

Welcome to the start of a  
very special journey



Welcome to Prep  
at Glendal Primary School

# *Welcome to Prep*

Starting school is an exciting and challenging time for children. Our aim is to ensure that all children are given the necessary support and security so they can take that step happily and confidently. The learning needs of young children are particularly unique as they move from a concrete, exploratory stage of learning to more abstract, formal learning.

Our Prep classrooms provide a safe yet stimulating environment where children engage in developmentally appropriate activities. We recognise the need to nurture and promote the physical, social, emotional, as well as the intellectual development of children.

We acknowledge and build on the wealth of learning experiences you have already provided. We openly welcome parents into our classrooms, as together we share your child's educational journey.

You will find we are committed to the Victorian Early Years Literacy and Numeracy Strategy. Australian and worldwide research indicates that success in the Early Years of schooling is essential for future success at school. Our highly skilled Prep teachers together with the Early Years Coordinator ensure a supportive learning environment and the careful monitoring of each child's progress. Time each day is dedicated to teaching literacy and numeracy skills and understandings, giving children the confidence to learn and to participate in everyday life. Children's learning is challenged and supported during a range of activities. We also provide additional assistance to further support children's learning through our Early Years intervention and Bridges programs.

## *Transition program*

Our transition program is specifically targeted for Term 4 when children are more confident and ready to take that step into school. The program has been designed to gradually introduce children to the classroom, the broader school environment and key members of our Prep team. We take the opportunity to observe your child's social and physical interactions and we begin planning for the first month of school.

We understand that Starting School is an equally major step for parents. Some parents rejoice, others feel a sense of loss while others may feel moments of anxiety and concern.

Our Prep teachers welcome your involvement in your child's education and no question is too big or too small. Early in Term One a Prep information night will be held where details of the curriculum will be outlined.

Children's safety and security at all times is our paramount concern and are the basis for all our school procedures and processes. Therefore teachers are not available to answer questions once students have entered the classroom as they need to devote all their concentration to the care of the children. We successfully use a diary system to facilitate daily communication and to arrange appointment times. The Early Years Coordinator will also be available most mornings during your child's first month of school to answer any questions and facilitate communication with your child's teacher.

## ***Prep Information Night: Starting School***

Our Prep Information night in November opens the world of Prep. We will share with you the types of experiences you and your child can expect during the first year of school. We focus on that very important first month and how parents can assist in ensuring a positive transition.

We thank you for the trust and confidence you have displayed in choosing us as the educators of your children. We assure you that we are committed to providing the very best learning environment for your child. We look forward to sharing the start of such a very special journey.

## ***Preps***

- Thursday January 31<sup>st</sup> – There will be different starting times for our Prep children on their first day. A letter will be sent to all parents regarding starting times for the first day and an introduction to their child's teacher.
  
- Each day after school, children must be collected by a nominated adult. If childcare is a problem please speak with the Principal or Assistant Principal.



- Thursday January 31<sup>st</sup> - Starting time to be advised and 3.30pm dismissal.
- For the month of February students will not be attending on Wednesdays to facilitate the children's transition. On one of those Wednesdays we will ask parents to bring their child for a half hour individual session with their teacher.
- Individual dismissal times can be negotiated with the class teacher during February. N.B. After School Care operates from 3.30 – 6.30pm. Before School Care operates from 7.30 – 8.45am. Children must be collected by an adult.

## *Prep Enrolment*

One of the outcomes of 'The Ministerial Review of School Entry Age in Victoria' was the raising of the minimum age of entry to 5 years by 30 April. This policy was adopted from the beginning of the 1995 school year.

Children of less than the minimum age for whom admission is sought may not be admitted without the prior written approval of the Regional Director.



Approval for early-age entry will only be provided in those exceptional circumstances where the Regional Director has strong grounds for believing that adherence to the entry age policy is likely to result in long term disadvantage for students in their schooling. It should be noted that school readiness is not sufficient grounds to define exceptionality. The responsibility to provide evidence in support of exceptionality rests with the parent/guardian.

Deborah Grosseck  
Principal

Janine Kaminski  
Early Years Co-ordinator

## *Preparing for the Very First Day Some Helpful Hints:*

### Getting ready

- ☺ Have some 'practice-runs' before school starts.
- ☺ Start the night before.
- ☺ Encourage your child to organise clean clothes, and prepare books and bag.

### A sleep routine

- ☺ Establish a routine with a set bedtime to ensure your child gets enough sleep.

### Dressing for school

- ☺ Check the weather forecast; be prepared for unexpected changes.
- ☺ Look for easy fasteners when choosing belts, shoes, bags and clothing.
- ☺ Encourage your child to dress themselves so they can manage things like taking jumpers on and off at school.
- ☺ Allow your child to wear their school uniform at home so they are comfortable and familiar.

### Looking after belongings

- ☺ Label all your child's belongings.
- ☺ Show your child where these labels have been placed.
- ☺ Check any special requirements such as a library bag and art smock.
- ☺ Note where lost property is held at the school.

### Food for Energy

- ☺ Be sure your child has a balanced breakfast.
- ☺ Pack a healthy lunch and snacks and explain when they should be eaten.

### Avoiding the last-minute rush

- ☺ Leave home on time.
- ☺ Arrive at school well before the first class to allow time to say goodbye and for your child to join others at play.

### Saying goodbye

- ☺ At first you might stay a while to ensure that your child feels secure at school.
- ☺ Once he or she has settled into school, a short and reassuring goodbye encourages independence.
- ☺ Always tell your child that you are leaving.
- ☺ Be guided by your child's teacher.

### Going home

- ☺ Check what time school finishes.
- ☺ Arrive in plenty of time to collect your child.

### Notes between home and school

- ☺ Check the school bag with your child each night for newsletters and notes from school in your child's diary.
- ☺ A folder to store school notes is available.
- ☺ Make sure your child knows when you place a note in their diary and what they need to do with it.

### Home reading program

- ☺ Early in the year your child's teacher will tell you about the home reading program.
- ☺ Establish a quiet time for reading together – maybe as part of the bedtime routine.
- ☺ Let reading together be a pleasurable activity.