

PREP 2023

LEARNING | WISDOM | SERVICE



INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS



Growing and Nurturing Excellence in Learning, Wisdom and Service.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Welcome to Thomas Hassall Anglican College.

We are delighted to have your family join our College Community and we look forward to working with you to nurture and develop your child over the coming years.

Prep is a unique starting point in your child's journey. Our Prep program is designed to prepare Preschool aged children with the necessary skills for Kindergarten. Our aim is to help students flourish in the Prep classroom. This is achieved through teaching students how to think creatively and critically. It is also responsive to the needs, interests and developmental levels of each child.

Prep is the first entry point for Junior School and it allows for a smooth transition for children into full time schooling at Thomas Hassall Anglican College. We welcome your family to the College and look forward to seeing your child grow and develop with us.

Ross Whelan
Principal

FROM THE HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

Welcome to Prep!

I am very pleased to welcome you to the Thomas Hassall Anglican College community as you embark on a 14 year journey from Prep to Year 12!

As parents and carers, you want the best for your child and to give them the best start in life. The Prep program at Thomas Hassall Anglican College provides just that – a strong foundation that nurtures, equips and prepares children to be ready for their first year of formalised schooling, Kindergarten. Children in Prep wear full College uniform, just like at “big School”!

The Prep program is designed with the whole child in mind. It is a precious opportunity to invest in your child’s future, ensuring they experience a smooth start to their K-12 learning journey at Thomas Hassall Anglican College. Our passionate Prep teachers nurture and grow children in an engaging and vibrant environment, with innovatively designed classroom spaces and playground areas. The focus is on school-readiness and establishing firm foundations in the following:

- Building self-esteem and independence
- Nurturing curious, creative and confident learners
- Developing social and communication skills for classroom learning
- Forming friendships with others
- Establishing important learning routines
- Pre-literacy and numeracy skills
- Experiences across all NESA Curriculum Areas
- Familiarisation of College spaces
- Participation in K-6 events
- Personal spiritual development

The Prep team look forward to sharing with you the progress and growth of your child throughout the Prep program. We actively encourage you to engage with us along with way and take opportunities to talk to your child about their learning, such photos we share with you on the Seesaw App.

As we share in the joys of watching your children grow we pray that they bear fruit in their journey to becoming young men and women of upstanding character, blossoming in their strengths and making new discoveries about their future.

Sandy Wheeler

Deputy Principal / Head of Junior School



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PROGRAM

- Is based on the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) Documents
- The outcomes that will be covered will be those that are age-appropriate from Early Stage One (Kindergarten)
- The content of the program encompasses all the Key Learning Areas as outlined below

KEY LEARNING AREAS – AN OUTLINE OF CONTENT

ENGLISH

Speaking and Listening

- Language activities–picture talks on the themes/news/nursery rhymes
- Stories–shared reading
- Discussions
- Socialisation activities
- Games
- Play
- Interaction with peers and staff

Reading and Viewing

- Pre-reading activities–visual discrimination/sequencing of events/recognition of name/labelling things in the room
- Rhyming, singing and felt stories
- Weekly visit to the Library to borrow a book to take home
- Introduction to sight words and sounds-oral and written activities to provide a basis for reading activities in Kindergarten

Writing and Representing/Handwriting and Using Digital Technologies

- Story writing–dictated so it can be written for the children to “read” back and illustrate
- Development of fine motor skills-to learn correct pencil grip/sitting position
- Pre-writing activities–using crayons/pencils/chalkboards/painting
- iPads

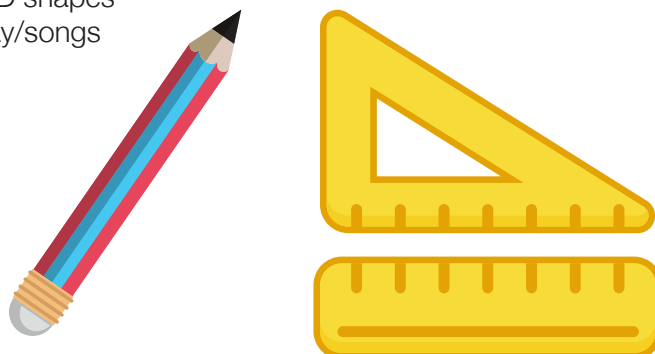
MATHS

Number and Algebra

- Study of 0 to 20–recording numbers/counting/games involving numbers/writing numbers/using iPads
- Written activities
- Learning one to one counting through the use of concrete materials
- Pattern creation–using playdough/shapes/counters/beads

Measurement and Geometry

- Everyday language/play using sand and water to discover volume/mass/length
- Time–sequencing activities/weather/days/months on the weather chart daily
- Shapes–attributes/colour/features of common 2D shapes
- Position–learning everyday language through play/songs



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GEOGRAPHY/HISTORY/SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Activities focus on the following themes:

- Special places (Geography)
- All about me (History)
- Living things (Science)



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT/HEALTH

Activities focus on the following themes:

- Healthy Body (food and exercise)
- Healthy Mind (emotional regulation)
- Healthy Heart (kindness)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Development of gross motor skills using a variety of equipment
- Games/outdoor fixed play equipment
- Dance activities

CHRISTIAN STUDIES

- Daily devotion and prayer
- Learning about the characteristics of God
- Looking at an overview of Bible Stories
- Easter and Christmas
- Singing

CREATIVE ARTS

- Songs
- Drama—associated with Literacy study/themes
- Art/Craft activities for skill development—cutting/pasting/ painting/drawing/paper skills/tracing/colouring
- Dance



LANGUAGES

- Students learn to say hello in different languages including Aboriginal languages.
- They learn to sing traditional Aboriginal songs and nursery rhymes from different cultures.



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DAILY ROUTINES

- Prep times are from 8.20am until 2.30pm
- If you need to take your child home earlier than 2.30pm you will need to sign out at the College main office
- The classes will operate with a similar structure to Kindergarten—the children will be expected to participate in the learning activities. The students will participate in activities that are developmentally appropriate
- Most of the content in the Key Learning Areas of English, Maths and Visual Arts will be covered in group work where they will rotate in groups during the week and will complete all activities by the end of the rotation-these groups will have an ability focus for English and Maths
- The children will be involved in cooking activities throughout the year
- The children will be involved in College events, depending on the days they occur and the days they attend eg. College assemblies, Easter Hat Parade, mufti days, Grandparents Day, Book Week activities

FOOD

- The children are taught healthy eating habits
- Please assist by sending some fruit to eat at recess each day and a sandwich or similar for lunch
- All items from the canteen must be ordered as they are not allowed to go to the canteen to buy food for themselves (lunch time only). Orders for the canteen can be placed online using the “Munch Monitor” website (link available via the College website)
- Brothers and sisters are unable to buy for them as the Prep children play in their own enclosed playground



REPORTING

- A report will be sent home at the end of Term Two and Term Four
- Parents can log into the Seesaw app to get a glimpse of the students learning and to see activities
- There will be an opportunity for Parent-teacher interviews in Term One and Term Three

RELATIONSHIP WITH KINDERGARTEN

- A Transition to Kindergarten Program will operate in Term Four

EXCURSIONS

- The children will participate in an excursion towards the end of the year on a day they attend Prep.



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ALLERGIC REACTIONS

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ALL PARENTS REGARDING ALLERGIES

We have a number of students in the College who have serious allergies. One of the most significant of these is allergies to nuts which causes a serious reaction called anaphylaxis. This can be caused by the student coming into contact with nut products.

Anaphylaxis is a life threatening condition that may be fatal.

Therefore our College is 'Nut Aware' and the following strategies have been implemented:

- All staff are provided with training to manage anaphylaxis
- Students with this condition have a management plan
- Our canteen does not sell anything which contains nut products
- We inform our College community not to send students to College with any food containing nut products such as peanut butter, nutella, and snickers bars. Please check food labels particularly snack foods.

TRANSITION TO COLLEGE

Assisting your child to a smoother transition to College will encourage your child's independence. By working with your child and the class teachers your child will become

- Familiar with the College environment
- Learn new rules and routines
- Meet new people



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HOW DO I PREPARE MY CHILD FOR COLLEGE

- Encourage your child to attempt the things mentioned below, but don't worry if your child can't do all of them. Talk to the teacher, together you can support and assist your child's learning.

LANGUAGE

- Talks to other people about familiar objects and events
- Answers and asks simple questions
- Makes needs known
- Follows simple instructions
- Recognises own name
- Uses books for enjoyment or for looking at pictures
- Identifies pictures in books, magazines, on television or dvd
- Uses a variety of things – pencils, textas, paintbrushes, sticks in the dirt to draw, scribble or write
- Joins in singing familiar songs

Conversations with your child, singing songs such as nursery rhymes, reading stories and pointing to each word will assist in sound, letter and word recognition. Also the most effective way to develop language skills is interaction with other children.

MATHEMATICS

- Recognises that numbers can be used to count
- Uses words such as many, a lot, more, less
- Identifies things in a group that are different
- Sees differences in shapes
- Differentiates between opposites – up and down, under and over, in front and behind, day and night

Counting with your child, playing games with mathematical concepts, such as number recognition will assist in developing these skills.



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PERSONAL AND SOCIAL SKILLS

- Uses the toilet independently
- Can say own name
- Adapts to unfamiliar settings and new experiences
- Can finish a task and tidies up afterwards
- Plays cooperatively with other children – shares and takes turns
- Can sit still to listen to a story for a few minutes
- Is curious about the world
- Can share an adult's attention with several other children
- Participates in imaginative play

Having general conversations with your child, encouraging your child to speak about situations using full sentences, independent play and interaction with other children will develop these skills.

PHYSICAL SKILLS

- Uses scissors to cut along a straight line
- Enjoys a variety of indoor and outdoor play
- Can put on and take off jumpers, shoes and socks independently
- Makes and designs things using a variety of materials

Activities such as cutting and pasting, art and craft, interaction with other children will assist your child to develop these skills.



You were your child's first teacher and your child will continue to learn from you. Your child will need you to support them, to value education, to keep interested in their work and to praise their efforts. So if your child has not attended Preschool or has not had the opportunity to develop these skills, start introducing them in the home environment so that the transition to College will be smoother.

Ensure that your child

- Has contact with other children. Interaction is vital because it helps children make friends and interact with others
- Play games (encourage turn taking, sharing and how to lose graciously).
- If a problem arises at home or at an outing, encourage your child to speak about the situation without making conflict. Explain how they could solve the problem eg; how, why, listen
- Rules. Speak about why rules are needed and use examples such as crossing the road at a green light

Keep in mind these are ideas that will assist your child. Research shows that experiencing a positive transition to College will benefit children's success in the long term. All the staff at Thomas Hassall Anglican College will help your child to adjust to new ways of doing things and to learn new skills.

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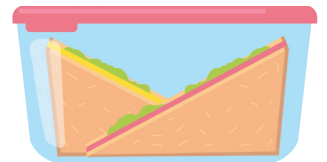
Here is what I need to pack in my bag



LIBRARY BAG



WATER BOTTLE



LUNCH BOX WITH RECESS AND LUNCH



PIECE OF FRUIT (PACKED SEPARATELY)



SPARE CHANGE OF CLOTHES



COLLEGE HAT



OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Thomas Hassall Anglican College partners with OSHClub to offer Before & After College Care for students on either a regular or occasional basis. Vacation Care is also available for holiday periods. Families need to notify OSHClub directly if their child is absent from College or is not attending on their scheduled day.

Full details are available on the College website.

Program operates Monday – Friday 6.30am - 8.20am & 2.40pm – 6.00pm term time.

Places are available for children in Prep to Year 6.

The program is accredited with the Department of Community Services and is registered with Centrelink therefore some families may be entitled to a rebate. For information on your eligibility, please contact FACS directly on 131 650.

OSHClub also provides Vacation Care for the Holidays and Pupil Free Days.





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