



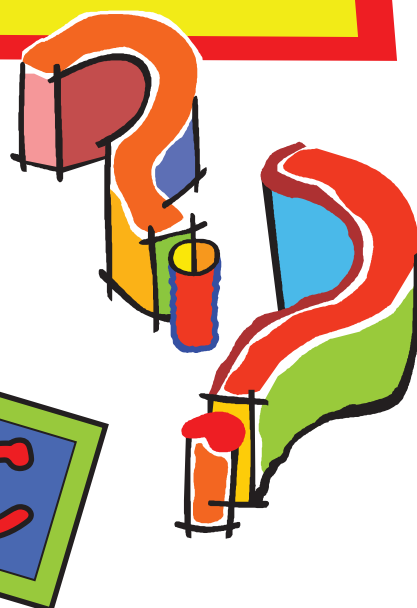
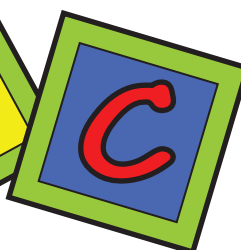
**WHITES HILL
STATE COLLEGE**

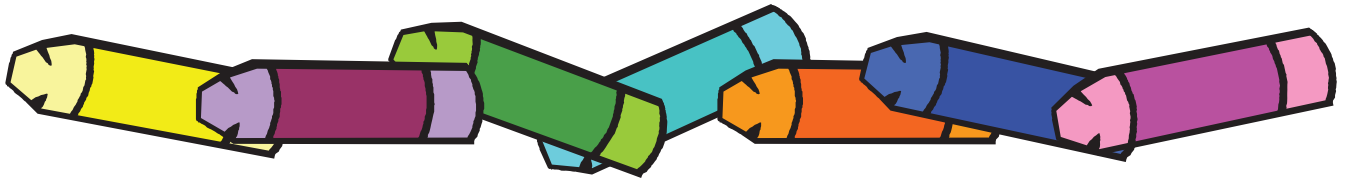
Imagine Believe Achieve

Prep and Primary School Information



**Frequently
Asked
Questions**





How do I find out if this is the right school for me and my child?

Can I visit the school?

At Whites Hill State College we welcome enquires about enrolment and are glad to take time to show you our school. You can phone our school number 39008333 at any time from 8am to 4pm and our friendly staff will send you information about prep. We also hold 'Walking Tours' regularly to take parents through our lovely grounds and introduce them to our college.



What if I have already made enquiries with another school?

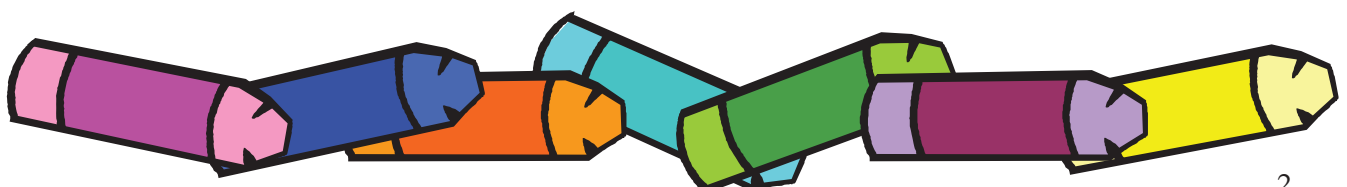
Parents are welcome to make enquiries at other schools. Each school should provide you with information to help you make your choice. Choosing a school requires many important decisions and you may want to compare as you choose. When you are satisfied we are the best place for your child to be to commence school – and we believe you will – you can get your **enrolment pack** from our college office.

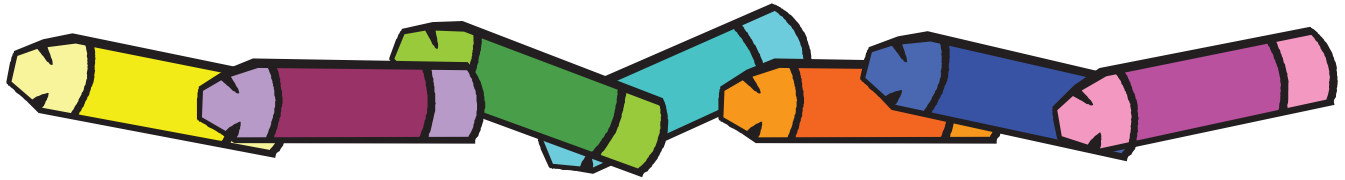
What events will I be invited to attend at Whites Hill State College once we enrol?

At Whites Hill State College we hold a number of very important events leading up to the start of school.

We will be hosting **Pre Prep Information Sessions** where various staff, specialists and past parents will talk to you, and answer all your questions. You will be asked to bring your child's Birth Certificate so you can enrol officially on the night.

We will organise special **Visiting Days** where we will invite you and your child to come and join in with our current preps; and **Interview Days** where you will be interviewed by the current Prep teachers and your child will be assessed ready to start the following year! All the dates and invitations for these events will become apparent within your enrolment pack and after you fully enrol with us.





When does school begin in 2020?

School Calendar Dates

2020 Queensland term dates		
Term	Date	Length
Term 1	Tuesday 28 January–Friday 3 April	10 weeks
Term 2	Monday 20 April–Friday 26 June	10 weeks
Term 3	Monday 13 July–Friday 18 September	10 weeks
Term 4	Tuesday 6 October–Friday 11 December	10 weeks

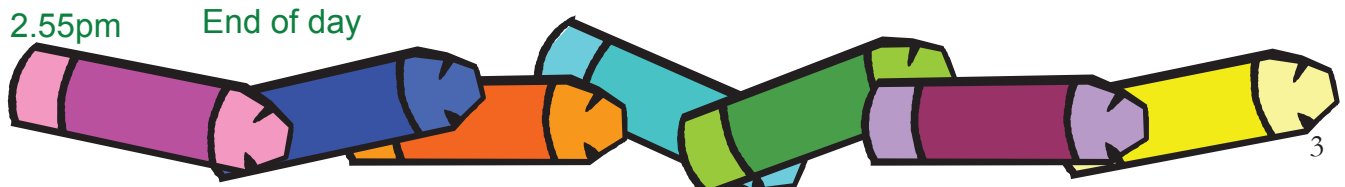
On the first day – what happens? Where do I go?

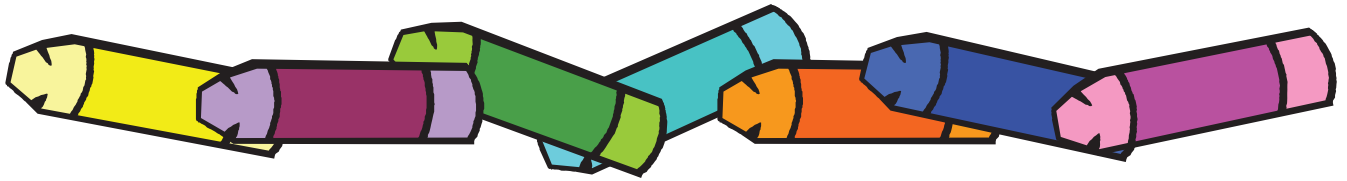
On the first day of school, you can go with your children directly to their classroom. If you are not sure which is your teacher, you can go to the administration building and someone will help you. Parents and carers are encouraged to settle their children in to their classroom, and then be prepared to leave shortly after. Most parents remain for about 5 - 10 minutes. *We will be offering a morning tea for new parents between 9am and 10am* on the first day– so please come and join us. Most children settle very quickly as the morning progresses, and you can always phone and check if you are concerned about your child.



What time does school operate?

8.45am Class Time – first session
Approx 9.50am Munch / Crunch break time
 10.00am Class time – second session
11.15am Morning tea – play time
 11.45am Class time – third session
12.55pm Lunch time – play time
 1.45pm Class time – fourth session
2.55pm End of day





Before school

Our school day begins at 8.40am and ends at 2.55 pm. Most children and families arrive between 8.30am and 8.40am. At this time of the day, children are asked to sit quietly on the seating under the school building designated with supervision. This building changes depending on the season so children can be warm in the winter's sun. At 8.40am the bell rings and children move to their classrooms. Some teachers encourage children to come into the classroom a little bit before this time, especially the Prep classes.

After school

In the afternoon, children move to the two main exits – Burn Street and Abbott Street. There is crossing supervision at each of these exits. Our families collect their children at 2.55 PM.

What happens if I am late?

In the morning, all children arriving after 8.45 need to report to their class teacher as soon as possible. Children arriving more than 30 minutes late, still need to report straight to class.

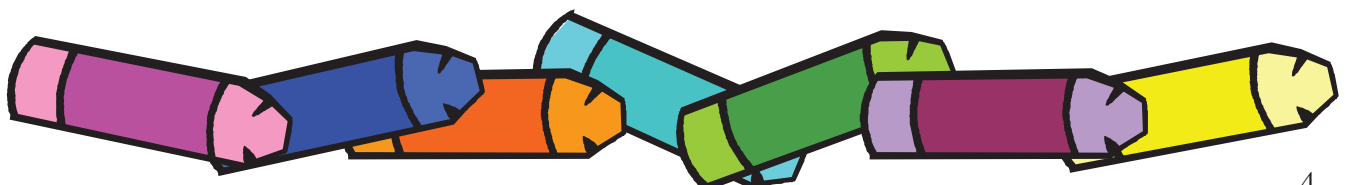
In the afternoon any prep children remaining after the normal pick-up time are taken from the classroom to the main school office and supervised at the office until parents can be contacted. We never leave a child to wait on their own.

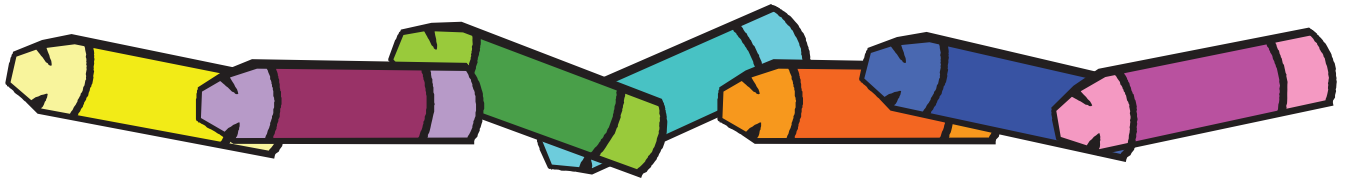
What do I do if my child is absent from school?

If your child is sick or absent due to other reasons, we would ask you to please call the absentee line as a matter of importance on 3900 8370 or send a text to 0428 632 704.

You will need to notify them of the absence and the reason for the absence. A text message

'system' will automatically send out a message to all parents for any student who has not arrived and for which the school has not yet been notified. The absence is recorded on the class rolls each day.





Is there any Outside School Hours Care?

Whites Hill State College operates a quality out of school hours care program within the grounds of the college. Before school care operates from 6:30am, while after school care runs from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. We also operate vacation care during school holidays! We provide a fun program and safe environment for children which gives our parents peace of mind their child is being supervised and cared for. For more information, please contact our service at oshc@whiteshillsc.eq.edu.au PLEASE NOTE: The care staff walk our Prep children to and from their classrooms! Prep children are often able to start their vacation care from the start of each new year over the Christmas holidays prior to school commencing!

Uniforms

What uniforms does my child need and how do I get them?

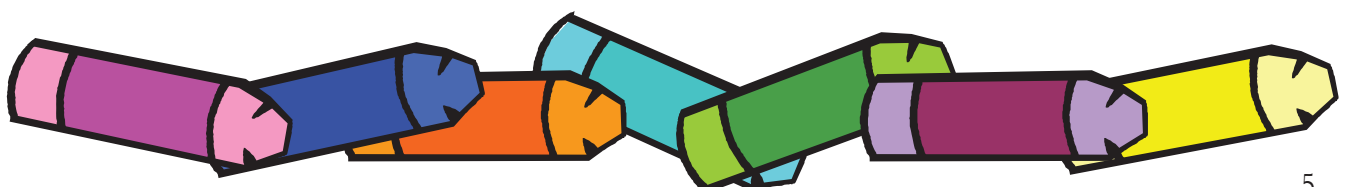
Below is some information regarding our school uniform shop, and information about our uniforms.

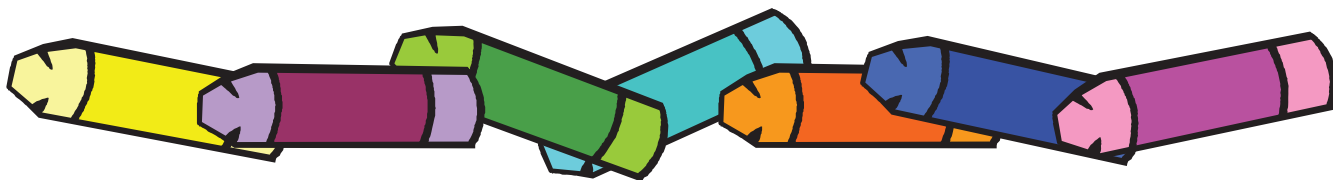
The Whites Hill State College uniform shop operates Monday: 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm and Tuesday / Wednesday / Thursday: 8.00 am - 9.30am. It is closed Friday. A price list is available from the office or by contacting Contact: Rachel Fraser (Convener) on 3900 8325.

The uniform shop is open in the week before school starts and the first week of school.

Email: whscuniforms@gmail.com

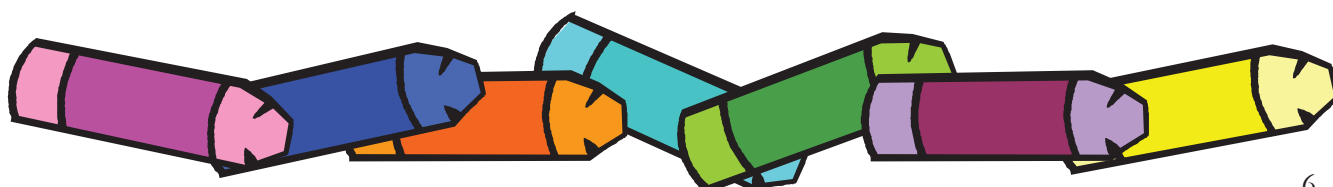
Website: <http://whscuniforms.wix.com/whsc-uniform-shop>

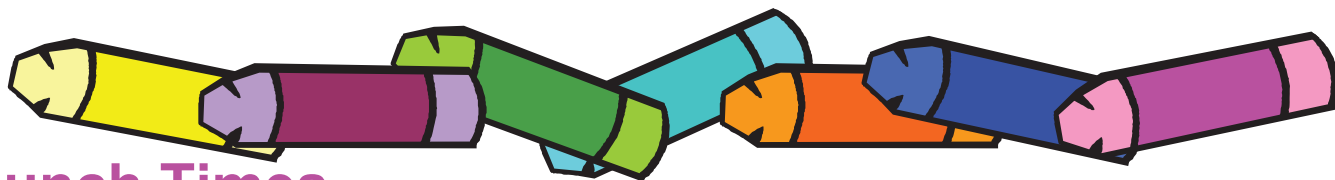




	Girl's	Boy's
Formal Uniform	Check Shirt with Navy Skort College Broadbrim Hat College Socks	Check Shirt with Navy Shorts College Broadbrim Hat College Socks
Sports Uniform	Navy/Maroon Polo or House Polo Navy/Maroon Knit Shorts. College Broadbrim Hat College Socks	Navy/Maroon Polo or House Polo Navy/Maroon Knit Shorts. College Broadbrim Hat College Socks
Winter Options	College Fleece, Polar Fleece or Microfibre Jacket or similar plain navy jumper/jacket with plain navy track pants. Navy or white skivvy/long sleeve t-shirt may be worn <u>under</u> shirt or polo. Girls may wear navy tights under skort instead of college socks.	
School Shoes	Formal Uniform: Black Leather School Shoes: Buckle, Velcro or Lace Up. Sports Uniform: Leather Joggers (canvas or mesh panels are not suitable)	

Our Formal uniform is to be worn everyday, except on days where the students' class has Physical Education lessons or interschool sport. On these days they are allowed to wear their Sports uniform to and from school. Our formal uniform **MUST** be worn on all school excursions, as well as music performances, presentation evenings and school photos.





Lunch Times

What time are the lunch breaks and what do children normally bring for lunch

There are 3 eating times:

- Mid-morning Prep children will eat their healthy 'Munch and Crunch' snack
- 11.15 AM Morning Tea
- 12.55 PM Play and Big Lunch

We encourage healthy eating habits, but understand that some packaged food keeps better in lunch boxes and is easier to prepare. The most popular foods tend to be the traditional sandwiches and fresh snacks. Prep students are encouraged to eat these before snack foods. There are always the packets of chips, muesli bars and treats to be found, but these foods are expensive and quite frequently end up in the rubbish bin (particularly muesli bars).

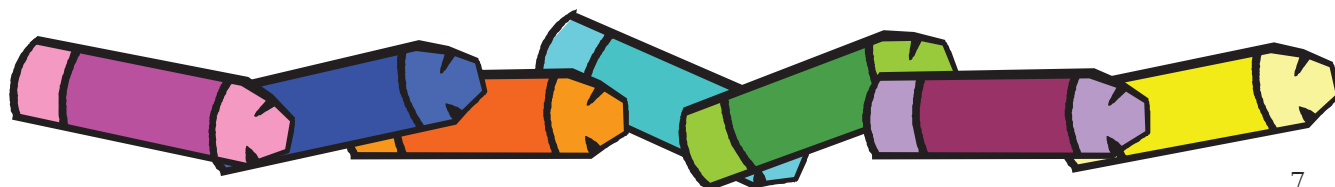


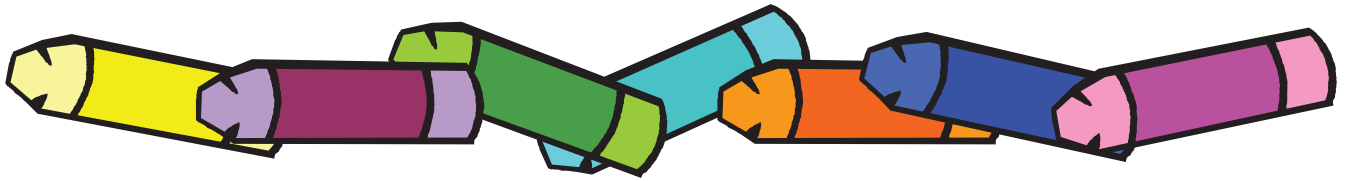
Great ideas found in lunchboxes:	Foods to avoid:
<p>Cut up fruit snacks, vege bits, cheese chunks</p> <p>Crackers and cheese (do it yourself packs in a plastic container are the best)</p> <p>Sandwiches – we see some very yummy ideas on these (also include a cold pack to keep items fresh)</p> <p>Home-made biscuits, cakes and muffins</p>	<p>Yoghurt tubs</p> <p>Chocolate bars and lollies</p> <p>Soft drinks, flavoured drinks</p> <p>Food requiring spoons or forks</p> <p>Foods which perish in the heat</p>

Tuckshop

Is there a tuckshop and when does it operate?

Our tuckshop operates from Monday to Friday and provides morning tea and lunch menus. Families and students can place an order both online and in person, using a labelled lunch bag. For online order go to: www.flexischools.com.au





What about the educational program?

All Queensland schools are following the Australian National Curriculum and using C2C (Curriculum into the Classroom) materials as a planning guide. We have been concentrating on improving student learning in the key areas of **English, Mathematics, Science and History**.

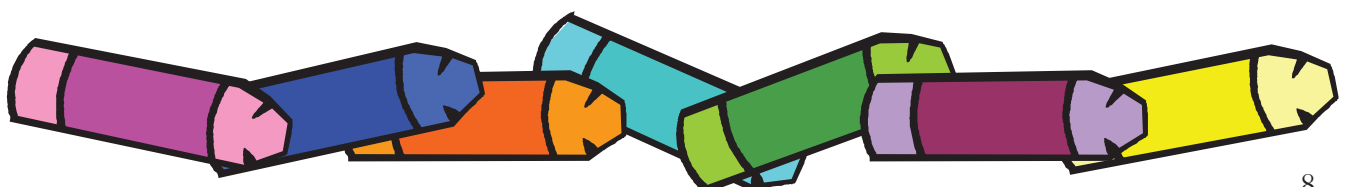
We also provide a balanced program which includes areas of the ARTS (including a great music program), an innovative computer technology program which engages students in modern media studies, a physical education program and Perceptual Motor Program to enhance our younger children's learning development.

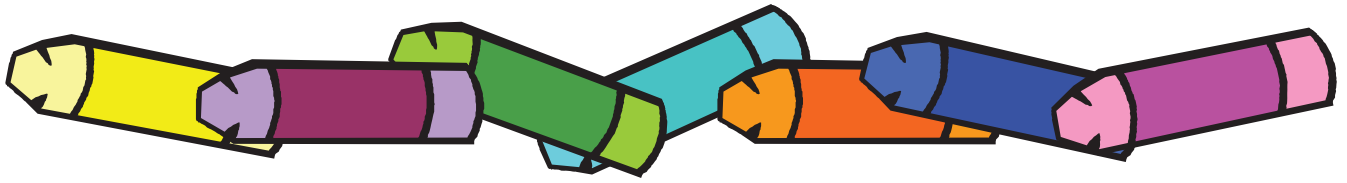
For the Prep program, we have developed inquiry-based programs which focus on explicit areas of learning and ensure children have a very sound foundation in literacy and numeracy.



Will my child be using computers and technology to learn?

Absolutely. We have a strong emphasis on using technology to enhance your child's learning. In our Prep classes and across our year levels our children use computers, i-pads and digital technologies such as cameras, robotics and digital art programs to engage them in current learning contexts. Our primary students have dedicated technology lessons and more access to computers than most primary students.





Prep Reading Program

What is Prep Reading Program?

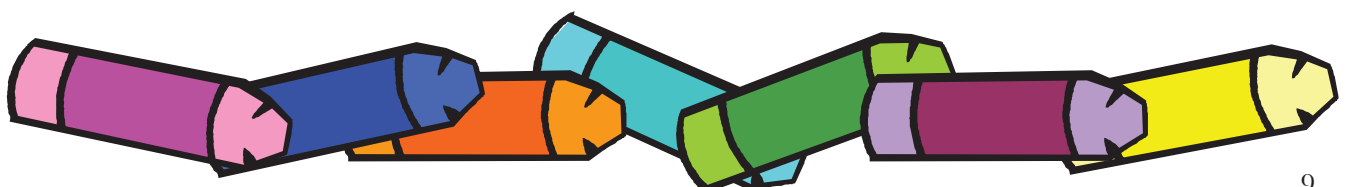
In our experience, children enter Prep with varying levels of reading and reading readiness. In Prep at Whites Hill, your child will be assessed on entry to provide us with information about their readiness to read. We keep updated records of your child's progress throughout the year.

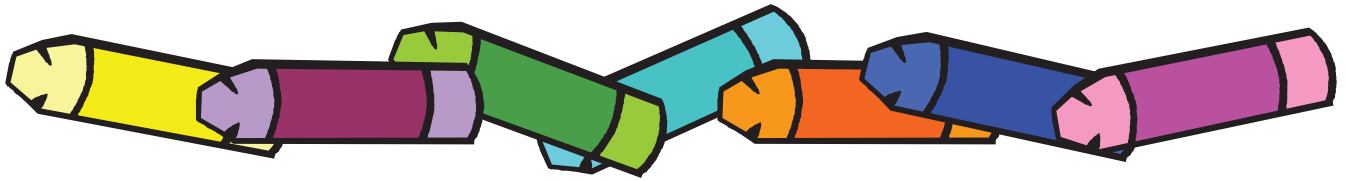
It is expected that all Prep children are reading confidently by the end of Prep. For this reason, at the beginning of the school year, we will engage all children in our specialised Prep Reading Program. We are in the fortunate position, unlike other schools with 5, 6 or even 10 Prep classes, to have an established program whereby your Prep child will receive a one-to-one reading lesson with a trained adult every day! As a part of this specialised program, your child will have one book coming home each night to read to you, some writing to do, and some vocab words to learn. The results we have achieved since this program began a few years ago have been absolutely amazing!



As a Prep parent, what is my role? What is the homework?

We encourage your active participation in your child's reading learning. We have found that all Prep children are usually eager to begin reading and thoroughly enjoy taking home a reading book each night to share. We have also found that children who engage regularly in reading to an adult each night and are well-supported have excelled in their literacy development. The little children who have home support receive hundreds of extra hours of reading practice as opposed to little children who do not receive home support from parents. Each night we would ask you to listen to your child read, help them do some writing, and learn some vocab words. We will be explaining this in detail during our **Parent Information Session** – which you will read about next!





The Prep Parent Information Session – Once your child has started school with us!

Parents, if you can only attend one event at school after your child has commenced school with us, we would ask that you please attend our **Parent Information Session!** During this important information session, your Prep teachers and one of our Primary Literacy Coaches will outline and discuss many topics about the Prep year and the Prep Reading Program we outlined above. **This is the most important session we will hold as it will set you up for success for the whole year.** This information session is viewed as imperative.

The parents who attend this special information event always comment on how much they learn and appreciate all the hints, tips and advice they receive. We are passionate about parents participating in home reading and listening to their child read daily. A letter will come home at the start of the school year with the day, date and time for this all-important information-giving event

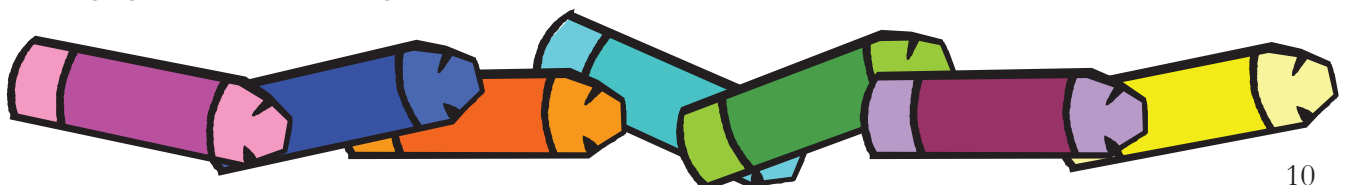
Can I help with the Prep Reading Program Lessons?

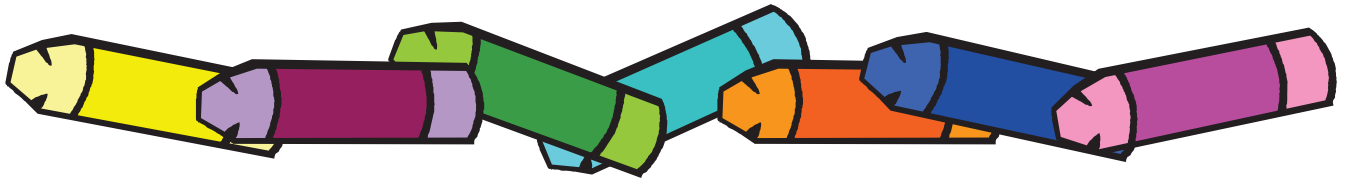
YES! In Term 1 we will be offering some training sessions for Prep parents and carers to learn how to do our Prep reading lessons. See our Primary Literacy Coach or contact your Prep teacher if you are interested in becoming a reading support person. There will also be letter coming home to invite you to one of these training sessions.

How can I find out how my child is progressing?

Formal written reporting occurs twice a year in June and December. At these times a report card is provided for every child. In terms 1 and 3, parents are offered the opportunity to attend a parent teacher conference to discuss your child's progress. In each class, each parent is shown a portfolio of student work which shows the activities children have engaged with and the learning that occurs through these activities.

We also encourage frequent informal discussions with your child's teacher to keep up to date with their progress and their social behaviour. We are constantly monitoring and recording your child's academic progress and can provide you with up-to-date feedback. Our close partnerships and constant communication improves students' engagement in learning and their success as learners.





News and Communication

How do I find out what is happening at school?

Every month an electronic college newsletter is published which contains all the information and news you will need to know. This newsletter can be accessed online through the college's website where you can also subscribe.

On top of this there will be a regular Prep Reading Newsletter from our Literacy Coach sent home; and all special events such as classroom excursions, sports days or Arts Council presentations will all be outlined through notes and letters sent home.

How can I get involved in my child's school?

There are many ways parents and community members can get involved in our school. Firstly, come along to our P&C meetings. These are held regularly each month and are advertised in the newsletter and on the school's website.

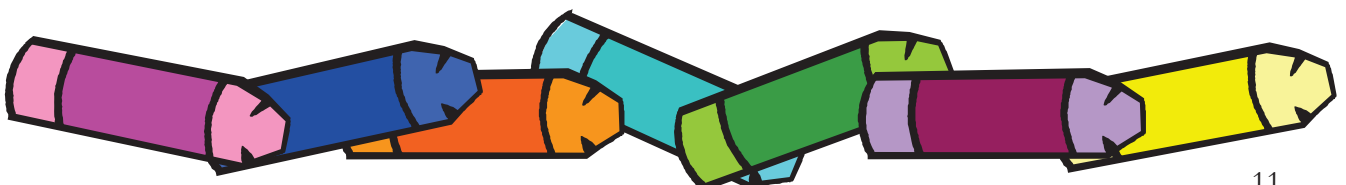
We also welcome and encourage parents to support our Prep Reading Program. By arriving at school 60 minutes before the end of the day, parents can participate in our reading program and become a vital member of our teaching team! Notices will be sent out to invite you to join us at the start of the school year. We also encourage our families to join us on Open Days each term, to see what is happening in our school. We are excited about our learning programs and would love to include you.



Achievement

Confidence

Engagement



What are Pupil Free Days?

Pupil-Free Days are designated days by Education Queensland where students do not attend school. During these days, educators participate in educational training. Usually these pupil free days occur at the beginning of the term on the first day of school. Notices are posted in our newsletter and on our website well ahead of time regarding the dates for these days. In October there is a pupil free day – but it occurs on the third Monday in the term.

Contact Us

I still have an unanswered question, or I am ready to enrol!

Please feel welcome to contact us at any time. You can phone the school on 39008333 and our friendly office staff will be sure to assist you. You can also arrange to meet with your child's teacher at any time during the year. To enrol, simply contact our office and our lovely ladies will arrange for you to collect your enrolment pack. From there, once your forms are all filled in and birth certificate copied – you will have an enrolment interview – and that's it! We look forward to working with your family soon! Okay, thank you for reading!



The Preparatory (Prep) Year is the first year of school for your child.

Please contact our college office for your enrolment pack today!

Phone: 3900 8333



We are united in our pursuit of excellence
at Whites Hill State College in order to
Engage students in Learning whilst
Achieving at or beyond expectations and instilling
Confidence in our community...

“A.C.E.”

