



Mossman State School

We enrol families, as well as students.

www.mossmanss.eq.edu.au

• PO Box 163, Mossman QLD 4873



<https://www.facebook.com/MossmanSS/>

• Ph: 40999333

• Principal: Randal Smith

We acknowledge the traditional custodians, the Kuku Yalanji people, of the land on which our school stands and pay respect to the Elders, past, present and emerging.

2024 PREP YEAR PARENT INFORMATION BOOK





*Mossman State School is situated on
Kuku Yalanji land.*

*Mossman State School recognises,
acknowledges and pays its respect to the
ancestors and elders of this land, and we
would like to warmly welcome people from all
walks of life into our school community.*

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WELCOME TO MOSSMAN STATE SCHOOL

Our professional and approachable staff will provide a program that ensures your child receives the best possible start to school. We look forward to developing a strong partnership with you, as we work together to support your child. If you have any queries or concerns, please see your child's teacher or please do not hesitate to contact the school on 40999333.

At our school, we enrol families as well as students. Parents are our students' first teachers so for us to know your child, we need to work with you. Please feel free to come in and talk to us about your child's highs and lows anytime.

Welcome to our Mossman State School community. We look forward to your contributions to our class and school.

ABOUT PREP

Queensland children are required to undertake Prep prior to Year 1. Prep is a full-time program that children attend from Monday to Friday during normal school hours from 8.50am to 3pm.

The Prep Year is such an exciting, yet scary year; your child is attending school full time and learning new skills but still they are young and wanting to play.

At Mossman State School, we present a balanced program of:

- **Academic rigour** so your child is learning early reading, early writing, and early number skills.
- **Physical activity** to develop gross motor and fine motor skills.
- **Social skills** to ensure positive interactions and relationships.
- **Technological skills** as these are essential for learning and interacting in the future.
- **Indigenous Language skills** because we value our Indigenous culture.

*All children who were born between 1st July, 2018 and 30th June, 2019 are welcome to attend the Preparatory (Prep) Year.
(ie turning 5 before 1 July, 2024)*

**Prep is compulsory
and runs 5 days a
week
8.50am – 3.00pm**

School commences on 22nd January, 2024

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ❖ *Please bring a copy of your child's **Birth Certificate** – this **must be sighted and photocopied** before your child starts the Prep Year.*
- ❖ *Preferably, students should not be dropped off before 8.30am, unless attending the Reading Club.*

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR PREP

There are many things that families can do to help make a child's transition to school successful including:

- getting to know about the school
- talking with your child about school
- taking your child to the school to meet the teachers
- making sure your child knows how they will get to and from school
- getting to know other families with children who will be in the same class as your child
- talking with your child about eating, toileting and hygiene at school
- answering your child's questions about school
- reading some children's books about starting school
- always being positive and realistic about starting school



WHAT YOUR CHILD NEEDS AT PREP

At our school we have a Prep Resources Levy. This will be a one-off amount paid to the school at the beginning of the school year. Your child will then be supplied with all of the resources necessary for the Prep year. You will receive more information regarding the Student Resource Scheme upon enrolment.

PREP RESOURCES LIST
<i>My Prep ABC Scrapbook</i>
<i>My Sounds Scrapbook</i>
<i>Yellow half page baseline design scrapbook</i>
<i>4 blank scrap books</i>
<i>Whiteboard markers</i>
<i>Wooden ruler</i>
<i>5 glue sticks</i>
<i>Pencils</i>
<i>Pencil sharpener</i>
<i>Coloured pencils</i>
<i>Crayons</i>
<i>2 display folders</i>
<i>Scissors</i>
<i>1 Manilla folder</i>
<i>1 Ream of paper</i>
<i>Mathseeds subscription</i>
<i>Reading Eggs subscription</i>
<i>2 Plastic wallets with Velcro</i>
<i>Headphones</i>
<i>Library bag</i>
<i>Tissues</i>

SCHOOL BAG

Your child will need a school bag large enough to hold:

- drink bottle
- broad brimmed hat (available from TUCKSHOP)
- homework folder
- change of clothes (in case of a mishap)
- lunchbox

All items, including spare clothing, must be labelled with your child's name.

Please do not send toys from home.



UNIFORMS

Prep students at Mossman State School are encouraged to wear the school uniform. Any clothing worn by our students needs to be appropriate for the activities they are involved in. Uniforms are practical items of clothing that can stand up to the daily wear and tear of a busy Prep student's life. The school sport shirts in house colours, KADAR (Red), KIJU (Green) & WANDI (Blue) can also be purchased and worn on HPE days and at school sports carnivals. Our P&C has recently introduced swimming rashies in the house colours – limited supply.

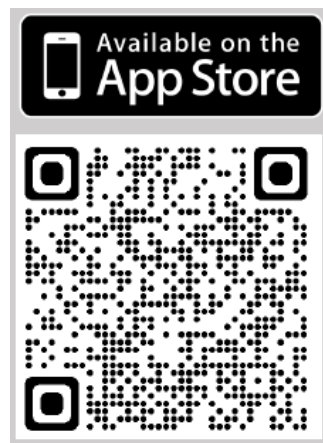


**PLEASE NAME ALL UNIFORMS,
including shoes & hat to avoid lost property**

Our school has a no hat, no outdoor play rule. As our school is a sun safe school, it is also essential that your child **wears a wide brim hat**. This hat will be kept at school during the term and sent home on holidays to be washed. **We also recommend your child wears appropriate footwear every day to protect their feet.** Children will be encouraged to keep their shoes on for most activities, including outdoor play. We would appreciate shoes that your child can manage independently as we are developing independence. Closed in shoes with velcro such as supportive runners, are the most practical. Thongs and high-heeled shoes are not practical. Some students at our school wear 'cros' (rubber clogs) in the wet season.

School hats and uniforms can be ordered via the **Qkr app** or by completing an order form at the school office with cash payment. Orders will be filled by one of our P&C parent volunteers every Friday (subject to change), and delivered to your child's classroom or left in the office for collection.

1. Download Qkr
2. Register – Select your Country of Residence as 'Australia' and follow steps to register
3. Find our school – Mossman SS will appear in 'Nearby Locations' if you are within 10km's of our school
4. Register your child – When first accessing our school you will be prompted to add a student profile. This can be edited later i.e. for your child's class if not known. This allows you to make orders for tuckshop & uniforms.



MEALS and DRINKS

****Please supply 1 x drink bottle (named) – please ensure bottles are filled with water only****

Fruit/Vegetable Snack (9.45am) Everyday

Students will have a fruit/vegetable break in the morning. Please ensure that your child brings a small piece of fruit or vegetable daily, pre-cut in a small named container or snap lock bag (including days when they order tuckshop).



First Lunch (11.15am – 12.00pm)

11.15am-11.45am Playtime

11.45-12.00pm Eating time in classroom

Children will need to bring their own lunch every day (unless ordering tuckshop), and should be packed in a non-insulated lunchbox as we have fridges in all classrooms. Non-insulated lunchboxes also take up less space in the fridges. Healthy foods are encouraged so please take care when packing your child's lunch. There are many foods that take a long time to eat or are not very healthy so please be selective. We ensure sandwiches or fruit are eaten first. Children are encouraged to drink water whilst at school.

Please avoid sending students with highly processed, sugary and packaged snacks.
OUR SCHOOL HAS A NO LOLLIES/CHOCOLATE/SOFT DRINK POLICY

Second Lunch (1.30pm-2.00pm)

1.30pm – 1.50pm playtime

1.50pm-2.00pm Eating time in classroom

Children need a small lunch of fruit, yoghurt or sandwiches for this second lunch break.

TUCKSHOP

Tuckshop is available for children at 1st lunch only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Tuckshop and uniform orders can be made via the app 'Qkr' or, place your child's order in a brown paper bag with the correct money, child's name and class clearly marked on the front. Orders are placed in a class tuckshop box ready for delivery.



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL TIPS

Introduce your child to a staff member and feel free to stay until you feel your child has settled. Then say 'goodbye' and leave. If your child cries take him/her to a staff member, but leave quickly. Children not used to leaving their parents may initially find the parting difficult but prolonging the moment only makes it worse. Children may cry for a short time (about 5-10 minutes) but soon settle down to the business of enjoying themselves and socialising with other children. If we are concerned that your child is not settling within a reasonable time, we will telephone you.

BEGINNING OF SCHOOL DAY

Please ensure your child arrives promptly at the beginning of the day to prevent interruption to the program. Please ensure that your child is placed in the care of classroom staff who are on duty from 8.30 am. Students and siblings are not to play on equipment before or after school due to duty of care.

NB: The school play equipment is not supervised by staff before and after school hours. Staff are not available to supervise play areas before school.

READING CLUB

Our school hosts a before-school Reading Club where students and their parents, caregivers, brothers and sisters come along and enjoy the pleasure of reading. The Reading Club takes place in the RIC between 8.00am and 8.50am, Monday to Friday. We employ teacher aides to assist with reading during this time. We also have a band of willing volunteers. So come along and immerse your children in the world of books and reading.



END OF SCHOOL DAY

Please collect children promptly from the classroom at the conclusion of the day. No child will be permitted to leave the school unaccompanied or with a person other than his/her parent or caregiver unless the teacher or office staff are advised of the change.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Parents are welcome to stay and assist with supervising a small group activity or to help with resource preparation. An extra adult in the classroom assists with our program. You could help children with our activities e.g. Cutting, collage, reading to children, working with small reading and Math groups. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to be involved.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

We encourage ongoing collaboration between parents and staff by:

- informing the school of any change in address and/or phone number and emergency contacts
- updating health plans as changes occur at the front office who will then inform class staff.
- discussing with staff any information that may help us understand your child better
- keeping in touch with the teacher on matters concerning your child's health and well-being eg: disturbed eating or sleep patterns which may indicate an illness.

ABSENCES

If your child is ill or will be absent, it is very important that you let the school know by sending a note with another sibling, ringing the school (40999333) or telling the teacher & office in person. Our school operates a same day SMS message service whereby you will receive a text message if your child's absence is unexplained.

- If you arrive after the second bell (9am) please go to the office to **collect a late slip** before going to your child's classroom.
- Students are also required to be **signed out at the school office** if departing the school early.

If someone other than you is picking up your child, make sure your child knows who that person is and let the teacher know. This is for your child's safety.



It is important that we have a current contact phone number if there is an accident or your child is ill. A child can become very distressed if they are not feeling well.

Please let the teacher or the office know if your contact details change.

Please feel free to discuss anything that may affect your child's learning at school with their teacher.

It is very important for teachers to know about home events that impact on your child's learning.

TOYS

Children are asked to leave their own toys at home as they may get lost, broken or taken home by someone else. If children bring something special for news they will be asked to put it in their bag or give it to the teacher to look after until home time.

BIRTHDAYS

Classroom teachers are happy to acknowledge birthdays. You are welcome to send along a cake or cupcakes to celebrate your child's birthday. However, to ensure that we do not place students with allergies at risk we ask that we are advised of any allergies. Please speak to your class teacher to arrange. We also encourage invitations to your child's birthday party are best handed from parent to parent discreetly to prevent uninvited children feeling upset.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Prep children have one 45minute physical education lesson and a 30minute health lesson with our Specialist Physical Education Teacher each week. The PE program includes swimming, games and physical activity such as ball skills, athletics and more.

Hats must be worn to participate in our PE program and shoes are recommended.



SWIMMING

In Term 4, children will participate in water safety lessons at the Mossman Pool followed by a junior & senior swimming carnival at the conclusion of these lessons.

Children will need togs/swimsuit, sunshirt, towel, sunscreen and a swimming bag (a plastic bag is ideal) for swimming.



It is an Education Department requirement that your child wears a rashie over their togs for sun safety when swimming. Swimming times and days will be advised in Term 3. Parents are encouraged to come and join us, as we need as many hands as possible in the water.

Our P&C have introduced a new rashie in the sport houses designs and are available for purchase as with the school uniform, via Qkr or cash through the school office.

REPORTING AND PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent / Teacher interviews are offered twice a year. The first interview is offered in Term 1 and the second interview is offered in Term 3. Report cards are sent home at the end of Term 2 and Term 4.

BEHAVIOUR

Operating from the Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) framework, our school staff believe that all children are learners of behaviour just as they are learners of reading, writing and mathematics and that expected and appropriate behaviour needs to be taught. Across our school we reinforce the importance of our three school rules:

**Be Safe
Be Respectful
Be a Learner**

In classrooms we have developed 5 simple behaviour expectations:

1. Follow directions quickly.
2. Raise your hand to speak and to leave your seat.
3. Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.
4. Make strong choices.
5. Listen well and have a go.

Through consultation with our school community, our staff has developed a matrix of behaviour expectations ie: what those three rules look like in different settings across our school. Students participate in activities that explicitly teach the school rules and expected behaviours.

Here is a sample of our matrix:

	Across All Settings	In the Classroom	In the Playground	Walkways and Verandahs
Be Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow directions • Co-operate with others • Wear uniform • 5L's of listening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk • Use equipment responsibly • Sit correctly on chairs and carpet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play school-approved games only • Wear hats and be sun smart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay calm in lines • Stay to the left on stairs • walk
Be Respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be honest • Be an active listener • Take pride in your school • Use polite language and manners • 5L's of listening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use inside voice • Take care of yourself • Co-operate with others • Raise hands to speak 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite others to join in games • Share • Play fairly and take turns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a quiet voice so others can continue learning • Walk • Keep bags in racks • Be courteous-say hello
Be A Learner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an active participant • Give full effort • Be a team player • Take responsibility for your own learning • 5L's of listening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge yourself • Be organised • Be on time • Focus on your own work • Stay on task • Think • Listen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a problem solver • Try new games and activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return to class promptly

We also apply the philosophy that children are usually doing the right thing all of the time so we strategically recognise and reward that positive behaviour e.g. children may receive praise, public recognition, concrete rewards such as stickers or novelties, "Student of the Week" awards, "I Spy" awards and "Good News" postcards or choose from the prize box. Staff also provide feedback about the student's behaviour choices and efforts.

If a student has difficulty with learning the appropriate behaviour, support plans and personnel are accessed.

Programs such as: You Can Do It, Friends for Life and High Five support the implementation of Positive Behaviour for Learning.

A copy of the school's Student Code of Conduct is available from the school office or school website.



HEADLICE

Head lice are a worldwide phenomenon and can be a normal part of school life. Prevention strategies such as keeping hair short or long hair tied up, as well as regular checking of your child's hair are best. Head lice and their eggs are visible to the naked eye and are usually found on the scalp (lice) or on the first 1-2 cm of the hair shaft (eggs/nits). Chemical treatments are available from chemists and some supermarkets or you can remove lice and their eggs by combing wet hair with a metal fine-toothed comb and generous applications of hair conditioner. If the school detects head lice on a student, a note will be sent home to students in the class to ask all parents to check for head lice and to treat them if necessary.



INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious illnesses can spread very quickly in the school setting. Regular hand washing is encouraged to minimise the spread of germs. **If your child is obviously unwell, please do not send them to school.**

If your child contracts an infectious disease (eg: Chicken Pox, Covid, Measles or School Sores) please contact the school immediately. In certain cases, children will be required to be kept at home until the disease is no longer infectious. The attached table details the period of time children are to stay away from school when they have an infectious disease.

Please see the following for more information.

DISEASE	PERIOD OF EXCLUSION FOR
CHICKEN POX	EXCLUDE until all blisters have dried. For non-immunised children, this is usually 5 days after the rash first appears, and less for immunised children.
COVID-19	EXCLUDE as per Queensland Health current guidelines.
CONJUNCTIVITIS	EXCLUDE until discharge from eyes has ceased unless a doctor has diagnosed non-infectious conjunctivitis.
DIARRHOEA AND/OR VOMITING <i>including:</i> - amoebiasis - campylobacter - cryptosporidium - giardia - rotavirus - salmonella - viral gastroenteritis <i>but excluding:</i> - norovirus - shigellosis - toxin-producing forms of E.coli (STEC)	Exclusion periods may vary depending on the cause. EXCLUDE a single case until 24 hours after the last loose bowel motion and the person is well. EXCLUDE all persons who prepare or serve food until they have not had any diarrhoea or vomiting for 48 hours. If there are more than two cases with diarrhoea and/or vomiting in the same location, or a single case in a food handler, notify your Public Health Unit.
FUNGAL INFECTIONS of the SKIN AND NAILS	EXCLUDE until the day after antifungal treatment has commenced.
HAND, FOOT AND MOUTH	EXCLUDE until all blisters have dried.

HEADLICE	<p>Exclusion is not necessary if effective treatment is commenced before next attendance day (i.e. the child does not need to be sent home immediately if head lice are detected). The recommended treatment is to smother hair with conditioner then comb with a lice comb then wash.</p> <p>Head to head contact should be avoided.</p>
HEPATITIS A	EXCLUDE until at least 7 days after the onset of jaundice or dark urine, or for 2 weeks after onset of first symptoms if no jaundice or dark urine.
IMPETIGO (School Sores)	EXCLUDE until 24 hours of appropriate antibiotics have been completed. Cover sores on exposed areas with a waterproof dressing until sores are dry, and encourage handwashing.
MEASLES	EXCLUDE for 4 days after the onset of the rash. <i>Contact your Public Health Unit for specialist advice.</i>
MUMPS	EXCLUDE for 5 days after onset of swelling.
RUBELLA (German Measles)	EXCLUDE for 4 days after the onset of rash or until fully recovered, whichever is longer.
SCABIES	<p>EXCLUDE until the day after treatment has commenced.</p> <p>Suspect cases to be excluded until medical clearance is obtained. If there is a positive diagnosis a child must be excluded for at least one week then subject to (a) or (b) in the next column. Return to School is permitted if (a) a medical certificate of clearance is produced; or (b) there is adequate evidence that the child has been adequately treated.</p> <p>NOTE: Two points are of marked significance concerning Scabies:- The incubation period of a first attack is long - four to six weeks - so there will not be a dramatic spread of the disease from one case to dozens of others in a few days, as is often claimed in "panic" situations; and...</p> <p>Once a child has had Scabies he/she is likely to itch for several weeks even though he is actually cured of the infection.</p>
STREPTOCOCCAL	EXCLUDE until 24 hours of appropriate antibiotics have been completed.
WHOOPING COUGH	EXCLUDE until 5 days after starting appropriate antibiotics or for 21 days from onset of cough. <i>Contact your Public Health Unit for specialist advice.</i>
WORMS	EXCLUDE until diarrhoea has stopped for 24 hours and treatment has occurred.



Does Attendance Really Matter?

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem much but ...

If you miss....	That equals....	Which is.....	and over 13 years of schooling that's...	Which means the best you might perform is ...
1 day per fortnight	20 Days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly <u>1.5 years</u>	 Equal to finishing in grade 11
1 day per week	40 Days per year	8 weeks per year	Over <u>2.5 years</u>	 Equal to finishing in grade 10
2 days per week	80 Days per year	16 weeks per year	Over <u>5 years</u>	 Equal to finishing in grade 7
3 days per week	120 Days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly <u>8 years</u>	 Equal to finishing at grade 4

If you want your child to be successful at school then YES, attendance does matter!



'Every Day Counts!!'

What Sort of Start is Your Child Getting?

Just a little bit late doesn't seem much but ...

He/ She is only missing just....	That equals....	Which is.....	and over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly <u>Half a year</u>
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 mins per week	Over 2.5 Weeks per year	Nearly <u>1 year</u>
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 Weeks per Year	Nearly <u>1 and a Half years</u>
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 Weeks per year	Over <u>2 and a Half years</u>

Did you know your child's best learning time is the start of the school day?

That's when every minute counts the most!!

School Starts at 8.50am

'Every Day Counts'

