Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to you as parents of our prep children. We look forward to sharing many happy times with you as we work together to provide wonderful learning opportunities for your child.
In 2015 all Queensland schools began to introduce the updated Australian Curriculum into our schools. The seven areas covered are English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, The Arts, Technologies and Health and Physical Education. Prep teachers also use the Early Years Curriculum Guidelines to plan appropriate learning experiences using investigations and play based activities.

**English:**

The English curriculum focuses on developing students’ knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing and speaking. Gumdale explicitly teaches the 44 sounds of the English language to develop reading skills, spelling skills and writing skills.

In prep we focus on 4 units of work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 1</th>
<th>Unit 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exploring our New World</td>
<td>Enjoying Stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focusing on gaining an understanding that text can be used for different purposes. We read information books, story books and books from other cultures.</td>
<td>Focusing on retells of favourite traditional stories, recounts of personal events and celebrations.</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 3</th>
<th>Unit 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exploring Characters and Rhyme</td>
<td>Responding to Texts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focusing on becoming aware of and using describing words in stories to give an opinion and discuss characters.</td>
<td>Focusing on the children creating, writing and publishing a story of their own.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
In prep the children are involved in learning the concepts of print for example:
- Titles of a book
- Punctuation . ? ! ” “,
- Direction in which to read (left to right)
- What is the text?
- What a letter/word/sentence is?
- Recognising a capital letter/smaller or lowercase letter
- Learning the correct formation of letters through a handwriting program.

Mathematics:

This includes an emphasis on numbers, number names and quantities to 20, sequencing, patterning, time, shape and measurement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Focusing on learning numbers, names and quantities to 10, sequencing personal daily events, days of the week and counting.</td>
<td>Focusing on patterns, 2D and 3D shapes, place value, using measurements of length and mass.</td>
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<table>
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<th>Unit 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Focusing on asking questions to collect data (picture graphs), addition to ten, duration of events, sorting, describing and naming shapes, matching numbers to pictures, exploring equal sharing, and comparing volumes.</td>
<td>Focusing on sequencing of events, comparing lengths, problem solving and reasoning.</td>
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**History:**

The preps study personal and family histories. They explore stories from different cultures and other parts of the world. Through photographs, artefacts, books, oral histories and digital media, the preps will focus on how the world and its people have changed. We also study the past and present experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their identity and the continuing value of their culture.

**Science:**

Explores the question: How do we observe and explain our world? Students will observe and describe behaviours and properties of everyday objects, materials and living things. They will observe changes in the weather, make things move or change shape and use their senses to gather information.

**Information Communication Technology (ICT)**

We currently use interactive whiteboards which enable the children to drag images, write and select objects etc as you would do on a computer with a mouse. Each class has access to a bank of iPads.
Assessment and Reporting

The preps are assessed using observations, work samples, self-evaluation, checklists, student interviews and where applicable, specific testing. Parent interviews are held at the end of first term and the end of third term. School reports are issued at the end of second term and at the end of fourth term.

If you have a problem or question, please go to your prep teacher in the first instance. It is best to make an appointment time before or after class.

The Gumdale Prep Program is designed to cater for the individual learning styles of each child. They move through very similar developmental pathways, but it is important to recognise that progress through these pathways will occur at different rates.

What will my child learn in the prep year?

The learning experiences in the prep year will help your child to:
- Take on responsibility
- Become more independent
- Respect other people
- Co-operate with others
- Make sensible choices about their health and safety
- Develop their physical skills
- Learn about their environment
- Develop their oral language
- Learn how to be thinkers and problem solvers
- Use their imagination and creativity
Classroom Requirements

- Labelled red school hat
- Labelled lunch box with an ice brick and water bottle. Please ensure ALL containers; spoons, etc are also labelled. We would appreciate no nut products be brought to school.
- Set of spare clothes (also labelled) including socks.
- School bag (please no small bags as the children can not fit all that is required into them and this is when things get lost) *Tip: a special tag/ key ring attached to the zip is a good way for your child to easily identify their bag quickly.
- A library bag

Uniforms

The Uniform shop is open during the school week, please check on the school website for exact opening times www.gumdaless.eq.edu.au

Gumdale is a sun safe school and we strongly adhere to the policy:

**NO HAT, NO PLAY (no caps)**

Prep children wear red hats so they can be easily identified amongst the rest of the students who wear blue hats. Please ensure your child brings their wide brim red hat to school every day.
Arrival and Departure

It is very important that children enter the classroom on time. A typical day in prep starts at 8.45 am when the first bell rings and finishes at 3.00 pm. You are required to pick up your prep child from the classroom. Children arriving after, and departing before, these times, must be signed in/out at the office.

Prep children are able to be dropped at the hall in the morning from 8.30 am where they will be supervised by a teacher if you are unable to stay and wait. They will then be walked to their classrooms at 8.40 am.

While we strive to create a happy, warm and welcoming atmosphere at prep, some children may feel a little anxious about their new journey. Sometimes, the anxiousness does not occur until a few weeks into first term. We suggest a reassuring hug, kiss and a quick goodbye, as in our experience, children settle very quickly once absorbed in the day and when they cannot see Mum, Dad or their caregiver.

Our days are broken up into different sessions where the children are involved in:
- Indoor play
- Outdoor play
- Focussed learning
- Language activities
- Numeracy activities
- Cross curricular activities
- Music and games
- Specialist lessons
Prep Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:45</td>
<td>First bell to go into class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:50 – 11:00</td>
<td>Morning session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 – 11:40</td>
<td>First break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:40 – 01:10</td>
<td>Middle session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01:10 – 01:50</td>
<td>Second break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01:50 – 03:00</td>
<td>Afternoon session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03:00</td>
<td>End of school day</td>
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Specialist Lessons

Your prep child will be involved in:
- Health & physical education/sport (30 minutes)
- Music or Dance (30 minutes)
- Library (30 minutes)

Library

Children can borrow one book with their class once a week. They will only be allowed to borrow with a library bag. Children must return their library book before borrowing another.

Assembly

Our preps attend assembly fortnightly on Monday afternoons from 2.00pm. They are given opportunities throughout the year to perform in front of parents and peers. Awards are also given out to students for following school rules and demonstrating academic improvement. Parents are encouraged to attend.
Parents in Prep

Parents have an important and valued role in the education of their children and in our learning community. Therefore, we welcome your involvement in the classroom. We encourage you to be part of their learning in whatever way you can. Please let your child’s teacher know at the beginning of the year if you have any special talents you can share! (for example: art, music, cooking, science etc.) When attending your child’s classroom as a volunteer please sign in and out of the visitor’s register in the administration office. There are several planned excursions throughout the year and opportunities for parents to accompany us, however siblings may not attend these outings due to number restrictions and venue policies.

Communication

Your child will bring home any messages in their folder. Please return this folder daily. We ask you to share any news you might have with us. Important events in family life can be a major concern or excite children and may affect behaviour.

Please feel free to make a time to discuss any problems or queries about your child’s progress. We look forward to working with you and your child in a supportive partnership.

The school’s newsletter is electronic and a web link to it can be emailed directly to you. It is also published on our website www.gumdaless.eq.edu.au. Our website also provides up to date information about what is happening in the school.

Illnesses

If your child is not well enough to attend Prep please telephone the school on 3902 8333 and leave a message on the student absent line.
Banking

The Commonwealth Bank provides banking facilities for children who attend Gumdale State School. Banking forms can be obtained from the office. Banking day is Monday and for every 10 deposits your child makes they will be entitled to claim a prize.

Tuckshop

If children require items from the tuckshop, they must be pre-ordered. Our preferred system for ordering is online using Flexischools. Please visit www.flexischools.com.au to register and start ordering online. Click REGISTER NOW and follow the prompts (please note service charges apply). If you prefer, you may pre-order using a paper bag. Please ensure you label bags with child’s name, class, meal break it is required for (first break or second break) and include payment in the bag. Preps are NOT permitted to visit the tuckshop to purchase any items personally.

Birthdays

Birthdays are an important event in the life of your child and one to be shared with the community of friends in prep. You are also welcome to share this event. We recommend patty cakes or ice blocks. Please let us know if you do not celebrate birthdays.

Toys

We request that toys are not to be brought to school from home as children can get upset when these items are lost or broken. Other items however, are very welcome for sharing time for example: postcards, photos, things for the science table.
10 things Prep Parents need to remember.

1. My hands are small; please don’t expect perfection whenever I make a bed, draw a picture or throw a ball. My legs are short; please slow down so I can keep up with you.

2. My eyes have not seen the world as yours have. Please let me explore the world safely and don’t restrict me unnecessarily.

3. Housework will always be there. I’m only little for a short time- please take time to explain things to me about this wonderful world.

4. My feelings are tender, please be sensitive to my needs.

5. I need your encouragement to grow. Go easy with criticism – remember to criticise the things I do, not me.

6. Please give me freedom to make decisions concerning myself. Let me fail so I can learn from my mistakes (enable me to take safe risks).

7. Please let me have a go at doing things for myself.

8. Don’t compare me to others. I will learn at my own pace.

9. Don’t be afraid to leave me at school. Kids need time away from their parents too.

10. Help me to be independent. Teach me to tie my shoelaces; do up buttons and put things away myself.