Child’s Thoughts on Starting Prep

Dear Mum & Dad,

- Please don’t rush me there. Plan the morning so that I’m not worried, confused, irritable or anxious.
- Don’t push me inside the door and run. It makes me feel unhappy, as if you want to get rid of me. Come and look with me at all the interesting things I can do.
- Please don’t slip away without saying goodbye or I will be afraid that you may leave me for good. When you leave, tell me when you will back and try hard to be on time or I will worry.
- Sometimes I will spend a lot of time making something and I am proud of it. Please value my work as it makes me feel happy, successful and ready to tackle more difficult tasks.
- Put your name down to visit the classroom. When you come for your turn I will feel proud to say to my friends “That’s my Mummy and Daddy”. Please don’t talk about me in earshot. I don’t miss much and I worry about what I hear. My teacher will always be happy to talk in a more private place.
- Send a spare pair of clothes in a bag in case I get dirty or have an accident. Put a T-shirt under my jumper for when I get hot from playing.
- What makes me feel good is if you show that you are really pleased to see me and are ready to look if I have something to show you.

BUT MOST OF ALL... JUST LOVE ME!!

"The intention of the learning environment is to give children exposure to a range of materials, resources and experiences that give them practice in skill refinement, in language development, in creativity, and in play." - Kathy Walker
**The Prep Program**

**LEARNING IS FUN!!**

For a young child, learning should be fun. We endeavour to develop your child's love of learning by providing them with educational activities and experiences that cater to their individual needs. The Prep classroom is designed to be non-threatening and supportive. We aim for all children to take on challenges and experience success. This promotes a life-long love of learning and a positive attitude.

**MATHS**

During maths activities the children will investigate numbers, patterns, space, chance and data and measurement. They will learn to recognise numbers by name and be able to count with one to one correspondence.

**HISTORY**

Students will be provided with opportunities to develop historical understandings through the key concepts of continuity and change, cause and effect, perspectives and significance.

**LITERACY**

By the end of Prep they will be reading and writing at a high level using a range of strategies. As well as participating in many oral language activities and learning the alphabet names and sounds, your child will be exposed to a range of literature and will partake in modelled, shared, guided and independent reading and writing activities.

**TECHNOLOGY SKILLS**

As technology is a big part of a child's learning, students will have access to a number of devices throughout the year, these include iPads and XOs and in the classroom. Interactive whiteboards will help to engage the children. Technology skills help with hand-eye coordination, turn taking, cooperating with others, independent learning, computer familiarity and awareness, literacy - pre writing and reading skills.

**SOCIAL SKILLS**

Over the course of the year, we aim to increase your child's independence by supporting them to take responsibility for their behaviour. You can help a great deal with the development of your child's independence by assisting your child to organise themselves and their belongings.

**SCIENCE**

Students will engage in fun activities incorporating Science from the five contexts of learning - play, real life situations, investigations, routines and transitions and focused learning and teaching.

**MUSIC**

In the Foundation year of music, students learn about beat and rhythm and the differences between them. As a result of quality music education programs children develop stronger neural connections, better memory retention, complex information processing skills and fine motor skills.