



Taigum State School



Prep Handbook 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to warmly welcome you and your child to Taigum State School. Choosing a school is an important decision, and we are delighted that you have chosen to begin your child's learning journey with us.

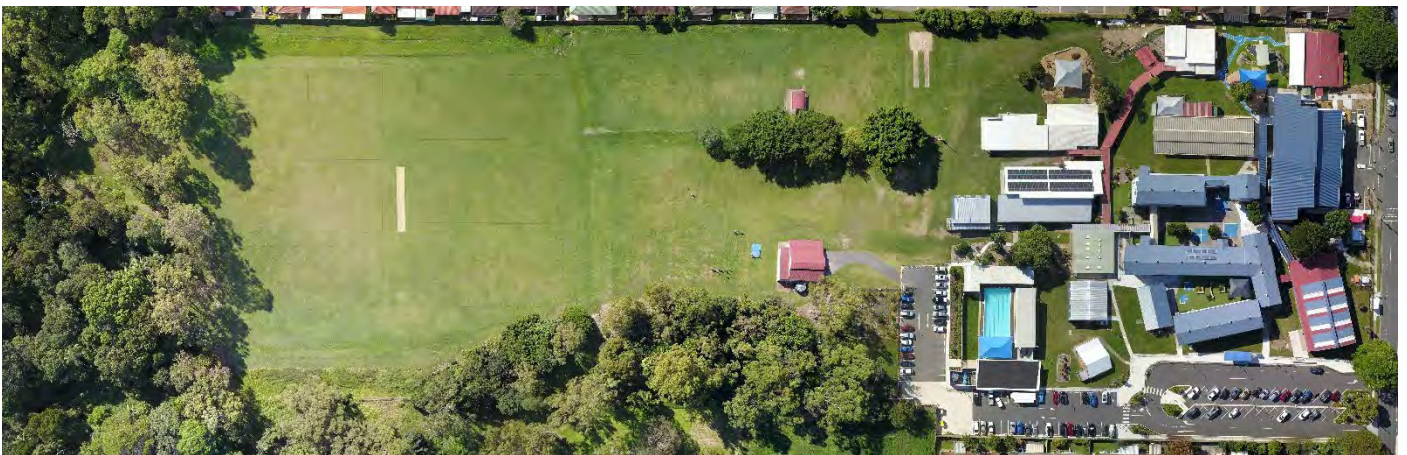
At Taigum, we are proud of our strong, supportive culture. Our school community is built on respect, kindness, and a commitment to helping every child succeed. We value inclusivity and celebrate the diverse backgrounds, experiences, and abilities of our students. Every child is seen as an individual, and we work together to ensure they feel safe, supported, and inspired to reach their potential.

Our dedicated teachers and staff are committed to creating engaging learning opportunities that build curiosity, confidence, and a love of learning. We also place a strong emphasis on working in partnership with families, because we believe that when schools and parents work together, children thrive.

We look forward to getting to know you and your child as we begin this exciting new chapter together. Welcome to the Taigum community.

Mark Fisher

Principal



Practical Components of School

Queensland Education 2026 Term and Public Holiday Calendar

Term Dates

- **Term 1:** Tuesday 27 January – Thursday 2 April (10 weeks)
 - **Term 2:** Monday 20 April – Friday 26 June (10 weeks)
 - **Term 3:** Monday 13 July – Friday 18 September (10 weeks)
 - **Term 4:** Tuesday 6 October – Friday 11 December (10 weeks)
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Public Holidays During Terms

- **Term 1:**
 - Australia Day – Monday 26 January
- **Term 2:**
 - Good Friday – Friday 3 April
 - Easter Monday – Monday 6 April
 - ANZAC Day – Saturday 25 April (observed)
 - Labour Day – Monday 4 May
- **Term 3:**
 - Royal Queensland Show (EKKA) Show Day – Wednesday 12 August (Brisbane only)
- **Term 4:**
 - King's Birthday – Monday 5 October

2026 PREP TEACHING TEAM

Prep Teachers

		
Nadine Brown-Winter	Nikki Roos	Vicki Hicks

Teacher Aides

Maddison Campbell		Nicole Harvey		Grace Rossi	
Jonty Byron		Sandra Dezwardt		Michelle MacMinn	

Admin Team

			
Mark Fisher Principal	Brad Tavelardis DP	Jodie Innes HOD: C	Sharon Rodgers HOD: I

Starting School – Supporting Your Child’s Transition

The first days of school are an important milestone and often bring a mix of emotions for families – excitement, optimism, and sometimes a little anxiety. We understand this can be a significant adjustment and would like to share a few ideas to support you and your child during this time.

We encourage you to share any feelings or concerns you may have, no matter how big or small. Our team is here to support both you and your child as they settle into this new environment.

School is a new and dynamic experience. Children may behave differently at school compared to home as they learn to become active, social members of a new community. This process can require significant effort and, at times, create feelings of fatigue or stress as they adjust. Providing opportunities for your child to unwind at home, along with patient and attentive listening, can help them process their day.

It is also important to remember that children may not always be able to fully express the range of feelings they experience. When asked about their day, they may share very little or focus on a single negative moment. This is normal and often does not reflect their overall experience. If you would like strategies for encouraging your child to talk about their day or share their learning, please reach out – we are always happy to support you.

We look forward to working with you to ensure a positive, enriching start to the school year. Together, we can celebrate the unique spirit of each child and foster a strong, supportive school community.



Introduction – Get set for Prep

By enrolling your child in Prep, you are giving your child the best start in readiness for Year 1.

- Prep is full-time and children attend during school hours.
- Prep is the foundation for developing
 - o Early literacy/numeracy skills
 - o Thinking, Gross & Fine motor skills
 - o Independence & a positive approach to learning
- Prep follows the same rules as the whole school to be 'Safe and Friendly' Learners



Age Eligibility

Children entering in Prep in 2026 must have attained the age of 5 years by 30 June 2025.

Enrolments cannot be accepted unless supported by the following documentation:

- Enrolment application (as found on our website or collected from school office)
- Birth certificate copy
- Visa and passport copies (if not an Australian citizen) of both parents and child
- Proof of residential address (Necessary as our school has a geographic catchment – lease/tenancy agreement or other utilities notice stating your name and address within our catchment).

Transitions

Most children adjust to commencing Prep with few or no issues. Some children, especially those with a diagnosis for a disability, or undergoing investigations with a Paediatrician require additional support prior to commencing Prep. An Individual Transition Plan may need to be developed between the school and parents/caregivers prior to the formal commencement of Prep. Should your child require some additional support please contact the school to develop a transition plan.

What is school readiness?

School readiness is not about being able to read or write, know colours or count.

These skills will be taught at school so they are not a priority for starting school. Readiness is more about emotional and social maturity – aspects of development that we cannot fast track. We cannot make a child who lacks the necessary maturity become more mature.

To help ascertain if your child is ready for school, parents may use the following questions as a guide:

- Can they make an independent decision and follow through on this?
- Do they have ideas of their own?
- Can they follow two or three instructions at the same time?
- Can they move on to new activities easily?
- Do they separate well from their carer?
- Do they show interest in other kids?
- Do they interact with other children?
- Can they recognise and express their feelings and needs?
- Can they concentrate on a task?
- How do they deal with frustration?

Getting your child ready for Prep

Encourage your child to be independent by helping them to:

- Put on and take off their shoes – highly recommended to purchase velcro sandshoes
- Teach them how to tie shoe laces
- Unwrap school lunches, open lunch boxes and use a drink bottle
- Care for and put away play things
- Use a hanky or tissues – dispose of and wash hands
- Use the toilet independently – use, wipe, flush, wash hands.
- Carry his or her own school bag
- Identify his or her own belongings by names labelled on them



Communication Skills

- Make his or her needs known
- Use appropriate gestures and manners
- Respond verbally when spoken to

Safety Skills

- Familiarise with 'travelling' to and from school
- Talk of 'stranger danger' – where to go/who to go to if unsafe
- Get to know others that are attending the school

Eating and Food

Provide healthy food and drink in realistic quantities.

Ensure your child can open and unwrap their lunch (no ring pull cans).

Provide a variety of smaller items rather than 1-2 large items.

Provide a water bottle every day.

Keep sweets, chips and other party foods for parties and special occasions.



Our school operates a tuckshop on Tuesday and Thursday with a special menu day on Fridays. Please provide a plastic spoon if needed (for yoghurt etc)

PLEASE CLEARLY LABEL LUNCH BOXES AND DRINK BOTTLES WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME AND CLASS.

Toilet Independence

You can help your child get set and ready for Prep by helping them to master toilet training. Being toilet trained in the daytime means your child can:

- Control the urge to use the toilet until they reach a nearby toilet
- Pull the underwear up and down and adjust their outer clothing
- Get on and off toilet without help
- Use paper to wipe themselves
- Flush the toilet
- Wash and dry their hands afterwards.

Even when your child is toilet trained, an occasional accident may occur. It is advisable to leave a change of clothes in your child's bag in case of emergencies.

Getting Involved

Things you can do at school:

Parents play an important role in a child's education

- Introduce yourself and share information about your child
- Keep the teacher informed of any changes
- Talk with your child about their day
- Attend parent information sessions and parent teacher interviews
- Read the school newsletter, website or Facebook for the most up-to-date news.

Keep in Touch

1. If you have concerns about your child's interactions at school, please make an appointment to speak to the class teacher. As the person who has most to do with your child, they are best able to address your concerns.
2. Please provide **current** contact details to the office and update these if they change. **It is most important that we are able to contact you especially in case of injury or emergency.**

Attendance in Prep

Regular attendance is important – Prep is full-time!

- When children attend Prep regularly, they make become familiar with their teachers, friends and environment.
- Avoid keeping children home for: birthdays, shopping, visiting family, or minor check-ups.
- Routine medical or other health appointments should be made before or after school hours or during school holidays.
- Absence – you are required to explain every absence. Please send a note to the teacher or contact the school office by phone, email or Qparents.

BE FIRM – SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL EVERYDAY – INCLUDING BIRTHDAYS!

You are welcome to send cake/cup-cakes to share with the class.

Routines are Important

- Have a set time for your child to go to and get out of bed.
- Have the uniform, school bag and lunch ready the night before.
- Have a set time for breakfast.
- Set a time for daily homework activities if required.
- Speak about school positively.

What to do on the First Day in Prep

9:30am – on arrival (first day only)	Please take your child directly to the ASSEMBLY HALL. Refer to the class lists on display to find out your child's class and teacher
9:30am	Principal's Welcome & Address to new Prep students and Parents
	Students line up and will be walked to classrooms with their teachers. Parents may walk with the lines to the classrooms but are requested not to enter. Please farewell your child before they enter the classrooms. This will allow teachers to settle all students into their new routine.
2:30pm Dismissal - first day only	At the end of the school day, Prep students will be walked over at 2:25pm in line to meet their parents at the Junior Walkway.

What to do from Day 2

8:30 am	Before School – on arrival	Arrive at school. You may sit with your child under D Block until teachers meet them to line up at the 8:45am bell. Staff will be on duty from 8:30am to supervise students. Older students who are siblings are expected to sit <u>in their own designated areas not with their brothers or sisters.</u>
8:45am	First Bell	Students will be met by their teachers under D Block. Students will then be lined up and walked in two lines to the classroom
3pm	Dismissal Bell	Please be ready at the Junior Walkway to receive your child once the teacher walks them over.

8:45am	First session	English and Reading
11:00am	First break Supervised eating time	Next to Prep Playground
11:10am	Playtime in Prep Playground	Prep students are not to leave this area unless given permission by a supervising teacher. Older students and sibling may not enter this area unless instructed by a teacher.
11:30 am	Second session	Maths/Specialist lessons/HASS, Science, Arts and Technologies
1pm	Second Break Supervised Eating	Next to Prep Playground
1:10pm	Playtime in Prep Playground	Play time in Prep play area
1:40pm	Third session	Students line up under D Block and return to classroom. Specialist lessons/ HASS, Science, Arts and Technologies
3:00pm	Dismissal	Students are walked in two lines to their pick-up area.

School Uniform

Prep students should follow the 'Dress Code' endorsed by our P&C

Our school uniform is:

- School polo shirt with emblem
- Maroon Shorts or skorts/skirts
- Uniform dresses available for girls
- Hat – with school emblem (reversible with house colours)
We have a *no hat –no play* policy!
- Black shoes (joggers)
- White socks
- Maroon windcheater or jacket

PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS CLEARLY WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME

Our uniform shop is open Mon –Thurs 8:00am – 8:45am

Apart from plain sleepers /studs or watches NO JEWELLERY IS TO BE WORN.



TAIGUM STATE SCHOOL

266 HANDFORD ROAD, TAIGUM, Q 4018
PHONE: 3632 9888 FAX: 3632 9800
EMAIL: ADMIN@TAIGUMSS.EQ.EDU.AU
ABN: 91 516 6857 885



Opening Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:00am – 8:45am

UNIFORM PRICE LIST

ITEM	SIZE	PRICE
POLOS	2 to 28	\$35.00
SENIOR POLO	Year 6 ONLY (ordered in October each year)	\$ T.B.A
NAMED SPORT SHIRT	Surname on back (ordered in October each year)	\$ T.B.A
UNISEX SHORTS	4 and up	\$25.00
DRESSES	4 and up	\$46.00
SKORTS	4 and up	\$27.00
SKIRT COMBO	Sizes 4, 6, 14 and 16	\$22.00
FLEECY LINED JACKETS	Maroon	\$40.00
HATS		
• Slouch	53, 55, 57	\$17.00
• House Hat	One size	\$17.00
SCHOOL BAG	Maroon	\$40.00
CHAIR BAG	Blue or Maroon	\$13.00
LIBRARY BAG	Blue or Maroon	\$15.00
LYCRA SWIM CAP	Blue, Yellow or Red	\$ 9.00

EFTPOS Available

Second hand uniforms are available.
Updated 25/10/2023

Prices are subject to change.

The 'High Five' – Our Anti-Bullying Policy



What is the High Five?

Bullying is repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological aggressive behaviour by a person or group directed towards a less powerful person or group that is intended to cause harm, distress or fear.

- High 5 is an effective strategy to develop problem-solving strategies for our students.
- It is a 5-step problem solving strategy that can be used in the classroom, in the playground and for perceived bullying incidents.

IGNORE	TALK FRIENDLY	MOVE AWAY	TALK FIRMLY	REPORT
Pretend you didn't hear it. · Do not make eye contact. · Maintain positive body posture (calm, confident). · Think positive self-esteem statements. · Count to five in your head slowly. · Take deep breaths	Use a calm voice. · Maintain eye contact. · Confident body language. · Maintain relatively close body proximity. · Use "I" statements – I feel when you because	Stand tall, head up high. · Mouth closed. · Look confident. · Do not use eye contact. · Walk somewhere, preferably towards a congested area or to a safety zone (teacher). · Do not look back. Walk confidently, don't run	As per Talk Friendly. · Use an assertive voice, slightly raised. · Tell them to stop it. · Re-state your "I" statement. e.g. I said · State the consequences of continued bullying	Walk away and tell a staff member. · Go to a safety zone. · Bystanders - support and report. · Report, report, report until somebody listens

What will my child learn in Prep?

English

Foundation
Achievement standard
By the end of Foundation, students listen to texts, interact with others and create short spoken texts, including retelling stories. They share thoughts and preferences, retell events and report information or key ideas to an audience. They use language features including words and phrases from learning and texts. They listen for and identify rhymes, letter patterns and sounds (phonemes) in words. They orally blend and segment phonemes in single-syllable words. They read, view and comprehend texts, making connections between characters, settings and events, and to personal experiences. They identify the language features of texts including connections between print and images. They name the letters of the English alphabet and know and use the most common sounds (phonemes) represented by these letters (graphs). They read words including consonant–vowel–consonant words and some high-frequency words. They create short written texts, including retelling stories using words and images where appropriate. They retell, report information and state their thoughts, feelings and key ideas. They use words and phrases from learning and texts. They form letters, spell most consonant–vowel–consonant words and experiment with capital letters and full stops.

Mathematics

Foundation
Achievement standard
By the end of Foundation Year, students make connections between number names, numerals and position in the sequence of numbers from zero to at least 20. They use subitising and counting strategies to quantify collections. Students compare the size of collections to at least 20. They partition and combine collections up to 10 in different ways, representing these with numbers. Students represent practical situations that involve quantifying, equal sharing, adding to and taking away from collections to at least 10. They copy and continue repeating patterns. Students identify the attributes of mass, capacity, length and duration, and use direct comparison strategies to compare objects and events. They sequence and connect familiar events to the time of day. Students name, create and sort familiar shapes and give their reasoning. They describe the position and the location of themselves and objects in relation to other objects and people within a familiar space. Students collect, sort and compare data in response to questions in familiar contexts.

Science

Foundation
Achievement standard
By the end of Foundation students group plants and animals based on external features. They identify factors that influence the movement of objects. They describe the observable properties of the materials that make up objects. They identify examples of people using observation and questioning to learn about the natural world. Students pose questions and make predictions based on their experiences. They engage in investigations and make observations safely. With guidance, they represent observations and identify patterns. With guidance, they compare their observations with their predictions. They share questions, predictions, observations and ideas about their experiences with others.

Health and Physical Education

Foundation
Achievement standard
By the end of Foundation, students describe similarities and differences between themselves and others, and different emotions people experience. They demonstrate personal and social skills to interact respectfully with others. They identify and demonstrate protective behaviours and help-seeking strategies to keep themselves safe. Students identify how health information can be used in their lives. Students apply fundamental movement skills to manipulate objects and space in a range of movement situations. Students identify the benefits of being physically active and how rules make play fair and inclusive.

Humanities and Social Sciences

Foundation
Achievement standard
By the end of Foundation, students identify significant people and events in their own lives, and how significant events are celebrated or commemorated. Students recognise the features of familiar places, why some places are special to people and the ways they can care for them. Students pose questions, and sort and record information from observations and provided sources. They share a perspective and draw conclusions. Students use sources and terms to share observations about places and the past.

The Arts

Foundation
Achievement standard
By the end of the Foundation year, students describe experiences, observations, ideas and/or feelings about arts works they encounter at school, home and/or in the community. Students use play, imagination, arts knowledge, processes and/or skills to create and share arts works in different forms

Technologies

Foundation
Achievement standard
By the end of Foundation students identify familiar products, services and environments and develop familiarity with digital systems, using them for a purpose. They create, communicate and choose design ideas. Students follow steps and use materials and equipment to safely make a designed solution for a school-selected context. They show how to represent data using objects, pictures and symbols and identify examples of data that is owned by them.

Reading

Students will be developed in their reading skills throughout the year in a sequential manner. They will also have the opportunity to borrow books from our school library. The children love to do this but **MUST HAVE A LIBRARY BAG!**

Prep Reading

- At Taigum State School we teach a synthetic phonics program following the Australian Literacy Progressions. As part of the program, children will learn 4 basic skills –
 1. Learning letter sounds
 2. Segmenting
 3. Blending
 4. Irregular words
- Students then start to use these skills in simple books called decodables (very short stories where words consist of the sounds they have learned as well as tricky words)
- These skills are then developed across the year as the student's knowledge progresses.

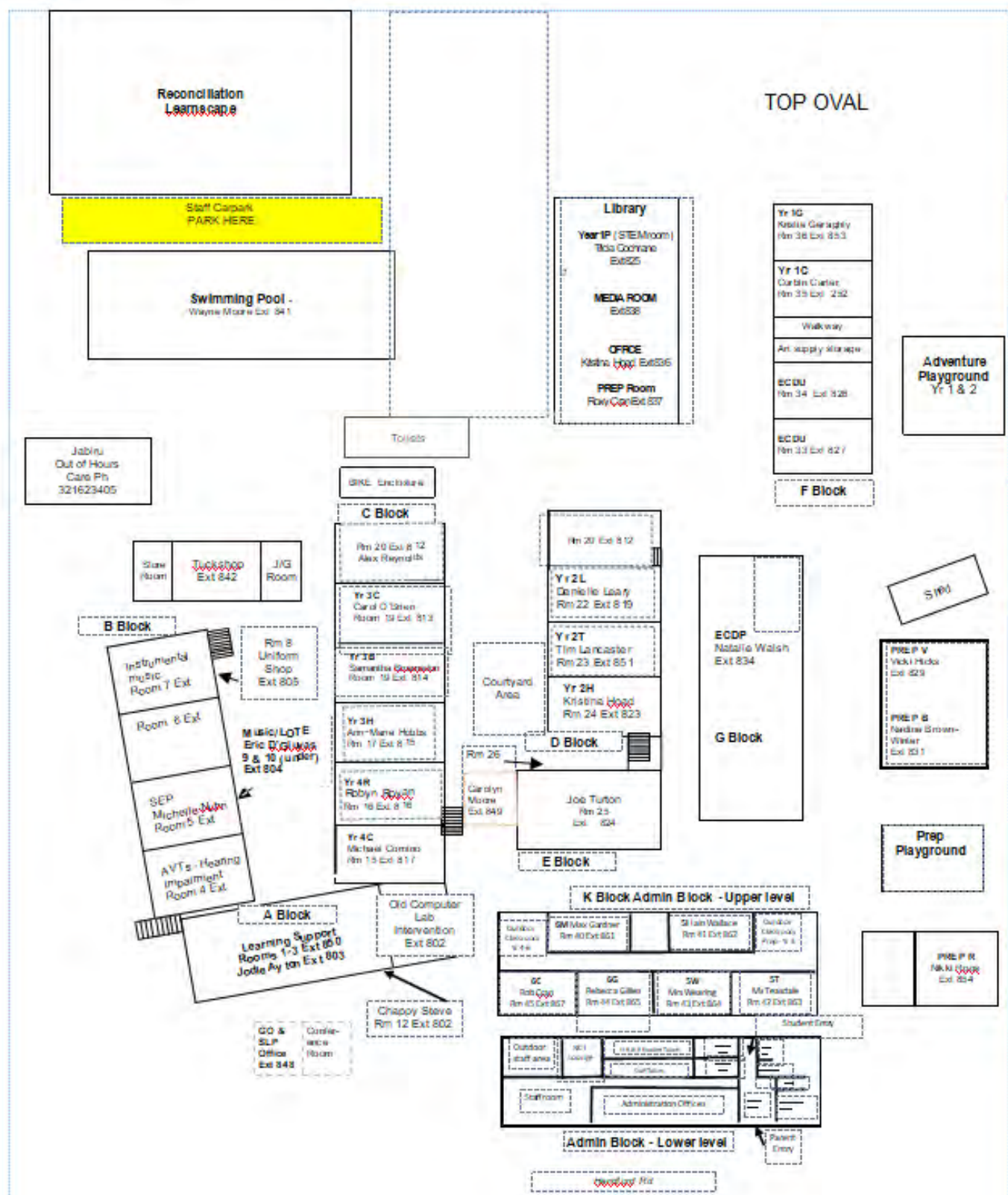
IS YOUR CHILD READY FOR SCHOOL?

READINESS QUESTIONS	YES	NO	UNSURE
<i>Is your child usually happy?</i>			
<i>Can your child accept correction and suggestion without becoming upset?</i>			
<i>Does your child socialise well with other children?</i>			
<i>Does your child respond positively to adults other than family members?</i>			
<i>Can your child contribute to conversation appropriately?</i>			
<i>Is your child confident when speaking in front of people?</i>			
<i>Is your child's speech clear?</i>			
<i>Does your child have a fairly wide vocabulary?</i>			
<i>Can your child perform daily routine tasks alone?</i>			
<i>Can your child take care of personal belongings?</i>			
<i>Can your child dress independently – such as doing up buttons, shoelaces, etc.?</i>			
<i>Does your child go to the toilet and wash their hands independently?</i>			
<i>Does your child share and take turns?</i>			
<i>Does your child generally finish tasks?</i>			
<i>Can your child work alone without being distracted?</i>			
<i>Can your child work well in a group?</i>			
<i>Can your child use scissors correctly?</i>			
<i>Can your child hold a thick pencil or crayon correctly and draw in bold lines?</i>			
<i>Can your child copy a circle, square, cross, rectangle and triangle?</i>			
<i>Can your child recognise colours and shapes, and correctly name these?</i>			
<i>Can your child remember and follow instructions?</i>			
<i>Can your child express their ideas fluently?</i>			
<i>Can your child retell a simple story in correct sequence?</i>			
<i>Can your child discriminate visually between similar things?</i>			
<i>Can your child discriminate between similar sounding words?</i>			

If you answer “YES” to most of the questions, your child should settle in to the Prep day and various routines readily and happily.

If you didn't answer “YES” to most of the questions, don't panic...there is still time for child to become more prepared and ready for school. Remember also that the teachers and other school staff will be able to assist your child in settling in to school routine.

Map of the School



FROM THE TUCKSHOP

Tuckshop operates on TUESDAY, THURSDAY and FRIDAY

Tuckshop is now open on Fridays. This will be an **ONLINE ONLY** special meal deal. that will change weekly.

QKR - Tuckshop Ordering System

QKR is a secure and easy way to order and pay for lunches from your phone at a time and place that suits you.

Step 1: Download [Qkr!](#)

Step 2: Register

Step 3: Find our school (in Nearby Locations) Taigum State School

Step 4: Register your children

Menu below available Tuesday and Thursday only

 TAIGUM TUCKSHOP			
ALL DAY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY / SECOND BREAK FRIDAY			
SANDWICHES		DRINKS	
Jam or Vegemite	\$2.00	Water	\$1.50
Cheese	\$2.00	Juice <i>apple / orange</i>	\$2.00
Ham	\$2.50	Milk <i>chocolate / strawberry</i>	\$2.00
Ham and Cheese	\$2.50	Glee <i>grape / raspberry</i>	\$2.50
WRAPS		SAVOURY SNACKS	
Ham and Cheese	\$4.00	Chips <i>chicken / plain</i>	\$2.00
Salad	\$4.00	Garlic Bread	50c
Chicken Tender	\$4.50	Cheesy Garlic Bread	\$1.00
Chicken Salad	\$4.50	Ham and Cheese Pizza Scroll	\$2.00
Chicken Caesar	\$5.00	SWEET SNACKS	
HOT FOOD		Fruit Salad	\$3.00
Meat Pie	\$4.50	Muffin <i>raspberry / apple cinnamon</i>	\$1.00
Sausage Roll	\$4.00	Mini Cinnamon Scroll	\$1.00
Spinach Roll	\$4.50	Jelly Cup	\$1.00
Mini Spring Roll	50c	FROM THE FREEZER	
TOASTIES		Icy Pole	50c
Cheese	\$2.50	Ice Cream Cup <i>choc / straw / vanilla</i>	\$2.00
Cheese and Ham	\$3.00	SAUCE	
Ham and Cheese Wrap	\$4.50	Tomato / BBQ / Sweet Chilli	30c
Chicken and Cheese Wrap	\$4.50		
		FIRST BREAK TUESDAY AND THURSDAY	
		Burger	\$4.50
		Cheeseburger / Chicken / Veggie	
		Hotdog	\$4.00
		Hotdog + Cheese	\$4.50
		Cheese Pizza	\$3.00
		Ham + Cheese Pizza	\$3.50
		FRIDAY	
		See QKR! for the meal deal of the week. Limited menu items available Friday first break.	
		SECOND BREAK TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY	
		Chicken Fingers	\$3.00
		 Cash and EFTPOS available but QKR! is preferred. Download the app and order before 8:30am. Do you have time to volunteer in the tuckshop? Please talk to us to arrange times. The P&C thank you for your support.	

QParents

Fact sheet for parents

What is QParents?

QParents is a free and secure online application that enables Queensland state school parents to access and manage their child's information, complete school-related administrative tasks and communicate with their child's school.

What information is available in QParents?

Using QParents you can:

- view upcoming events, timetables and report cards
- access and provide digital consent
- view and update attendance details (including future absences)
- view behaviour information
- pay invoices and view payment history.

Which schools use QParents?

QParents is available to all Queensland state schools. Please contact your child's school directly to find out if they use QParents.

How do I register for QParents?

To start using QParents, download the app on your preferred device or visit qparents.qld.edu.au and follow the instructions.

What personal information is stored in QParents?

Your username, e-mail and phone number are stored in the QParents database.



Where is my personal information stored?

The Department of Education has contracted Microsoft to host the QParents app. Your personal information is stored in Microsoft's secure data centre in Australia. All personal information is protected using the latest encryption techniques, rendering this information unreadable to unauthorised people. For more information, see the [Microsoft Azure Trust Centre](#).

Will you use my data for advertising purposes?

No. Queensland Government agencies are not permitted to disclose your information for marketing, advertising or other purposes.

Where is my child's information sourced from?

Information about your child in QParents has been collected through school processes such as enrolment and/or recorded by teachers and school staff in the school's IT system called OneSchool.

How current is the information in QParents?

Information will be available in QParents as soon as it has been recorded or updated in OneSchool. Any information you update in QParents will be available immediately for the school to review and confirm the update in OneSchool.

What if I don't want my child's information in QParents?

You will need to contact your child's school if you do not want their information on your QParents account.

Where can I find help using QParents?

If you need assistance using QParents, you can:

- check the help page at qparents.qld.edu.au/#/help
- call 13 QGOV (13 74 68)
- contact your child's school.

