. This is the main meal for the school day. **Afternoon Tea** is **1:20 - 1:50pm**. Once again we encourage healthy eating at this time.

Please try to separate these two meals in **one** lunch box so that your child knows what you would like them to eat during these times.

*At St Ignatius we are aware of allergies and for safety we discourage the packing and eating of nut products. Your cooperation in this vital matter is appreciated.*

### **Lunch Box and Water Bottle:**

- Each child is required to have a lunch box and water bottle with his/her name clearly displayed.
- Cool packs are not required as lunch boxes are stored in the fridge.



## **Uniforms and School Equipment**

All uniforms can be purchased through the school locker website <https://theschoollocker.com.au/> or shop located at Oxley.



[Uniforms - St Ignatius School \(Toowong\) - Shop By School - School Locker \(theschoollocker.com.au\)](https://theschoollocker.com.au/)

### **Sports Uniform**

Sports uniforms are worn twice a week. The specific days for next year are yet to be confirmed. The children will wear their formal uniform until you are informed further.

### **Hat/Sunscreen**

The school is a Sun Smart School. We ask that you ensure your child is wearing sunscreen each day. Children also need to be wearing a hat when playing.

With an initial school hat purchase, each child will have their hat embroidered with a white stitched first name and last name initial. This avoids hats being misplaced. This embroidery is done compliments of the P&F. **Please check with School Locker for timeframes and deadlines.**

### **Shoes**

The children require both **formal black shoes** and **white sports shoes**. Please try to purchase shoes with velcro instead of laces for ease of doing up by themselves.

### ***Spare Clothes***

Please pack spare underwear and socks in a plastic bag to be kept in your child's schoolbag.

### ***School Bag***

As all school bags are identical, please attach a distinguishing label/item to avoid confusion. We ask that you please familiarise your child with his/her particular bag prior to the commencement of school.

### ***Library Bag***

Children require a school library bag which you can purchase at the School Locker Shop.

### ***Book Packs***

The Prep students' book packs will be delivered to school and will be named and organised by the teachers for your convenience.

***PLEASE ENSURE ALL YOUR CHILD'S POSSESSIONS ARE CLEARLY LABELLED***

### ***Specialist Lessons***

Specialist lessons for the Prep students will include:

- Chinese
- Music
- Digital Technologies
- Physical Education and Crocodile Club (Perceptual Gross Motor Program)
- Zing (Term 3)
- Swimming (Term 3)

### ***Liturgies and Assemblies***

Whole school assemblies and parades are held on Monday and Friday mornings at 8:35. This is a time when classes gather as a whole school community for prayer, celebration of learning and whole school social emotional teachings and messages.

Once per fortnight one class leads an assembly prayer. On these occasions assembly is held in the hall. On all other occasions parade is held in the undercover area.

On Friday mornings our *Let's Lift* award are presented also.

Liturgies are prayerful times when we celebrate Religious Education learning. In Prep we have two assemblies each year. We also share Mass with the parish once on a Thursday morning and then another time at a Parish weekend mass where the Preps will play leading roles in these celebrations. Parents and friends are welcome to attend and will be advised of these dates in advance.

## ***Excursions and Incursions***

At various times of the year excursions or incursions will be planned to enhance learning.

## ***Buddies***

The Prep children will be allocated a Senior buddy early in Term One. The students will have opportunities to get to know each other in the initial weeks of school and throughout the year will be involved in structured activities together. For many children in the past, forming a relationship with an older student at the school has been a source of support, comfort and security.

## ***Birthdays***

Birthdays are a special time in a child's life and we enjoy sharing in this celebration at school. You are most welcome to send in individually wrapped treats or ice-blocks. Again, be aware of nut allergies and please eliminate any traces of nut products from all food items purchased.

## ***Absences***

Student absences should be advised via the BCE Connect app or the Parent Portal. Early departures and late arrivals are to be registered through the school office.

## ***Medications and Allergies***

Please register all allergies and medications through the office and inform teachers. Should your child have allergies/medical conditions you would like the school to be aware of, we ask that you please contact the school office prior to the start of the school year to provide relevant information.



# ***Preparing your child for school***

## ***Early Literacy and Numeracy Skills***

The activities outlined below will assist the development of your child's early Literacy and Numeracy skills. You may like to do some of these with your child at home prior to the commencement of the Prep year.

### ***Oral Language***

- Reading and reciting Nursery Rhymes
- Sing alphabet songs and talk about the names of the letters and the sounds they make.
- Counting orally
- Listening for, and reinforcing, correct pronunciation during everyday conversations

### ***Reading***

- Read! Read! Read!
- Read to your child frequently and talk about the stories
- Encourage recognition of the alphabet (letter name and most common sound)
- Identify their own first and surname

### ***Writing***

- Practise writing their name - the children will all be given a name tag at the Orientation session with their name written on it using the correct formation to help with this.
- Practise writing the alphabet. We have outlined the correct formation on the next page to assist you in encouraging your child to use the correct formation of letters during any writing attempts. It is best to focus on lower case letters first.

### ***Maths***

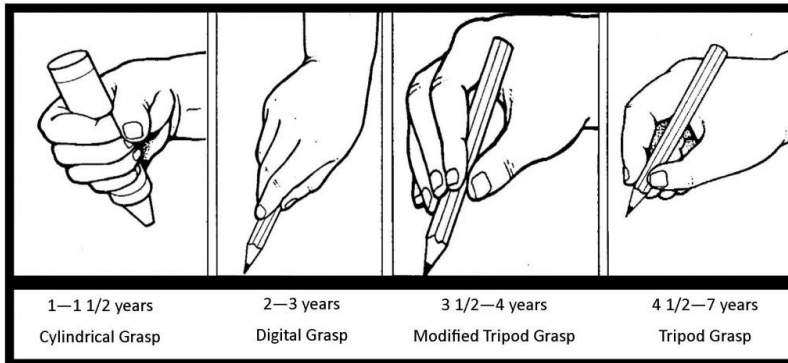
- Practise counting orally (forwards and backwards) and exploring numbers to ten.
- Encourage recognition of the numbers to ten
- Working with objects in everyday experiences using mathematical language e.g. shorter, longer, more, less, empty, full
- Practise writing numbers one to ten (see correct formation)
- Playing games with dice



## ***Fine and gross motor development***

- Encourage your child to handle small and large equipment.
- Allow your child to use scissors and develop their skills. Cutting along lines is particularly useful.
- Develop fine motor skills - moulding playdough, threading beads, colouring in, drawing in sand, building with lego.
- Allow your child to run, hop, skip, jump and find different ways of travelling.

## ***Correct pencil grip***



We aim to have the children using the **tripod grasp** throughout the Prep year.

## ***Correct Letter and Number formation***

### ***QLD plain/Queensland Beginners font***

Throughout the Prep year we will be teaching this specific **QLD font**.

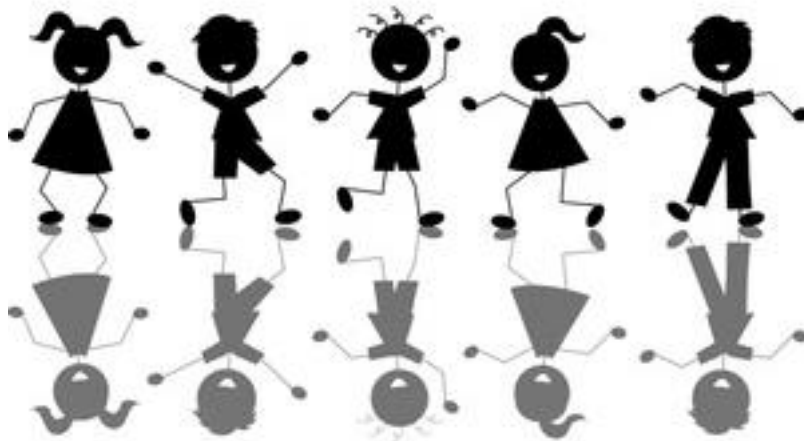
Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg  
Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn  
Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu  
Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Example of correct name formation: Note - Use a capital letter for the initial letter only.

Lily

## ***How to help your child begin Prep confidently***

- Drive past the school and talk about the fun things they will do at school.
- Help your child to write his/her first name (using correct letter formation) and recognise surname.
- Read to your child and discuss stories.
- Orally count and work with numbers to ten.
- Encourage independence and organisation at home.
- Ensure your child is familiar with his/her lunch box and provide opportunities to practise opening and closing it prior to starting school.
- Ensure your child can manage buttons, tucking in shirt, taking shoes on and off independently.
- Encourage your child to independently pack and unpack their kindergarten bags.
- Help your child to know how to ask to go to the toilet. Encourage asking in plenty of time.
- Help your child follow simple directions.
- Try to be cheerful and positive when saying good-bye.



***We are looking forward to working with you and your children throughout the year and watching their growth and development at this important stage of their lives.***