How can I help my child?

- Share information about your child with the teacher. This information is always confidential.
- Read together and talk about everyday items such as signs, notices, letters, catalogues, magazines, TV guides, food packaging and bills.
- Read and talk frequently about storybooks, factual books and rhymes.
- Make available a variety of materials and containers for measuring such things as water, grain and sand.
- Involve your child in family activities that investigate mathematical ideas, e.g. cooking, setting the table, matching socks, sharing a meal.
- Chat with your child about what they're doing at school.
- Visit the classroom for a brief chat or to take part in daily activities or special events.
- Encourage your child to experiment with various materials and equipment.
- Encourage your child to explore different ways to organise areas, e.g. their bedroom, play area, cubby.
- Provide “junk” materials for drawing, making patterns, and building things.

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<th>Birthdate</th>
<th>Eligible for Prep in:</th>
<th>Eligible for Year 1 in:</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

We are looking forward to sharing a happy and beneficial year with you and your child.

Do not hesitate to discuss any queries or worries that you may have regarding your child’s education with your child’s teacher. We will try our best to help you.

“Freshwater… Fresh Minds, Fresh Ideas, Fresh Futures”
What is the Prep Year?
The prep year is a full day program for 5 days a week. The prep class is part of the whole school campus where children can continue on from their learning at home, kindergarten or child care. The prep year is designed to provide the foundation that children need for later success in schooling.

An “Early Years Curriculum” has been designed specifically for use in prep. In 2014, the Australian Curriculum areas to be taught in Prep are:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- History
- Geography

As a state school, our teaching and learning is aligned with regional and state-wide expectations for student achievement. By the end of prep, the regional expectation is that students are able to read at a Level 9 with appropriate fluency and comprehension.

Children attending prep will have access to music with the music teacher, physical education with the HPE teacher, library borrowing, parade, tuckshop and specialists where necessary (e.g. Guidance Officer, Speech Therapist).

What will my child need for Prep?
1. School Uniform (labelled) – Available at the school shop
2. School Prep Hat (labelled) – Available at the school shop
3. School Bag (labelled) – Big enough for a lunch box
4. Library Bag (labelled)
5. Spare clothes – labelled in a plastic bag to be kept in school bag
6. Shoes – enclosed shoes that children can manage themselves eg. Velcro, buckles
7. Lunch and Afternoon Tea – in a lunch box, easy to unwrap and healthy
8. A water bottle
9. Hand towel (face washer size with a hook)
10. Small beach towel in a drawstring bag for quiet time
11. Student Resource Scheme $60 per year per child
12. Book list for 2014

What will my child learn in Prep?
The learning experiences in the Prep year will help your child to:
- develop their early literacy understandings
- develop their oral language
- develop their early mathematical understandings
- learn how to be thinkers and problem solvers
- use their imagination and creativity
- take on responsibilities
- become more independent
- respect other people
- cooperate with others
- make sensible choices about their health and safety

Bringing and Collecting Children
Prep Hours – 8:50am – 2:50pm

First Day at Prep
Check the sign on your child’s classroom door for what to do when you arrive on the first day.

General Information
- Children must be brought to and collected from the classroom by a responsible adult known to the teacher. You are welcome to come into the classroom and share a quiet activity with your child as soon as the door opens in the morning, but please stay with your child until the bell rings at 8:45am.
- If your child is going to Outside School Hours Care, Day Care, on the bus, or being picked up by a friend you will need to let us know.
- Pack a lunch that is healthy and easy to open. Children are encouraged to develop independence and responsibility for their belongings. Eg. Bags away, lunchboxes in the fridge.
- As we are a sun safe school, our policy is No Hat, No Shoes, No Play! - outside
- Label ALL belongings.

If your child will be away from Prep, please phone the Freshwater School Absence Line on 4058 9260 stating your name, student’s name and class, reason for absence and expected duration of absence.