

# Prep 2024

## Transition Information

### School Contact Information:

Phone	(03) 5335 8851
Email	<a href="mailto:magpieps@education.vic.gov.au">magpieps@education.vic.gov.au</a>
Website	<a href="https://www.magpieps.vic.edu.au/">https://www.magpieps.vic.edu.au/</a>
Facebook	Magpie Primary School
Address	61 Docwra Street, Magpie

### 2024 School Dates:

Term One	30 <sup>th</sup> January – 28 <sup>th</sup> March
Term Two	15 <sup>th</sup> April – 28 <sup>th</sup> June
Term Three	15 <sup>th</sup> July – 20 <sup>th</sup> September
Term Four	7 <sup>th</sup> October – 20 <sup>th</sup> December



### Prep Transition Key Dates:

Transition Days in Term 4 are as follows:

Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> October, 9 – 10:30 am	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November, 9 – 10:30 am
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November, 9 – 10:30 am	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December, 9 am – 12:30 pm

Prep Students start – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024

Preps do not attend on Wednesdays for the first 6 weeks; first Wednesday attendance is 13<sup>th</sup> March.

Individual family appointments for testing – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan, and Wednesdays 31<sup>st</sup> Jan, 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> February.

### School Times:

Staff supervision begins	8.45am
School day begins	9.00am
Recess	11.00am – 11.30am
Lunchtime	1.30pm – 2.00pm
School day ends	3.10pm

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello everyone, and a very warm welcome to our school community at Magpie Primary School. We look forward to getting to know each family in the year ahead, as your child begins school.

Magpie Primary School is located in the country town of Magpie, 7kms south of Ballarat. Our school office still operates out of the original 1857 building seen in our logo. Over the past decade, we have had purpose-built classrooms that provide enriching environments for our students to learn in. Further to this, we have a large multi-purpose room, art room and lots of space for children to play and learn.

Our students are drawn from Magpie and the surrounding neighbourhoods including Sebastopol and Bonshaw. We encourage families to look on the 'My School' website to determine their neighbourhood school or make contact with us to enquire about enrolments.

The Prep year has the potential to lay the foundations of lifelong learning. Our experienced Prep teachers provide a range of learning opportunities and aim to prepare all students for the years of school ahead. We provide hands-on-play-based activities where children are encouraged to become motivated learners. Our Prep Classroom is designed with the needs of the children at the centre, so that learning and play areas are interesting and meaningful to our students.

Our teachers regularly take part in Professional Learning to ensure they are skilled with up-to-date teaching practice and valuable learning experiences. Teachers are engaged with Professional Learning Communities, whereby we identify student needs to target our teaching, ensuring there are intervention and extension opportunities for our students.

Each day, our students take part in Literacy and Numeracy, along with a range of other learning opportunities. We offer a comprehensive Physical Education program, Auslan, Stephanie Alexander Cooking Program, Science, Technology, Music and Art. We continue to provide a range of learning opportunities through Extra-Curricular Activities and special events.

At Magpie Primary School, we have three key values to represent the positive mindset we expect of our school community. These values show that we are:

- Respectful
- Responsible
- Empathetic

We look forward to welcoming you to the Magpie school community. If you are interested in booking a tour, please contact our office on 5335 8851. We also have a virtual tour and much more information on our website [www.magpieps.vic.edu.au](http://www.magpieps.vic.edu.au)

Warm regards,

Carly Middleton  
Acting Principal



## Preparing for Prep:

**Where possible, please work with your child to ensure they can:**

- read their own name for identification of work, belongings, etc
- unpack a lunch box and drink bottle, and pack this away again in their school bag
- undo and do up their school bag
- have begun cutting with scissors
- use a paste bottle and brush or glue stick
- pack a game/activity away after use
- know the difference between recess and lunch
- take off and put on their jumper and art smock
- use appropriate manners - "Please" and "Thank you"
- use toilet and wash hands after use
- sit quietly and listen to a story



### Dressing

Sometimes children feel too hot or too cold so they must be able to cope with jumpers and coats by themselves. Often shoes must be taken off and put on again when indoor games are played. If your child has difficulty tying their shoelaces, please encourage them to wear shoes without laces.

The best way to help children learn these skills is to encourage them to dress themselves.

### Toilet

Children will need to:

- go to the toilet by themselves and undo and do up any buttons or zips.
- flush the toilet
- wash hands
- manage the taps

Prep teachers program regular toilet visits during the first few weeks of school. However, "accidents" occasionally happen, and we therefore request that each child has a **small plastic bag with a complete change of clothes**, which should be kept in their schoolbag throughout the year. This also comes in handy on wet, muddy days.

## Beginning Prep:

There are a number of things you can do to prepare your child for their first experiences of school.

For example, **to help your child prepare for their first day of school:**

- Talk about school at home in a positive context – school is a happy, safe place.
- If possible, visit the school with your child *before* the first day
- On the day, make sure you have your child at school on time
- Make sure that your child knows who is picking them up

Your child may become upset when it is time for you to leave. This is both normal and understandable. However, be assured your child will settle down quickly once you have left!

### Fostering a positive attitude towards school

To help your child develop a positive attitude towards school:

- Take time each day to listen to your child's experiences at school.
- Visit your child's classroom and view his/her work.
- Display any schoolwork that comes home.

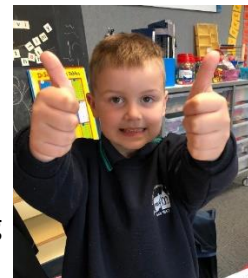


Above all, school should be a happy and safe place for your child. If they feel happy and safe at school, they will be able to learn to the best of their ability.

## Health and Safety

Encourage your child to develop good health and safety habits, including:

- Washing hands after going to the toilet (and using the toilet properly)
- Not sharing food with other students
- Using rubbish bins to dispose of rubbish
- Always using the crossing, if applicable, and looking both ways before crossing
- Never running from behind parked cars or stopped buses
- Staying on the footpath
- Stranger Danger – never talking to or accepting rides from strangers



## Independence

We understand that starting school is a very big step and that for the first few days your child may want to be taken into the classroom by parents and family members. However, in order for children to become independent in school routines we request that by **week three** of the first term students are walking into the classroom and hanging up their bag without parental assistance. Preps can be easily distracted from lessons if they know their parents are just outside the classroom, so we also request that you farewell your child in the playground prior to the 9:00am bell.

## Further Information:

If you have any further questions regarding beginning at Magpie Primary School, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are always willing to support our students in any way possible and look forward to the opportunity of working together.

We will begin contacting families during Term 4 to introduce ourselves and offer additional support to children who may require it. We work closely with local Kindergartens and take on board their feedback when developing our Prep program.



## How to Enrol:

If you would like to enrol your child to begin at Magpie Primary School in 2024, please contact the school office on 5335 8851, or alternatively visit our website for much more information and enrolment forms [www.magpieps.vic.edu.au](http://www.magpieps.vic.edu.au)

To determine your neighbourhood school, please refer to [www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au](http://www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au)

