

IRYMPLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

WELCOME TO PREP

2027

Your family guide to starting school



2032 Fifteenth Street, Irymple VIC 3498

(03) 5024 5334

To be the best that we can be!

YOU ARE READY!

A final checklist and a reassuring reminder to keep handy.

BEFORE THE FIRST DAY

- ☐ Practise getting dressed and using the toilet independently
- ☐ Practise opening lunchboxes, containers and school bags
- ☐ Pack and label a spare change of clothes
- ☐ Label the bag, hat, lunchbox, drink bottle and uniform
- ☐ Look out for the December letter with class and interview details
- ☐ Share any important medical or support information with school

Help them feel excited!

Talk about the fun of art, sport, stories, learning, playing and making new friends. Reassure your child that school is a safe place to learn and grow.

School Contacts



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School Readiness

There are so many ways you can help prepare your child for their first day of school. Here are some handy and helpful tips for you.

SKILLS & ACTIVITIES

Academic Skills



Emotional Readiness



Every child starts Prep at a different point

These are helpful things to practise together, not a checklist your child must master before their first day.

The most important message

Academic readiness is great but it's not a deal-breaker.
Don't worry if your child is not doing these things yet - It's our job to teach them!
Emotional readiness is key!

School Readiness

Small self help skills can make a big difference to a child's school day.

GETTING DRESSED

Shoes & socks

Practise putting shoes and socks on and taking them off. **Velcro** shoes are a great option for Prep.



Jumper & jacket

Practise putting outer layers on and taking them off independently.



Shorts & skorts

Practise pulling clothing up and down and using drawstrings independently.



TOILETING

Practise at home

Help your child use the toilet independently and manage their clothing. Where relevant, familiarise boys with urinals.

Be prepared

Pack spare underwear and shorts/pants. Remind your child to tell an adult when they need the toilet.

Reassurance

Teachers provide regular opportunities to use the toilet during the school day. However, toileting accidents are very common at the beginning of the year, even in children who have been toilet trained for sometime.

BAG & UNIFORM



School bag

- Familiarise your child with their school bag.
- The Irymple Primary School bag is preferred as it's the perfect size for Reader Bags.
- Get them used to wearing their bag on their backs, carrying them, and taking them off.
- Packing their bags with all their school items - make sure their lunchbox fits easily.

School uniform



- Available through Laser Signs and Prints. Ensure that EVERYTHING is labelled.
- While the school dresses are lovely, we find that most of the girls prefer wearing the shorts/skort.

LABEL EVERYTHING!

Hat, jumper, bag, lunchbox, drink bottle and spare clothing.

SPORTS HOUSE COLOURS



Your child's sports house colour will be included in the December letter.

THE FIRST FEW WEEKS

Starting Prep is exciting, and it can be a big emotional adjustment for the whole family.

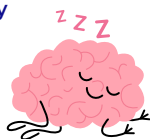
WHAT TO EXPECT | EMOTIONS

Emotions



Wave Goodbye Promptly

We will encourage all parents to say goodbye promptly, even if your child is upset. A staff member will comfort your child as you leave if they are unsettled.



EXHAUSTED!

Your child will come home EXHAUSTED! There are often tears and tantrums when they get home in Term One.



Tears are normal

Tears in the morning are very normal.



Huge Change

Remember, this is a huge change, and some children take a while to adapt.

Talk with your child's teacher

Tears at drop-off, after-school exhaustion and a period of adjustment can all be common. If your child seems to be struggling, we are here to help.

EATING AT SCHOOL

LUNCH EATING

11:00am - 11:15am

LUNCH PLAY

11:15am - 11:45am

SNACK EATING

1:45pm - 1:55pm

SNACK EATING

1:55pm - 2:15pm

- Discuss what they will eat at different eating breaks.
- Lunch and snack eating time is supervised by Prep teachers.
- Ensure they can open and close containers.
- Students often bring food home at the start of the year. If they do not like what is in their lunchbox we will tell them to bring it home and speak to you about it.

The canteen is open Wednesday to Friday.

- You can order through the Flexischools app.



PLAYTIME & FRIENDSHIPS



It is okay to feel unsure

Some children may feel overwhelmed or anxious about the playground in Term 1. This is common, and adults are there to help.

Remind your child to seek help from a yard duty teacher wearing a fluoro vest.

Finding something to do

At the beginning of the year there are supervised lunchtime activities near the Prep rooms. These may include beading, LEGO and craft. There is a junior playground where P-2 students play. Prep students are also encouraged to play on the small oval near the GP room.

“I had no one to play with.”

Children often remember an uncomfortable moment in the playground, even when they have enjoyed other parts of playtime. They may have briefly lost track of friends when moving around the playground. Please don't be alarmed, this is extremely common!

Encourage your child to ask for help

Yard-duty teachers supervise playtime and support Prep students as they settle in.

If you have ongoing concerns about friendships or playtime, please speak with your child's teacher.

ORIENTATION & CLASSES

Orientation 1 | Meet and greet | Fri Nov 13th

Each child attends an allocated 45-minute small-group session. Your session time has been sent by email. Please contact the office if you are unable to locate this email.

Please wait outside GP Room.

Teachers will open doors when your child's session begins and ends.

Only bring a drink bottle!

Orientations 2 & 3 | Mixed groups | Fri Nov 20th & Fri Nov 27th | 9:30am-12:30pm

Children explore classrooms and meet teachers in mixed groups. These groups do not indicate your child's classroom or teacher. The children will engage in fine motor skills activities, listen to stories and participate in basic counting activities. They will also eat lunch and play in the playground in these sessions.

Please wait outside Prep Rooms. Pack lunch, hat and drink bottle for these sessions!

HOW CLASSES ARE CREATED

Class placements are carefully planned using information about learning needs, observations, behaviour, balance of students, friendships and information from kindergartens and daycare centres.

We know familiar friendships are important. Although we cannot guarantee a particular friend, we aim to help every child begin with a familiar face and opportunities to make new connections. You will be surprised at how quickly the children form new connections when beginning school. All of Prep sit together during eating time, making it easy for the children to find their friends in other classes before going off to play.

When will you know your child's teacher?

You will be advised by mail in December. This letter will also contain your child's house colour team and their Prep interview time.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Working together to understand and support your child as they begin school.

Disability & Inclusion Coordinator

Rebecca Midgley

If your child has additional learning, developmental or medical needs, please inform the school as soon as possible so that we can best support your child's start to school.

HELP US GET TO KNOW YOUR CHILD

It is imperative that you let the school know if your child has been involved with any of the following at any time:

- Cognitive or speech and language assessments
- Occupational therapy (OT) or speech pathology
- A psychologist, counsellor or paediatrician
- Hearing or vision checks, glasses or grommets

OTHER INFORMATION TO SHARE

Please also tell us about any NDIS funding, current supports, relevant professional reports or recommendations that may help us plan for your child.

AS WE GET TO KNOW YOUR CHILD

We may suggest further assessment or support services if we notice an area where your child could benefit from additional help. We understand these conversations can feel sensitive and will approach them respectfully, with your child's best interests at heart.

Every child develops differently. Open communication helps us work together to make their start to school positive and supported.

FEBRUARY & IMPORTANT DETAILS

Prep Rest Days & Interviews

Prep students do not attend school on Wednesdays in February. However, you will be requested to bring your child to a 30 minute interview on ONE of these Wednesdays. These 1:1 interview sessions are essential for teachers to gain an understanding of where your child is beginning their learning journey. Your appointment will be included in the December letter, with further information sent at the beginning of Term 1.

Asthma

If your child has asthma, a current Asthma Management Plan from your GP is required. Please discuss this with the school.

Anaphylaxis

Please let the school know and arrange an Anaphylaxis Management Plan ready for the first day.

CSEF

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund support may be available to eligible Health Care Card holders. These funds can be used towards incursion and excursions throughout the year. Please contact the office for information.

Need to share additional information?

Please contact the school about your child's health, development or learning support needs.