

Gatton State School



Introduction to Prep 2025

Gatton State School

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PREP ENROLMENTS FOR 2025

Enrolments for 2025 Prep Year classes are now being taken.

Enrolments will be accepted for children born between
1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020.

To enrol, please collect a *Student Enrolment Form* from the main school office and return it completed as soon as possible.

An original copy of your child's *Birth Certificate* must also be sighted by our staff upon enrolment.

THE SCHOOL'S PHILOSOPHY

Some key elements of the school's philosophy for the Prep year are:

The Prep program is based on the Australian Curriculum. Using the Age-Appropriate Pedagogies framework, Prep classes provide both formal and informal learning situations where the children learn through explicit teaching, inquiry, play, special events and projects and their contact with the school staff, parents, other children and community members.

The Australian Curriculum begins in prep. Students in Prep to Year 10 learn English, Mathematics, Science, History and Social Science (HASS).

Parents can further support their child's education by familiarising themselves with the new *Australian Curriculum* by visiting www.australiancurriculum.edu.au

- Gatton is a community and as such the characteristics of the community will be acknowledged, e.g., children will be taught to respect individual and cultural differences.
- Partnerships in the community are an essential part of learning. Children will be helped to feel safe and secure by the development of genuine partnerships with children, parents, families and community groups.
- The roles of teachers and parents/carers are critical in the development of our children. Together we will value and nurture every child. The provision of a supportive environment at both school and home is essential for the development of your child.



TEACHER AIDES

Each Prep class has a full-time teacher aide who provides invaluable support to the classroom teacher and students.

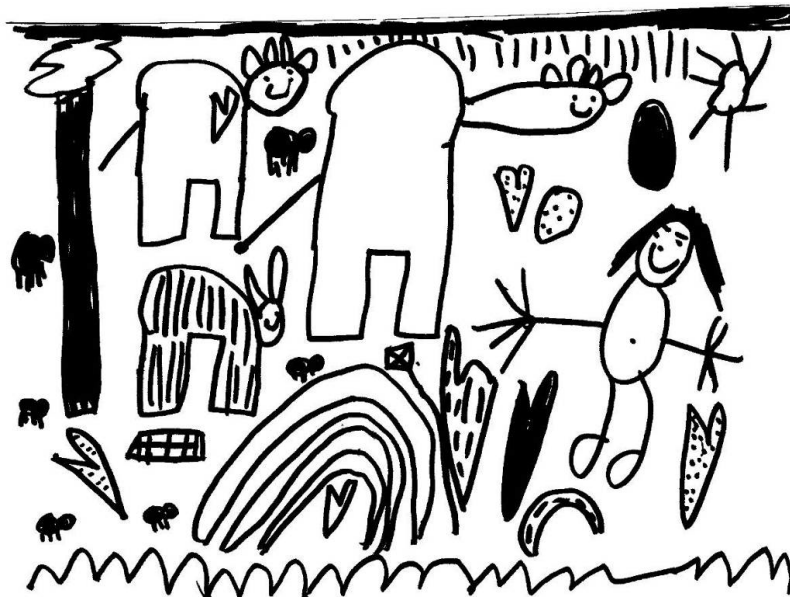
PREP SCHOOL AND LUNCH HOURS

Prep children will attend school five days per week starting at 8:45am daily and finishing at 3:00pm. First break is from 11am to 11:45am and second break is from 1:15pm to 1:45pm.

Some of the Prep classes partake in a fruit break at 10am each day. Please check with your child's teacher if their class will be having a fruit break, if so, please pack a piece of fruit or small container of fruit for each day.

BUILDINGS AND RESOURCES

Prep classes may be located in the current Prep rooms or in the case of a Prep/1 multi-age class, in the Prep classrooms or the main school.



INTEGRATION WITH YEAR 1-6 STUDENTS

Early in the year, Prep children will be introduced to other parts of the school. This includes eating and playing in the main area of the school with Year 1 students. Prep students attend our face-to-face parades.

VOLUNTEERS

Partnerships with families are important in the Prep year. Families are seen as valuable participants in the learning program and are encouraged to actively participate in the program.

PARTICIPATION IN SWIMMING

Given the age of Prep children and our duty of care, Prep children will not take part in school swimming instruction until term 4.

P&C ASSOCIATION

This Association is the official parent body constituted to support the whole school community. Meetings are held after school on the second Tuesday of each month in the hall meeting room. The Association raises funds to provide equipment and amenities for the school, and provides a forum for parents to become involved in the discussion of matters of interest to our school in particular and to education in general. All parents/carers are cordially invited to attend such meetings.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

The P&C endorses the use of a voluntary contribution for each child enrolled in Prep to Yr 6 to support the purchase of student resources. The voluntary contribution has been approved by the P&C Association and is **\$20 per child**.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Prep Year is provided to all children with diverse learning needs of eligible age through inclusion in our Prep classes with adjustments as required. In addition to teacher aide support, the Prep classes also have access to a range of support personnel such as a Special Education Teacher, Head of Special Education, Support Teacher Literacy and Numeracy (STLaN), Guidance Officer, Speech Language Pathologist, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist and School Chaplain. These personnel work collaboratively with school staff to support eligible students. Support is provided in a variety of ways and parents are always consulted when these personnel will be involved with their children.

PARADE

From Term 1, Prep children will be attending school parade which is held in the school hall every Friday morning at 9:00am, parents and caregivers are welcome. Parade is held online (internal viewing only) if a face-to-face parade is not possible.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Prep children are part of the Gatton State School. As such they must wear the school uniform. This includes a school hat and enclosed shoes (preferably velcro ones). School uniforms are available from the tuckshop. Please visit the Gatton State School website or Facebook page for uniform shop opening times.

In case of accidents, we ask that parents also leave a named plastic bag containing a second set of clothes (including underwear) in their child's school bag.

If children cannot tie/untie their own shoelaces, shoes with velcro should be worn.



NAMES AND LABELS

As young children often do not recognise their own belongings, we cannot emphasise enough the need to **label absolutely** everything – bags, shoes, lunch boxes, hats, library bags, clothing, etc.

SUN SAFETY POLICY

We are very conscious of sun safety at our school and recommend that you apply sunscreen prior to your child's arrival at school. Children must have their own school hat to wear – our school hats are bucket hats which are reversible with their sports house colours on the inside. Caps are not permitted at the school.

We strongly adhere to the school rule – **no hat, no play!**

EXCURSIONS

Educational excursions may mean a change from the normal school day routine. We will let you know in advance and will welcome your company on many of these occasions. Where possible, payment for excursions should be made directly to the primary school office in William Street.

SHARING INFORMATION

Events in family life, such as illness, separations, custody issues, new babies and visitors can be a prime source of excitement or concern for young children, and so affects their behaviour at home and/or at school. It is important for the home and school to share information that may affect children, and we would appreciate it if parents would inform us of any unusual happenings of this nature.

Please feel free to discuss any problems or queries with your teacher that you may have about your child's progress, the school or the program. We look forward to working with you and your child to build a supportive partnership!

FAMILIES IN THE PREP CLASS

As parents/carers, you play a vital role in the education of your children and therefore, we welcome you to become involved in our classroom.

You can help by: -

- visiting the classroom and joining in the program;
- offering to share hobbies, interests, etc;
- sharing ideas and any special expertise;
- discussing any problems or concerns with the teachers;
- collecting junk and doing small jobs at home (eg. cutting up collage).

TREASURES FROM HOME

Toys and trinkets from home very often become lost or broken at school, so it saves a lot of time and heartache if these are left at home. Any toys that find their way to school will be cared for by the classroom teacher until the end of the day. Staff cannot assume responsibility for any loss or breakage.

BIRTHDAYS AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS

Everyone loves a birthday and other special celebrations, as these are wonderful ways to build understanding about each other. If you wish to celebrate with cake, please send patty cakes instead of a cake as this is the fairest and easiest way for children to share their special event with their friends.

COMMUNICATION

Messages

Please read the noticeboards regularly to keep in touch with the children's activities, items of interest and generally, what's happening at school. Notices sent home in newsletters need more attention. It is your child's and your responsibility to check that you are receiving messages within an appropriate time frame.

Newsletters

School newsletters will be emailed out approximately four times per term informing you about events happening in and around the school community. In addition, notes will be sent home informing you about special happenings and events which are applicable to Prep only.

Facebook

Follow our Facebook page for notices and special events.

SMS

Unexplained absence notifications and important messages can be sent directly to your mobile phone via our SMS messaging system.



Please always ensure your contact details including email, mobile, address and emergency contacts are current and correct.

DROP-OFF AND COLLECTION

MORNINGS

- There is no formal adult supervision in the school grounds in the mornings.
- It is therefore requested that Prep children be dropped off at your child's Prep classroom in the morning by a responsible adult no earlier than 8:40am.
- Prep children who arrive at school by bus will be met by an aide and walked to the Prep grounds where they will be able to do quiet activities. There will be no formal supervision, but a teacher-aide will be present and available if a safety issue occurs.

AFTERNOONS

- Parents are asked to be punctual and collect their children from Prep by 3:00 pm daily.
- Prep children may catch school buses home in the afternoon. They will be walked to the bus waiting area after school by a teacher aide.
- Children who catch the bus need to keep a raincoat in their bag in case of wet weather.

Please notify us, personally or in writing, when anyone other than yourself will be collecting children from Prep. School finishes at 3:00 pm. If you know that you are going to be late, please contact the school and notify them of your delay.

PLAY AREAS

Prep children will use the playground equipment in the Prep area and the main school. Prep students currently spend 1st break mixing with Yr 1 students and spend 2nd break playing in the Prep area.

MORNING ROUTINE

When children come into the classroom, they are expected to be responsible for their own belongings. Please encourage your child to follow the routine outlined by the teacher. This routine includes:

- putting their bag into the racks
- going to the toilet before lessons start.
- moving to the carpeted area and waiting quietly.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Cans of food (fruit, etc) should not be sent to school as in the past children have been cut opening the cans plus staff members do not have the time to open cans and packets for a class of children. If you have a can of food you wish to send, please open it at home and place the contents in a plastic container which your child can take to school.

Each prep class has a fruit break every morning during first session. Please ensure your child has a small piece of fresh fruit, vegetable or cheese. Fruit is recommended for Prep children. Please ensure that all fruit sent is ready to eat – again, due to time constraints, staff are unable to cut or peel fruit.

TUCKSHOP

Parents will be advised once the tuckshop is ready to begin selling food to Prep children. Parents are encouraged to sign-up to be a voluntary tuckshop helper. Tuckshop is open Wednesday to Friday first and second break.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

A list of class requirements will be issued to you in late term four.

CLASS ALLOCATIONS

Students will be allocated to DRAFT classes from the beginning of the school year. These will then be confirmed after the first fortnight of school when we see how balanced the class groups are. Students are not allocated to classes based on likes/dislikes of particular teachers or friendship patterns of children.



**Thank you for taking the time to
read this information.**

**The Prep year will play an important part in your child's education. We value every
child and want to make the year a success.**

