



Inspiring the curious



PREP TRANSITION GUIDE

Ready for a smooth take off!

CRICOS Provider No. 00770B

TRINITY ANGLICAN SCHOOL LTD ABN 69 090 630 149

TAS
TRINITY ANGLICAN SCHOOL



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WELCOME

Welcome to Trinity Anglican School Prep!

This is the first formal experience of your child's school life. We look forward to establishing a close bond between our school and your home, and instilling a life-long love of learning in your child.

While a positive Prep experience provides a strong foundation for the primary years to come, it can also be an overwhelming time, not only for students, but also for parents and families.

This document includes all the information you need for an easy transition into Prep, and the steps you can take with the help of our TAS Transition Team, to prepare your child for the exciting journey ahead.



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MEET OUR TRANSITION TEAM

KEWARRA BEACH CAMPUS – PRIMARY



Mrs Mary Kershaw, Head of Kewarra Beach Campus – Primary

E: maryk@tas.qld.edu.au, **P:** 07 4057 7000

Kewarra Beach Campus is a compassionate eco-school surrounded by the natural beauty of the northern beaches. Our close-knit community helps integrate new families by welcoming them into community groups and events. Your child's passions will be nurtured through comprehensive enrichment opportunities.



Mrs Amanda Lade, Prep Teacher

E: amandal@tas.qld.edu.au

Mrs Lade has invaluable insight into the development phase of children from 4 to 12 years old, with over 30 years' experience in early childhood classrooms. Her teaching approach aims to integrate personal interest areas and active learning via the Arts, Science and Outdoor Education.



Mrs Bronwyn Sales, Prep Teacher

E: bsarles@tas.qld.edu.au

Mrs Sarles has over 30 years of experience working with children of all ages, across many different roles. Her passion is the early years of school and working with children and their families as they begin their educational journey. She has a special interest in nature-based education and its positive impact on children's development and motivation for learning.

WHITE ROCK CAMPUS – PRIMARY



Mr Peter Gazzola, Head of White Rock Campus – Primary

E: headofwrj@tas.qld.edu.au, **P:** 07 4036 8189

The culturally rich community of TAS White Rock is the perfect environment to develop the whole child. From academic success to encouraging positive interpersonal skills, the team at White Rock will help your child shine. You will feel assured that your child will discover their academic potential with the help of our dedicated community.



Ms Shannon Brischke, Prep Teacher

E: shannonr@tas.qld.edu.au

Born in Cairns with over 30 years' teaching experience, Shannon is a pillar of the TAS primary school community and will welcome your child to their first year of schooling with incomparable enthusiasm. As a published author of the children's book *The Biscuit Bandit*, she will inspire your child with a passion for reading and writing.



Ms Saje Betts, Prep Teacher

E: sbetts@tas.qld.edu.au

Saje is a pillar of the primary school teaching community at White Rock. She will nurture a life-long love of learning for your child. Her incredible rapport with families will keep you up-to-date with the progress of your child's development.



WHO ARE YOU?



CHILD ASPIRATION

This is an optional home exercise that you and your child can complete together. Children have extraordinary views and perspectives, and it is important to capture them before they transition to Prep. It is also a great way to share information about themselves with you and our school.

My name is _____

I was born in _____ on _____

My parent's name is _____

I like _____

I dislike _____

I am feeling _____ about starting Prep at TAS.

PARENT ASPIRATION

When we begin the transition journey, it is often helpful to stop and consider what you hope to achieve during the transition process and the early years of school. The following statements will help you clarify your main goals, consider whether they are realistic for the school and your child, and assist the school in understanding the priorities of your family.

Things my child may need support with are: _____

By the end of Prep week 1, I am hoping my child will be able to: _____

By the end of the Prep year, I am hoping my child will be able to: _____

By the end of early years schooling, I am hoping my child will be able to: _____

Comments: _____

PREPARING FOR PREP

GOALS OF THE PROGRAM

Prep marks the start of your child's primary learning, which continues until Year 6. At TAS, Prep is a full-time program incorporating specialist teachers and Educational Programs both in and out of the classroom. Our goal as educators is to nurture your child and inspire **Curiosity, Integrity, Perseverance and Compassion.**

FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE AT HOME

As a family, you can work through activities to improve your child's independence and prepare them for Prep. We recommend encouraging and practising simple tasks like packing and carrying bags, putting on shoes, eating and drinking without help, going to the toilet independently and blowing their nose.

It's important for children to take care of themselves and ask for help if they need it. Please encourage your child to practise dressing themselves, especially taking off and putting on jumpers when they are cold. You may choose to do this through play-based activities. For example, you can have 'play picnics' where children experience eating from their lunchbox. This will help you observe what they will or won't eat, and if they can open their lunchbox. Children will benefit greatly from finding their independence and recognising their own belongings.

CREATING ROUTINE AT HOME

Creating a daily routine can help your child understand what they need to do each day. As a family, you can prepare your child for school by setting times and routines for everyday activities and tasks, including going to bed early, waking up at a certain time, having a healthy breakfast to start their day and making time for academic and physical activities.

PRACTISING ACADEMIA AT HOME

You can also prepare your child for the academic aspects of school by encouraging reading and writing. You may choose to do this by reading aloud to them, asking them to repeat words or writing a shopping list with them. Stimulate their imagination and natural curiosity through activities like visiting a new park, playing sports, and playing card or board games. These simple activities will help them develop mathematical problem-solving, language and social skills.

ENCOURAGING PERSISTENCE

Children who learn to complete tasks are better prepared for the rigours of the classroom. Encourage your child to complete teacher assigned tasks by helping them when they encounter difficulty.



WHAT TO EXPECT

The school day for Prep is 8:35 am to 3:15 pm from Monday to Friday. Classrooms open from 8:15 am.

- 8:15 AM** Classroom opens for students to start arriving, unpack their belongings and socialise with other students and classroom teachers. This is a good time for a quick catch-up with your child's teacher if needed.
- 8:35 AM** School starts and students settle into their seats for morning greetings and roll call.
- 8:40 AM** Morning teaching begins with students reading the weather and a school prayer. The session includes classroom-based literacy activities such as finger gym, phonological awareness, spelling and handwriting.
- 9:15 AM** Fruit break.
- 9:30 AM** Morning teaching session continues with literacy-based activities and games.
- 10:50 AM** Morning break, play and supervised eating.
- 11:30 AM** Middle teaching session includes classroom-based numeracy activities as directed and guided by the teacher.
- 12:00 PM** Throughout the day, students participate in on-campus specialist lessons, including art, languages and science.
- 1:30 PM** Lunch break, play and supervised eating.
- 2:00 PM** Afternoon teaching session includes a mixture of classroom-based activities like social skills and health. It can also include more specialist lessons or outdoor education/physical education.
- 3:15 PM** School ends. Please ensure you are on time to pick up your child.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

In order to help your child become ready for school, make sure they can do the following:

- Recognise and write their own name
- Copy simple shapes with a pencil
- Copy letters and write some from memory
- Say their full name and age
- Draw pictures
- Be able to approach and speak to an adult in times of need
- Understand the importance of rules and the simple reasons behind them
- Engage in cooperative play that involves turn-taking and sharing
- Put on and take off jumpers and shoes
- Going to the toilet independently, pull their pants up and down, and wash their hands
- Open lunch boxes, wrapped sandwiches and similar
- Sit still for approximately 3–5 minutes and pay attention when asked
- Follow basic instructions.





PARENT EXPECTATIONS

Your child's first experience with school is a vital time of transition, and parents are expected to help make this phase as easy as possible.

ONE THE FIRST DAY

Please drop off and pick up your child at their classroom, ensuring you speak directly to your child's new teacher. Be prepared to stay and help your child settle into an activity on the first day of school. Parents and Prep teachers will work together to ensure your child knows:

- Where to put their belongings, where to have their lunch breaks, where they can play and where the amenities are, including toilets and sinks
- How to get to and from school, how to get to their classroom each morning, and where to meet you at the end of each day
- What activities they will be doing and where to go for outside school hours care
- How to ask their teacher if they need help.

WHAT TO BRING

- The correct uniform, including designated shoes and hat
- A school bag labelled with your child's name and class so they can easily recognise their belongings
- Food for each break, including Fruit Break, Morning Tea and Lunch
- A reusable water bottle for your child to use throughout the day
- Your child's large green zipper bag for home readers and diary, as well as their library bag
- Swimming gear, including rashi, goggles, towel and thongs on designated swimming days
- A change of clothes in case of an accident.

DURING THE FIRST WEEK

Like the first day, parents are expected to drop off and pick up their child at the Prep classroom, ensuring they speak directly to the Prep teacher. We have books and puzzles so that children can play, talk or socialise, and parents are welcome to stay if they want to help their child settle into an activity during the first week. Please ensure you help with the transition of your child by dropping off and picking up your child punctually each day.

Keep up to date by reading notice boards and email newsletters. If you wish, you can support our parent and community groups to make connections within our friendly community and assist in the smooth running of the school.

We encourage parents to help with any homework, including reading and writing, as directed by the teacher.





DURING THE FIRST YEAR

COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

TAS has an open communication policy with parents and family members. There are plenty of opportunities for both formal and informal parent-teacher meetings, including student-led conferences. Parents are always welcome to arrange a meeting with their Prep teacher at any time.

PARENT PORTALS

Parent Lounge is our parent portal for all communications, announcements, forms and fee payment. On Parent Lounge you can access all our community publications, including the TAS Observer Newsletter, TriniTAS Yearbook and Principal Reports. Our TAS App is also available for convenient access to Parent Lounge and school contacts.

ABSENCE

Parents and guardians should notify Reception if your child is absent, late or needs to leave school at any time.

FOOD, WATER AND TUCK SHOP

When preparing your child's lunch, please provide healthy and filling food in realistic quantities for Morning Tea and Lunch. Avoid sweets and chips. Make sure your child can easily open wrapped items and their lunch box. It is recommended that you provide a variety of small snacks instead of 1 or 2 large items. Please provide a water bottle every day and encourage your child to use it. Prep students can receive orders from the Tuck Shop for Morning Tea and/or Lunch, and all meals are delivered during the first break. To place an order, parents should write their child's name, class and order on a paper bag, place the money inside and put their order in the boxes outside the Tuck Shop each morning. Parents can also order online through the FlexiSchools online system.

MEDICAL PROTOCOLS

All prescription and over-the-counter medications with a signed permission form are to be provided and administered by Reception. All school staff are trained to administer first-aid at the school for incidents of a minor nature. Should a serious illness or accident occur, parents will be contacted and, if necessary, emergency services. Parents are expected to keep the school informed of emergency contact numbers and other medical information.

OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Please contact Reception for more details.

EXCURSIONS AND INCURSIONS

Special activities that complement learning are organised for students throughout the year. Families will be notified about these activities through Parent Lounge. Occasionally, children will be taken to places of interest and your voluntary supervision will be sought.

CLOTHING AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

TAS students are required to wear a uniform. This can be purchased from the TAS Uniform Shop at White Rock Campus or Kewarra Beach Reception from Monday to Friday. The uniform includes a red TAS shirt, TAS shorts, green Prep hat, brown sandals or black leather enclosed shoes, and white fold-over socks. A TAS jumper can be worn in cold weather.



LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

Throughout the year, your child will learn about speaking, listening, reading and writing, mathematical problem solving, humanities and science. They will also develop essential life skills like social skills or working and playing with others, diverse cultural practices, making healthy choices, making eco choices, using technology and more!

LEARNING INSIDE THE CLASSROOM

TAS Prep teachers deliver a program that is based on the pedagogy of the Early Year's philosophy that moves beyond the requirements of the Australian Curriculum. The Australian Curriculum is designed to help all young Australians become successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens. Key learning areas include:

- **SOCIAL AND PERSONAL LEARNING**
Developing a positive identity and cooperation skills.
- **HEALTH AND PHYSICAL LEARNING**
Developing positive health choices and movement skills.
- **ENGLISH**
Developing the three integrated strands of language, literature and literacy.
- **MATHEMATICS**
Developing the three integrated strands of numbers, measurement and geometry.
- **SCIENCE**
Developing an understanding of science, inquiry skills and human endeavour.
- **HUMANITIES**
Developing an understanding of the world around us.
- **ACTIVE LEARNING PROCESSES**
Enquiring, exploring, investigating, planning, analysing, reflecting, predicting, designing and comparing.





LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE

In addition to classroom-based learning, children will be fully immersed in the school community with the help of Buddy Programs. They will also have access to all the facilities enjoyed by other grades.

- **SPECIALIST SUBJECTS**

Students learn in non-traditional classroom environments with specialist lessons each week, including Languages (Japanese), Visual Arts, Music and Physical Education.

Students also partake in the Perceptual Motor Program (PMP) that promotes the development of gross motor skills. This assists with the development of their fine motor skills, which are essential in primary school learning.

- **SWIMMING AND SPORT**

Students experience weekly swimming lessons as a part of their co-curricular learning, supported with additional programs like 'Junior TAS Swimming Club' and the 'Learn to Swim Program'. For more information, please view your campus co-curricular guide.

- **EXTENSION AND ENRICHMENT**

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the myriad of opportunities available before, after and during school. Prep students are no different. Every student is given the opportunity to extend their academic potential and explore their interest in clubs, activities and extracurricular sport's. For more information, please view your campus co-curricular guide.



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