

# Hello Parents and Carers

## **Welcome to Ripley Valley State School**

We wish all of the new Prep students and their families a very warm welcome to Ripley Valley State School this year. We understand that beginning Prep is a very special time filled with a lot of excitement and perhaps some anxiety as well. The Prep team are here to ensure all students feel safe and secure and are ready to settle in to their learning journey as smoothly as possible.

In the first two weeks of school Prep students have been learning what it is to be a learner at Ripley Valley State School. We have visited important areas of our school and enjoyed getting to know the staff and students in our classrooms and throughout the school.



### **Meet the teacher - Mrs Robyn Fordham**

This is my first year at Ripley Valley SS. I have been teaching for over 25 years. I have taught in a number of schools and across all year levels. I have been teaching Prep for the last 11 years. I believe in a hands-on experiences mixed with explicit teaching. I am looking forward to seeing your child reach their potential. Any questions or worries please make sure you see me or email me ([rford16@eq.edu.au](mailto:rford16@eq.edu.au)). Communication between home and school is so important and we are all in this together. Looking forward to a great year ahead.

## **Teaching and Learning in Term 1**

### ***English and HASS***

This term, students will be working on an integrated unit encompassing English and HASS. Students will be exploring and sharing personal thoughts, ideas and experiences with their peers. They will be developing their communication skills through speaking and listening to others and developing comprehension skills through listening and responding to stories. Evidence of their learning will be assessed via retelling a personal experience or event.

### ***Maths***

Students will be investigating numbers to 10, including connecting number names, numerals and quantities, subitizing, comparing and ordering collections, and counting to and from 20. Students will also explore patterns, position and movement.

### ***Science***

Students will examine different types of weather and how it affects themselves and others. They will select and explain their choices of activities and clothing for different types of weather.

### ***HPE***

This term students will be learning about areas that are safe to play in and be active. They will learn about the importance of being physically active and how their bodies respond to different movements. Students will perform fundamental movement skills of running, jumping, hopping and galloping through various games and activities. They will also be participating in perceptual motor skills.

### ***The Arts***

The students in Prep will be focusing on Visual Arts and will use a range of methods including lines, shapes, colours, patterns, digital images and materials including paint, paper, crayons, pencils, and play dough to create artwork about themselves. The students will also be developing their Music skills including rhythm, pitch, dynamics, expression and aural skills.

## Prep A Weekly Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:50-11:00	Reading Literacy and Numeracy	Reading and Literacy/English	Reading and Literacy/English ICT Lesson	Reading and Literacy/English	School Assembly Literacy/English
Morning Tea – Play and Eat					
11:40-1:10	Library The Arts	Numeracy and Mathematics	Numeracy and Mathematics	Numeracy and Mathematics	Numeracy and Mathematics
Lunch Break – Play and Eat					
1:50-3:00	Health & Physical Education (HPE)	Unit Work (English/HASS/Science)	Unit Work (English/HASS/Science)	Unit Work (English/HASS/Science)	Unit Work (English/HASS/Science)

### Housekeeping

1. Please make sure that all of your child's belongings are clearly labelled (especially hats).
2. We are a Sunsmart school, so if your child has no hat they are unable to play outside.
3. Please put a spare set of clothes in your child's school bag in case of accidents.
4. Please ensure that you have signed up to your child's Class Dojo account.  
This will ensure that you don't miss out on any important class information.

### Events this term

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February** Parent Information Afternoon (more details coming soon)

**22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> February** Prep Vision Screening

**15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March** Kambu Health Screening for Indigenous Students

**Week 9** Parent Teacher Interviews

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April** Last day of school for the term

### Home Readers

In the coming weeks, we will begin sending home readers home with your child. These are to be used for daily literacy exposure and can be read by your child or read to your child by you, a sibling, or another family member. Your child's teacher will inform you of the process for using and swapping home readers each week. In the meantime, feel free to begin daily reading using your personal book collections, bedtime stories, or library books.

### Library Books

Please note that we will visit the library to borrow books every Tuesday. Library books should be returned on Monday or Tuesday, so that students are able to borrow a new book. Students require a waterproof and sealable library bag or folder to keep their borrowed books safe in. These can be purchased from the school uniform shop.

### School Canteen – Roo's Kitchen

The Canteen will operate on **Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week**. The menu will be loaded into the Qkr app (<https://www.mastercard.com.au/.../innovations/qkr.html...>) and ordering and payment will be done through this App. Ripley Valley State School is a cashless school and therefore will not accept over the counter orders at the Canteen.

If your child is absent from school and has ordered lunch, you have until 9am on the day to cancel the order alternatively you or a sibling can collect the order. The school is not able to cover the cost for lunches not collected.

If you would like to volunteer to support at Roo's Kitchen please see the office or Maria our canteen convenor.

### Uniform Shop

The uniform shop is open for sales and pick-ups on **Monday's and Thursday's** between **8:00am - 10:30am**. You can also order online (scan the QR code to access online ordering). Our uniform shop is located at the bottom of the piazza, opposite Roo's Kitchen.



### Communication between home and school

We will communicate everyday messages and reminders through Class Dojo. Letters were sent home recently with instructions on how to sign up. If you need another letter, please contact class teachers. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning, please contact me via email (below).

Prep A: Mrs Robyn Fordham – [rford16@eq.edu.au](mailto:rford16@eq.edu.au)

*We look forward to working with you and your child this year, to ensure they get the best education possible.*

*Welcome Children,  
We're glad you're here.  
We're all going to have  
A wonderful year!  
We'll draw and we'll write,  
We'll sing and we'll play.  
We'll paint and we'll build,  
And learn new things each day!*

