



Machans Beach State School

Respecting Ourselves, Caring for Others

A Guide to Starting Prep 2026



Welcome to Machans Beach State School

We would like to welcome your family to Machans Beach State School. We hope that your family's involvement in Prep is both rewarding and enjoyable. As you know, the Foundation year is an important step in your child's education. It is well documented to be one of the most significant times in a child's life, where their experiences not only affect cognitive, social and physical development, but also deeply influence dispositions to learning, and importantly, how children view themselves as learners.

Our Philosophy

At our school, we believe it is not the child who must be "ready for school," but rather the school that must be ready for the child. Every child brings their own strengths, interests, and experiences, and we recognise the importance of meeting them where they are.

We ensure a successful transition to school by:

- Building strong relationships with children and their families before and during the transition process.
- Providing opportunities for early orientation and familiarisation with the school environment
- working closely with local early childhood services to share knowledge and support continuity of learning.
- Creating welcoming, inclusive, and nurturing learning spaces that help children feel safe and valued
- differentiating teaching and learning to support each child's unique developmental stage and learning style.
- Encouraging families to be active partners in their child's education journey.

At Machans Beach School, students are provided with many opportunities for both structured and unstructured play. We teach our Prep students to read and write, and develop skills in number and early mathematical concepts through Age-Appropriate Pedagogies which uses a variety of approaches, including Play-based learning, Inquiry learning and Explicit teaching.

There will be two full-time Prep staff members who will be working with your child – a class teacher and a Prep teacher aide who will support the class teacher. All students take part in weekly assemblies, special presentations and other whole school events throughout the year. This wider school involvement assists the transition process.

Machans Beach State School is committed to providing quality educational experiences that are connected to real life, through a supportive and creative environment. We look forward to developing a partnership with your family at this special time, the beginning of their educational journey at 'big' school.

Kind regards,

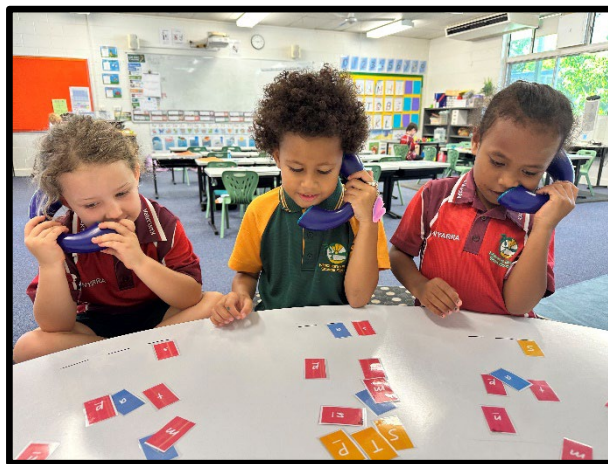
Jessica Wertz

Principal

Early Years Curriculum

Machans Beach State School celebrates the importance of early years education through a high-quality Prep program, designed to give children the best foundations for future success. Our Prep program is informed by The Early Year Learning Framework and the Australian Curriculum.

In Prep, students engage in English, Mathematics, Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS), Science, Technology, The Arts, Music, Health & Physical Education (HPE) and Languages (Japanese). Teachers will assess and report on student learning progress for English, Mathematics, and Health & Physical Education.



Prep is a vibrant and engaging learning environment filled with opportunities to see, touch, explore, and discover. Children make friends, develop confidence, and are supported by teachers who view them as capable and competent learners. At the heart of learning are secure, respectful, and reciprocal relationships. Our aim is to create an environment where every child can grow into confident, creative individuals and lifelong learners.

Teachers use Age- Appropriate Pedagogies that place students at the centre of learning and curriculum decisions. This means valuing children by engaging in learning and teaching that is playful, connected, intentional, agentic, responsive and reflective. This approach supports holistic learning, development and wellbeing through inquiry and age-appropriate, responsive learning environments in which open-ended activities encourage exploration, curiosity, and problem-solving.

The following factors contribute to success in learning:

- **Social and emotional competence** – developing personal and social skills that support positive relationships and wellbeing.
- **Health and physical wellbeing** – building healthy habits and strengthening both gross-motor and fine-motor skills.
- **Language and communication** – focusing on oral language, early literacy, and the foundations of effective communication.
- **Early mathematical understanding** – developing number sense and foundational numeracy skills.
- **Active learning processes** – encouraging curiosity, imagination, problem-solving, and positive dispositions towards learning.

School Hours

Prep hours are in line with the rest of the school, with classes running from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Classroom doors open each morning at 8:55am. Students arriving before this time may play in the Covered Play Area, where supervision is provided from 8:15am. For children who need to arrive earlier than 8:15am, families are asked to enrol in Before School Care.

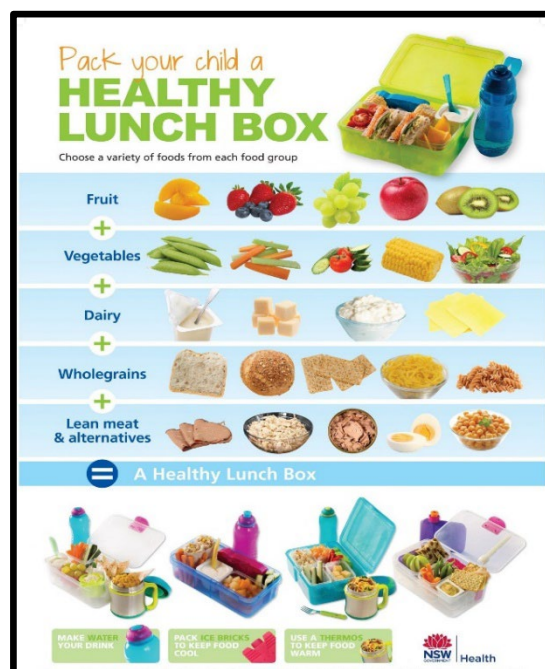
Communication

We value strong communication between home and school and encourage parents to keep in touch with their child's teacher. To ensure teachers have time to prepare for the school day, we kindly ask that parents avoid approaching teachers before school without a prior appointment. The preferred method of communication is email, which can also be used to arrange a face-to-face meeting if needed. This helps us ensure we give you the time and attention your questions and concerns deserve.

Healthy Lunches

At our school, we encourage healthy eating and ask for your support by sending only nutritious food with your child. Children need balanced, healthy meals and snacks to fuel their learning, concentration, and the energy they use throughout their active day in Prep.

- Soft drink, chocolates and lollies are not appropriate for school.
- Please ensure that you send along a spoon/fork if your child requires one.
- We ask that any tinned items (e.g. tuna, baked beans) be decanted into a container at home to prevent any cuts, or difficulty with access, at school.



Toys and Personal Items

We ask that toys, teddies, and trinkets from home are not brought to school. If toys do come to school, they will be safely cared for in the office until the end of the day. From time to time, children may be asked to bring in special items from home for show and share or other class activities. Prep staff will let families know when these occasions arise.

If your child requires a comfort item or sensory regulation toy, please speak with their teacher first.

Weekly Timetable

Below is an example of what a week in Prep looks like:

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9:00 – 11:00am Morning Session	Welcome, calendar and roll marking	Welcome, calendar and roll marking	Welcome, calendar and roll marking	Welcome, calendar and roll marking	ASSEMBLY
	Phonics instruction	Phonics instruction	Phonics instruction	Phonics instruction	Phonics instruction
	Fruit Snack	Fruit Snack	Fruit Snack	Fruit Snack	Fruit Snack
	Literacy Routine	TECHNOLOGY	Literacy Routine	Literacy Routine	Literacy Routine
11:00 – 11:40am	First Break	First Break	First Break	First Break	First Break
11:40 – 1:00pm Middle Session	Handwriting	Handwriting	Handwriting	Handwriting	Handwriting
	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
	Library borrowing	Investigations		Investigations	
1:00 – 1:30pm	Second Break	Second Break	Second Break	Second Break	Second Break
1:30 – 3:00pm Afternoon Session	Relaxation / Class story	Relaxation / Class story	Relaxation / Class story	Relaxation / Class story	Relaxation / Class story
	PBL and SEL Focus	SCIENCE	HASS	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	HEALTH
	MUSIC	Show and Tell	THE ARTS	LOTE - Japanese	Golden Time

First day of Prep

Our goal is to ensure your child's first day of Prep is a positive experience. We will be working hard to make the transition as smooth as possible, with plenty of smiles and time to settle in. To help children feel safe and secure, our routine will be simple and consistent until they gain confidence.

On Day 1, the Prep classroom will be open at an earlier time of 8:30am.

Families can use this time to settle students into the classroom and help organise their belongings.



All booklist items should come to school on the first day. **Please ensure that all items you send to school are clearly labelled with your child's name.** It is helpful if students can also have a set of spare clothes (including underwear) in a plastic bag in their backpack, in case of any toileting accidents.

Tips for a smooth start:

- Be positive. Talk about new experiences in an encouraging, happy way.
- Use familiar names. Help your child learn the names of teachers and staff.
- Be clear and reassuring. Always let your child know when you are leaving and remind them you will be back at the end of the day, along with the other parents.
- Plan and explain where you will meet them at home time.
- Keep goodbyes short. A quick farewell often helps children settle more easily once parents have left.

Please do not hesitate to share any questions or concerns you may have about your child's education. We are here to support you and will do our best to help.

WELCOME to Prep with Ms Hayley

Parents/ Family Member

- Help your child find their name tag, new desk and explain the morning activity.
- Unpack the school supplies into the areas listed below.



School Supplies

- Fridge: lunch box , water bottle and separate fruit snack .
- Green tub: school hat and all other booklist items.



When the 2nd bell rings at 9 am it's time to say goodbye and sit on the mat.

Children

- Find your name tag and desk and say hello to your neighbours .
- Choose an activity: playdoh, puzzles, colouring in, sand table.



In Your Desk

- Your mini whiteboard.
- 1 Whiteboard marker and eraser.
- Your pencil case containing a set of coloured pencils, a writing pencil and a glue stick.

Important dates in 2026

Vacation Care Program	Outside School Hours Care available for all students enrolled at MBSS for 2026.
Mon 19th to Fri 23rd January (week before school starts)	School office is open between 8:30 – 3:00pm for the purchasing of school uniforms and paying Student Resource Scheme fees.
Fri 23rd January	Family Picnic 2pm – 3pm A whole school event for families to meet our school staff and P&C committee.
Tues 27th January	First day of Term 1
Mon 2nd – Fri 6th Feb (Week 2)	Prep Class Meet and Greet – exact date and time TBA. An opportunity for parents/carers to visit their child's classroom to learn about the curriculum, behaviour expectations and other relevant classroom information for the year ahead.
Thurs 2nd April	Last day of Term 1

Preparing for School

Talk about school

Talking with your child about their first few days at school is an easy way to support them.

Talk about:

- their first day
- how to make friends
- your happy memories of school.



Read with your child

Reading with your child is special. You are bonding together and supporting their growth.

Sharing books with your child:

- builds their reading and language skills
- encourages a lifelong love of reading
- grows their understanding of the world.



Build independence

At school, your child will look after their belongings and follow daily routines. Independence supports your child to join in at school.

You can support your child's independence by:

- setting up morning and evening routines
- helping them choose a lunch box they can open and close
- practising putting on their socks and shoes.



Celebrate starting school

Starting school is a time to celebrate. Your child will feel important and their confidence will grow.

Celebrate starting school by:

- counting down to the first day of school
- taking photos of your child's first day
- have a family party.



Your school community

Starting school is a chance for you to make new friends with other families and support each other.

You can meet other families by:

- going to school P&C nights
- helping in the tuckshop or uniform shop
- spending time in your child's classroom
- attending events at the school.



Your child's wellbeing

Your child's excitement about starting school may be mixed with sadness about leaving home and kindy, and worry about what school will be like.

You can support your child's wellbeing by:

- talking about how they are feeling and why this might be
- teaching them how and who to ask for help
- making time to rest before school starts and over the first few weeks.

