Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: When do the children eat the main part of their lunch?
We encourage the children to eat their main part e.g. their sandwich at first break and then they may snack on other food just before the second eating time. As Prep teachers we allow them a second eating time from around 12.30pm. Please ensure the children can open their own containers and that their food is easy for them to manage and create little mess.

Q2: Where does my child place his/her lunch order on a Monday and Friday?
Each classroom has a plastic box where the lunch orders need to be placed. The box is then taken to the office and picked up. It is your child’s responsibility to place his/her lunch order in the tub as soon as they arrive at school.

Q3: What do I need to remind my child to do when they arrive at school?
Make sure he/she carries his/her own bag into the classroom, say goodmorning to his/her teacher and place his/her drink bottle and brain food on his/her table. It would be great if you could check the daily schedule on the boards in the classroom with your child and discuss what is happening in the day.

Q4: Once my child has unpacked and arrived at school what can they do?
The children are allowed to play quietly in their classroom or on the top court from 8.30am as this is where it is supervised. The children are not allowed to play on the equipment outside as it is not supervised in the morning. As soon as the bell goes the children must be in the classroom ready for prayer at 8.50am.

Q5: What is Brain Food?
Brain food is a healthy snack, being only fruit or vegetables. It must be cut up into small, bite sized pieces so that it is easily manageable for the children. It needs to be placed in a separate container to their lunch box so that it can be placed on their table. Please make sure all containers are named.

Q6: What do I need to remember in regards to the specialist classes?
That the children bring their Library bags and return their borrowed books every Thursday. All preps to wear their sports uniform on Monday for Footsteps dance in Term 1. In addition to this, Prep E need to wear their sports uniform on Monday for P.E, Prep C on Tuesday and Prep LA on Thursday.

Q7: Should I eliminate after school activities?
We suggest that the children do not participate in any after school activities for Term 1, as it is a big term and the children will be very tired. However it is completely up to you!

Q8: When is the best time for my child to read their take home text?
You know your child best. We want to create a love for reading and we do not want it to be a tedious process. Please choose a time that best suits them, it may be as soon as they get home from school, before dinner or when they wake up.

Q9: How do I stay informed about what my child is learning at school?
The Victorian curriculum is the framework that informs our planning. We plan in accordance to the needs of the children. Please feel free to have a look online as it is available to everyone. [http://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/](http://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/) In addition, every weekend we will place an update informing you and the children about what they will be learning for the week ahead on our blogs. The Prep level blog is our main form of communication with all parents, please check it regularly with your child. The children love it when you place comments on the blog or assist them in placing a comment on the blog! [2016preps.global2.vbic.edu.au](http://2016preps.global2.vbic.edu.au)

Q10: What should I do if my child tells me about an issue on the playground or in the classroom that upset them?
St. Michael’s follows the Restorative Practices Philosophy which focuses on restoring the relationship which was broken. We follow our school SMASH expectations when at school. If children do not follow these expectations they are given verbal reminders to remind them how to behave and how to follow the expectations. If your child voices a concern with you that we are not aware of please let us know.

Q11. What should I do if my child is unwell?
It is a legal obligation to inform us of your child’s absence from school. Please call the school office and/or send a notification via the Skoolbag app. The teacher also needs to be notified via a note or email. Please keep your child home if they are unwell so that he/she can rest, get better and we can avoid infection to the remainder of the class (if the illness is contagious).

Q12. How can I become involved in my child’s learning?
Firstly, every person that steps into the school or assists in any way must have a Working With Children Check. You can also become involved by being a classroom helper, helping at swimming in Term 4, assisting on an excursion, assisting in Inquiry learning by becoming a guest speaker (we will call on you), responding to feedback surveys and commenting on the Prep blog to name just a few. In order to assist in the classroom all helpers must attend the literacy help session in Term 1. You will be notified when these occur.

Q13: Why do the Preps have homework?
We are maintaining a consistent approach to homework across the school through the use of a homework rubric. The rubric will be co-constructed with the Prep children to encourage student voice. The rubric will always include a computer program called Studyladder. Each student will have their own Login in and the teachers will allocate specific tasks based on their needs. The rubric will need to be signed and dated by you once a task has been completed. If you don’t wish for your child to complete homework, that is also fine, we are providing the opportunities. More information to come.
Q14: What does an S.R.C meeting involve?
Every term, two representatives from each class are voted by their peers to represent the class at the Student Representative Council with Jo Mannix (Student Wellbeing Leader). The Prep teachers have chosen the two representatives for Term 1. The S.R.C meeting will have a focus which will relate to our SWPBS expectations. The meetings are held every Monday on even weeks. The S.R.C’s then report back to the class about what was discussed with help from the teachers who read through the minutes with the children.

Q15: What do the buddy sessions involve?
The children participate in a buddy session every Friday on even weeks (same week as assembly). The Prep’s Year Six buddies are there to help guide them through their first year of schooling. The first few weeks of school is an exception however, the Preps and Year Six students are encouraged to not play with each other after this. This is because we want to encourage them to make new friends in their own year level. We do encourage them to say a friendly hello when they see each other on the playground.

Q16: What is the Skoolbag app?
Please download the skoolbag app on your phone and ipad. It is a great way of keeping informed and updated in regards to what is happening at school.

Q17: Can I come to assembly and what time do they finish on a Monday?
All children finish at 3.15pm on a Monday. Assemblies are held in the Hub every odd week at 2.30pm all parents are welcome. Each class will share a prayer reflection at assembly, we will keep you notified when it is your child’s turn!

Link to Handbook!