

Prep Newsletter

Term 1, 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Clarinda Primary School and the beginning of our first term for the year!

Starting school is a significant milestone for both you and your child. We are very pleased with how well our Prep students are already settling into their new routines. Over the coming weeks, you will receive a great deal of information, so please do not hesitate to speak with your child's classroom teacher if you have any questions.

The term has commenced with a wide range of learning experiences. Your child has already been introduced to early Reading, Writing and Mathematics activities. They have also participated in a school tour to help them become familiar with their new surroundings, meet staff members and learn the locations of key areas such as the Library and office.

Please note that we have several students with SEVERE allergies to seafood, nuts (including Nutella) and egg. To help keep all students safe, we ask that these foods are not sent to school and are instead enjoyed at home. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact us.

Important Dates to Remember:

- **Monday 23rd Feb:** Preps commence full time
- **Tuesday 3rd March:** Parent Teacher Interviews
- **Monday 9th March:** Labour Day Public Holiday
- **Tuesday 24th March:** Harmony Night
- **Tuesday 31st March:** School Photos
- **Thursday 2nd April:** Last Day of Term 1 - Early dismissal 2.30pm

Morning Routine:

The first school bell rings at 8:50am each morning. Please encourage your child to line up with their class to meet their teacher near the steps on the synthetic turf area. The Prep classroom teacher will then walk the class into the Prep building.

If your child needs to be dropped off before 8:40am, please use the Before School Care service, as adequate supervision is essential. We also ask that parents avoid waiting on the decking area.

Afternoon Routine:

It is important that you wait outside the Prep building, near the white line off the decking area during the afternoon pick up at 3:30pm. This area becomes too noisy, overwhelming and congested if parents wait on the decking or inside the building. Please encourage your child to raise their hand up high when they see you so they can be dismissed quickly and safely.

Brainy Bites:

Brainy Bites consist of fruit or vegetable snacks that children eat during class time. These should be bite-sized and easy to manage, such as sliced apple, strawberries or carrot sticks. Please pack Brainy Bites in a small, separate container labelled with your child's name and grade.

Health & Hygiene:

We ask that each child brings one box of tissues each term to share with the class. Please also remember to keep your child at home if they are unwell.

Communication Folders:

Children will bring home a Yellow Communication Folder each day. All notices will be sent home in this folder and should also be returned using it. Please empty the Yellow Folder each evening and return it to school the following day with any completed notices, forms or payments inside.

Any money should be placed in a clearly named envelope to help prevent confusion or loss.

Hats:

The children are required to wear navy school hats in Terms 1 and 4 as part of our SunSmart Policy. Any child without a hat will be required to sit in the shaded area during outside play times. 'No hat, no play' is our school policy.

Library:

Children are able to borrow library books each fortnight and will bring their book home in their library bag. Please spend time reading the book together at home. All library books must be returned in the library bag on your child's scheduled library day.

If your child does not yet have a library bag, please provide one as soon as possible, as children without a bag cannot borrow books. Please note that lost books incur a \$20 replacement fee.

ClassDojo:

All families should have received an invitation to join ClassDojo. This free app is used to share photos, updates and reminders about Prep activities. We strongly encourage all families to join, as it is an effective communication tool between teachers and families.

Please note that urgent matters or student absences should be communicated directly with the office or in person. Absences can also be recorded through Compass.

It has been a pleasure meeting you all. Please feel free to contact us if you require clarification or have any questions about the information in this newsletter.

Why going to school is important:

Going to school every day is an important part of your child's education. Children and young people learn new things at school every day, connect with friends, have fun and develop good habits that help them to succeed. Attending and participating in school will help your child:

- develop important skills and knowledge to help them learn
- develop social and emotional skills such as good communication, resilience and teamwork

- establish friendships with peers which help develop self-esteem and a sense of belonging.

There is no good number of days for missing school. Being away from school for 1 day a fortnight adds up to missing 4 whole weeks of school a year. Where possible, you should avoid your child missing school, for example, make appointments for your child outside of school hours and if possible, keep family holidays to outside term time.

However, if your child is sick they should stay at home to stop the spread of the illness to other students and staff. If your child is away the reason needs to be added to Compass.

By attending school consistently when healthy, students give themselves the best chance to learn, grow, and succeed.

Thank you for your support,

Katie Young, Kellie Williams and Grace Bridges