

Dear Prep Parents and Families,

We are very excited to welcome your child to St Joseph's School and begin this special journey towards their first year of school.

This year, we are delighted to introduce a new and extended Prep Transition Program. In previous years, children participated in one transition morning. We believe that providing several opportunities to visit and experience school will help children gradually become familiar with their new classroom, teachers, friends and routines, while building their confidence and independence.

Starting school is an exciting milestone for children and families. Our aim is to make this transition a positive, happy and supportive experience, giving children plenty of opportunities to feel comfortable, connected and confident in their new school environment.

Transition Program Times

Week 2 – Wednesday: 8:40am – 9:45am

Week 3 – Wednesday: 8:40am – 9:45am

Weeks 4–7 – Wednesday: 8:40am – 10:30am

Drop-off: Please bring your child to the Prep Room at the beginning of each session. Miss Brock and Miss Hobson, who will be the children's Prep teachers next year, will be there to warmly welcome them and help them settle into the classroom. As the weeks progress, the sessions will gradually become longer, allowing children to build their confidence and familiarity at a comfortable pace.

We understand that fitting these sessions around work and family commitments can be challenging. If you have any concerns about managing these times, please contact the school so we can discuss how best to support your family.

How can parents help?

Your support makes a big difference as your child gets ready for school. We encourage you to:

- **Bring your child to the Prep Room** at the scheduled drop-off time.
- Say goodbye with a **smile, a hug and a positive message**, then allow the teachers to help your child settle.
- Keep goodbyes **short, calm and confident**. Children often take their cues from the adults around them.
- Talk positively about coming to school and the exciting things they will get to do.
- Encourage independence at home, such as carrying their own belongings, opening lunch items and managing personal needs.

- Let the teachers know if there is anything we should be aware of that may help your child have a happy transition that day.

Some children may find saying goodbye a little difficult at first, and that is completely normal. Miss Brock and Miss Hobson will be there to reassure and support your child, and we will contact you if we have any concerns.

What will my child experience?

The children will have the opportunity to experience what a typical school morning feels like, taking part in many of the routines and learning experiences they will encounter when they commence Prep.

This will include:

- **Morning arrival and routines** – learning where to put belongings and how to settle into the classroom.
- **Mat time** – joining together as a class, listening to instructions and participating in activities.
- **Literacy learning and rotations** – enjoying age-appropriate activities that support early reading, writing, speaking and listening.
- **Brain breaks and movement** – opportunities to move, have fun and get ready for the next learning experience.
- **Outdoor play** – exploring the playground and learning to play safely and cooperatively.
- **Classroom routines** – becoming familiar with expectations and developing independence.
- **Social opportunities** – getting to know classmates, making friends and learning to work and play together.

Through these experiences, children will gradually become familiar with the rhythm of a school morning and develop confidence in their new surroundings.

We are looking forward to getting to know your child and sharing these exciting first steps into school with you. We hope the transition program will be a wonderful opportunity for your child to build friendships, confidence and a genuine sense of belonging at St Joseph's School.

Kind regards,

Nicola Cullen
Principal