

Prep 2022

Parent Information Booklet



A is for Apple



T is for Tree



K is for Kite



Q is for Queen



H is for Heart



St Anthony's School

9 Memory Street, Toowoomba. QLD 4350

(PO Box 150, Drayton North. QLD 4350)

Phone: 07 4635 6200



X is for Xylophone



C is for Crab



W is for Whale



M is for Mouse



L is for Lion



I is for Ice cream



F is for Fish



N is for Nest



Welcome!

We are delighted you will be part of Prep 2022.

St Anthony's School provides a warm, friendly environment that fosters and challenges students to achieve their best and prepares them for their school life.

Our school is committed to working in partnership with parents to provide high quality education and care to enable every child to experience academic success and to know the face of Jesus.

Principal: ***Mrs Louise Pfingst***

As a school we foster 'The St Anthony's Way' with a focus on these learning behaviours:

- Be engaged
- Be curious
- Be a communicator
- Be persistent
- Be proud



Outline of the school day

- 8.30 – 10.40 Learning
- 10.40 – 11.20 First break
- 11.20 – 1.20 Learning
- 1.20 – 1.45 Second Break
- 1.45 – 2.50 Learning

Doors open at 8.30 a.m.

You (or another adult) must bring your child **into** the Prep room at the beginning of each session and collect him or her from the Prep room at the end of the session. A responsible older sibling may perform this task – please discuss this with the teacher. Under **NO** circumstances is your child to come in from the street unattended or be left unsupervised before the door opens at 8.30 a.m. Staff should be advised in writing or by phone if another person is collecting your child or if your child will be absent for the day.

What to Wear to Prep

The Prep students are required to have and wear the following components of the school uniform:

- ✚ School Bag with Logo.
- ✚ School Hat with Logo (reversible with sport's house colour on the inside).

Summer/Winter Uniform

Prep students wear the same uniform for winter and summer.

- ✚ St Anthony's school sports polo shirt.
- ✚ St Anthony's blue school sports shorts.
- ✚ St Anthony's blue sports socks (with two white stripes).
- ✚ Plain black school shoes/joggers. (Velcro)
- ✚ St Anthony's tracksuit may also be worn during colder months.
- ✚ St Anthony's fleecy pullover
- ✚ St Anthony's beanies and scarves

Please name all items of clothing including both socks and shoes.

The uniform can be purchased from St Ursula's College Retail Outlet at the corner of Warra and Rome Streets.

Our Parent Partnership Forum also run a second-hand uniform clothing pool once a month.

Each day at Prep your child will need

- ✚ A School Hat
 - School Policy – is “No hat, No play.”
- ✚ A Healthy Snack and Lunch – such as
 - A piece of fruit or fruit cut up in a container for fruit break
 - Sandwich/salad, fruit or yoghurt for first break
 - A sandwich or crackers for second break
- ✚ A bottle of water



Please also supply

- ✚ 1 small cushion with removable cover (named)
- ✚ A library bag approx. 40cm x 40cm
- ✚ School Supplies from the requirements list
- ✚ Spare clothes in a named zip lock bag.
- ✚ 2 sets of underwear



Please name ALL articles that come to Prep (especially hats, socks & shoes)

Snack Times

Please pack healthy food in your child’s lunch box.

The children are encouraged to eat healthy and sustaining food at first break before eating anything else. Children are often **very hungry** at this time, so you may want to pack sandwiches in two separate packages – one for first break and one for second break.

In the interest of healthy eating habits please **do not include** chips, lollies, chocolate covered muesli bars, rollups, soft drink or popper juices. We also ask that no nuts or products containing nuts are brought to school.



Tuckshop



Tuckshop days will be Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday for both breaks & Friday first break only in 2022. Simply set up an account at www.quickcliq.com.au and order online as required. Tuckshop is delivered to the classroom for the Prep children.

On arrival at Prep each day children



1. Sign In
2. Place water bottle and fruit (for fruit break) on the trays provided.
3. Put bag away.
4. Sit on the mat.

We encourage children to do these jobs themselves to promote **independence and responsibility**.

In the early days, children will do activities at the tables while waiting for the rest of the group.

School Involvement

Prep children are involved in all school activities. Once they are settled, they attend assemblies, Mass, specialist Music and Drama and P.E. classes and sports days. As the year progresses, the Prep children join with the younger grades for lunch and play.

Health Procedure

For the protection of your child and the other children in the group, **please keep unwell children at home. Usually if you are in doubt as to whether a child is well enough to come to school – he /she isn't!** If your child becomes ill at school, we will call you or your emergency contact so that your child may be taken home. Please ensure your contact details are always up to date.



Prescribed Medication

Medication is administered by staff, **only** with written permission. Please fill out the Medication Form at the school office. Our staff members are ***not*** permitted to administer non-prescribed medications like Panadol and 'over the counter' cough medicines.

Absenteeism

If your child is going to be absent, ***parents must inform the school by 8.30am.*** This can be done via email stanthonys@twb.catholic.edu.au, phone 46356200 or via the Parent Portal. If you are running late, please report to the office to sign in prior to coming to the Prep classroom. Please sign your child out at the office if you wish to take your child before the finishing time of 2:50p.m.

Parent Portal

The main form of communication is via the Parent Portal. Parents will be sent a key that will give them access to their child's class information. This will be sent within the first week of school. Parents can download the app 'Sentral for Parents' in the meantime, and create an account, ready for when they get the 'key'. If notifications are turned on, they will still get current alerts from the school.

Library

Prep children will borrow library books during their library lesson each Tuesday. In Term 1, they will be able to borrow 2 books (own choice). In Term 2, they will begin bringing 2 readers home as well as their own choice books. Please read the books with your child and return them to the library bucket on the following Monday.

Children may only borrow if they have a **library bag** (approx 40cm x 40 cm) and have returned the book from the previous week. It is a good idea to have a special place at home where the library book is kept so that it is not lost, damaged or mixed up with your child's books.

Daily Chat and Write2Spell Folders



Each week, the children will bring home a Daily Chat and Write2Spell Folder. The Daily Chat is an oral language program that promotes discussion and activities about various topics. The Write2Spell Folder will include the letter and number that we are focusing on for the week, looking particularly at direction and formation. These folders will come home with the library books on a Tuesday and need to be returned with the library books on the following Monday.

Show and Share

A note will come home each term informing you of our Show and Share topics. In Term 1, the children will take turns in bringing home a Sound Box. The Sound Box is to be filled with four items beginning with the same sound as your child's name. On the following day at school, your child will show and share what they have put in the box.

Birthdays

We love to celebrate birthdays with your children. You are invited to bring a cake to Prep on your child's birthday (or the nearest school day). Small cupcakes would be especially welcome (please check with staff regarding food allergies).

School Behaviour Policy

St Anthony's Primary School has developed a school wide behaviour policy that is implemented in all classes and across all school situations. Our policy focuses on the inherent belief that every child has the right to be happy and safe at school. Therefore, we support our children in making choices and explicitly teach the following behaviour expectations:



- We listen attentively.
- We show respect for ourselves, others and the environment.
- We keep our hands feet and objects to ourselves.
- We follow directions straight away.



The focus is on supporting children to take responsibility for their own behaviour choices.

The emphasis is on the positive, with consequences for inappropriate behaviour. With consistent unacceptable behaviour, children are referred to the Responsible Thinking Classroom (RTC) at first break play time where students work through a reflection:

- What happened?
- Who has been hurt/affected/upset by what happened?
- What would you do differently next time?
- How can we do to support you?

This reflection is taken home for parents to peruse and sign. Parents are always notified.

The Prep Curriculum

Each child comes to Prep with a different life experience and range of skills. These experiences affect the child's understanding about themselves and the world. The Prep program will build on these experiences.

Children participate in the Australian Curriculum learning areas: **English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS), Health and Physical Education, Technologies (Digital and Design) and The Arts. Religion** focuses on the child's understanding about God and life through: relating bible stories and religious texts to their own experiences and behaviours; exploring Creation, Jesus life and church; and through prayer and celebrations.

Parents are invited to a Parent Information Session at the beginning of the school year where the curriculum is unpacked.

Contexts for Learning

We create five main contexts for learning and development. The five contexts for learning are:

1. Play
2. Real life situations
3. Investigations
4. Routines and transitions
5. Focused learning and teaching



Play

Each day your child will have both indoor and outdoor play. It provides a powerful context in which children learn as they actively engage socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually with people, objects and representation. Through play, children use oral language, improve literacy and numeracy and develop imagination and creativity.

Real Life Situations



These help children build connections between their home, community and classroom experiences. We will have opportunities to do cooking, gardening, reading and writing texts for real purposes, conducting experiments, making artworks, working on a project or talking with guest speakers.

Investigations

Children will also have time to do investigations. The teacher will scaffold the investigations by asking questions, posing problems, modelling, explaining and suggesting alternatives. Investigations involve children interacting with people, objects and representations, e.g. do spiders build a new web each day? Observe/take pictures. Draw conclusions.



Routines and Transitions

These are very important for a smooth-running day. We go through the timetable for the day in the mornings. Transitions are those times between moving from inside to outside or from one activity to another where the children answer a quick response question which consolidates learning that we've done i.e. letter of the week is 's', tell me something that starts with 's'?

Focused Learning and Teaching

Focused learning and teaching involves children actively co-constructing understandings with people, objects and representations. Children are supported in making connections as they participate in activities and play.

Literacy

Prep children need a strong oral language foundation from which to build their literacy skills. A **strong vocabulary**, familiarity with **sentence structure** and **rhyme**, and an ability to respond to **how and why questions** is vital.

-  **Reading** – cuddle up with a story and make connections between the story and your child's life.
-  **Talking** – chat about things, words and numbers in the environment. Talk about similarities, differences, interesting words. Sing nursery rhymes in the car. Our 'Daily Chat' will help you with topics to share with your child.
-  **Playing** - throw and catch a ball; board games; pretend play; cooking; make a kite.

Handwriting

Please use the beginner's alphabet when writing your child's name. The first letter of the name is a capital, followed by lower case. Letter formation is committed to muscle memory, so it is important that children form the letters correctly from the start. As a general rule, we place the child's name in the top left corner of the page. This promotes left to right and top to bottom progression.

We look forward to working together with you for a happy and productive year for your child.

Please check your child's school bag each evening, as well as the chalk board/white board located near the sign on table outside the classroom. If you have any enquiries regarding school life, please do not hesitate in contacting us, either in person or via email.

Enjoy your child's Prep year!

