At St Mary's Catholic Primary School we have an extensive Prep Transition Program, *Ready for Prep*, for all children commencing Primary School the following year. Helping to make the significant transition from a home, preschool or day care setting to Prep as smooth as possible for children and their parents is of paramount importance to us.

**WHY IS TRANSITIONING IMPORTANT?**

The transition to school marks a time of great excitement, and sometimes stress, for children and their families. Participation in a transition program supports a positive start to school and also promotes children’s mental health and wellbeing, social and academic success. Transition programs aim to minimise children's experience of adjustment difficulties and highlights the importance of working and building positive relationships with families.

**READY FOR PREP: HOW WILL IT HELP MY CHILD?**

This program aims to give pre-prep aged children a taste of school life and is conducted by our current Prep teachers. We believe it will:

- Assist children in making a successful adjustment to the school and classroom environments
- Offer an opportunity to participate in classroom activities
- Create familiarity with teachers and school routines
- Allow children to practise skills necessary for school
- Encourage new friendships and develop a support system
- Provide information and support for parents

**WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM?**

All children who are eligible to commence primary school next year are welcome to participate in the *Ready for Prep* program.

We have built strong relationships with our community kindergartens and day care centres and have a number of local centres already participating in this program.

**If your child does not attend kindergarten/preschool or day care, or attends another centre, you are most welcome participate.** Simply enrol in the program and more detailed information will be provided, including
PROGRAM DETAILS

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<tr>
<th>TERM 4, 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 14 October</td>
<td>Morning in Prep Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 28 October</td>
<td>Morning in Prep Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 11 November</td>
<td>Morning in Prep Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 28 November</td>
<td>ORIENTATION DAY</td>
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**Morning in Prep Sessions – What do these visits involve?**

- Attending assembly and sitting with current Preps
- Eating fruit break/lunch together in Prep area
- Reading the focus book and related activity
- Enjoying free play with current preps
- Free Play* - nail and hammer table, playdough, blocks, weaving, water play etc.
- All activities undertaken in the Prep classrooms and Prep outdoor area
- Prep teachers and aides always present
- Parents/guardians welcome to visit any time

**Buddy Program**

As part of this transition program, pre-prep students will be partnered with a ‘buddy’ from Year 5 whom they will connect with on a number of occasions. When they commence Prep in 2017, they will have another familiar face to connect with, with their buddy who will now be a Year 6 leader.

**READY FOR PREP TRANSITION PROGRAM – FACEBOOK PAGE**

We have created a brand new Facebook Page dedicated to our Prep transition program. We encourage all parents of pre-prep children participating in the program, or anyone interested in considering enrolling their child in Prep at St Mary’s Catholic Primary School, to follow this page.

The dedicated page will be managed by our current Prep teachers and it aims to:

- Document the transition program – photos, information, updates, important dates/events etc.
- Give transitioning tips to parents
- Share resources that will assist with transitioning your child
- Show every day classroom activities and explain their purpose
- Give insights into routines
- Show how prep students are supported in their learning and social/emotional wellbeing

**REGISTER YOUR INTEREST or ENROL TODAY**

To be part of our Ready for Prep Transition Program email list and/or to enrol your pre-prep aged child in this program, please contact:
Mrs Trish Bade
Prep Teacher

Email: pbade@bne.catholic.edu.au
Phone: (07) 4121 5705 – ask to speak to Trish