



# PRE-PREP EARLY LEARNING



Blackheath & Thornburgh  
College

Inspired by Tradition

Our Vibe Attracts Our Tribe





**Mrs Jenny Black**  
**Head of Junior School**



**Ms Sarah Mitchell**  
**"Miss Sarah"**  
**Pre-Prep Teacher**



## **Blackheath & Thornburgh College Early Education Philosophy**

Learning in our Pre-Prep classroom begins with a question, problem or idea. It involves children in planning and carrying out investigations, proposing explanations and solutions and communicating their understanding of concepts in a variety of ways. Throughout the discovery process children observe, raise questions, and critique their practices. It is an approach that encourages collaboration and is effective as a trans-disciplinary approach.

Our approach values the learning opportunities created through play. Collaboration promotes cooperation, interaction and mutual respect, enhancing opportunities for learning. Our program builds in time, for deeper understanding, processing, creating and communicating learning. Emotional resilience, a positive self-image and a 'growth mindset' help the learner set and work towards challenging goals. We believe learning should be approached with openness, flexibility, curiosity and even when challenging and difficult, it should be invigorating and fun. As children become comfortable in their learning environment, children are given age-appropriate challenges and further learning experiences where the teacher models and demonstrates in a series of logical steps, drawing on young learner's prior knowledge, gradually reducing the level of scaffolding based on skill acquisition. As guidance is reduced, students are required to perform with increasing independence until they are capable to perform the skill on their own. The 'I do, we do, you do' (Archer and Hughes, 2011) process for teaching new skills, is structured to prepare children for a confident transition to the Prep Year.

Our open-door policy, where parents are encouraged to become engaged and involved in their child's learning, establishes strong foundations for a positive partnership for their entire schooling experience.





## Pre-Prep & After School Club Programs:

Our Pre-Prep Program is a full time program. Our Students are encouraged to attend five days a week to obtain the full benefits of the program to ensure a smooth transition into Prep and beyond.

After School Club is an optional service that we provide for working families five days a week. To access the After School Club service, parents and caregivers will need to book their child/children into the service each day. This may be a phone call to the Office the day the care is required or an email, prior to 2:00pm; 4787 5100 or [reception@btc.qld.edu.au](mailto:reception@btc.qld.edu.au).

Should an urgent change to routine be required, please contact the Office and ask to speak directly to the Head of Junior School or in her absence the Administration Staff.

There is afternoon tea provided for children in After School Club. The ASC Program keeps students busy in the afternoons with a range of activities from play time on the oval, basketball in the Undercover Sports Centre, movies and colouring-in activities in the Library. We are pleased to offer this program free of charge to our families.

**School commences at 8:20am and concludes at 3:00pm**

**After School Club is offered from 3:15pm to 5:30pm Mon-Fri**

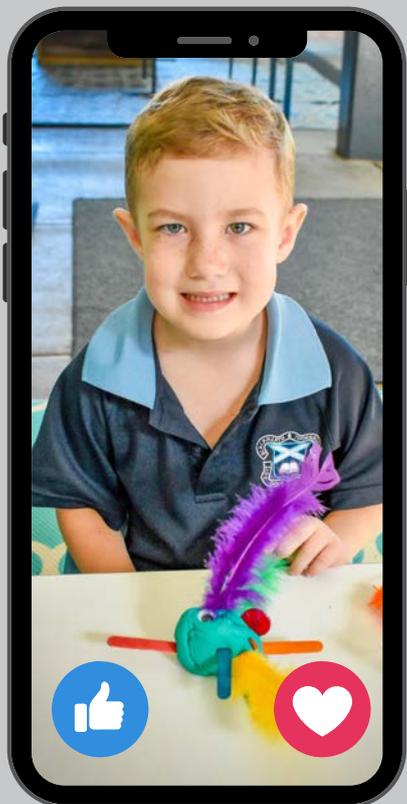
### WHEN CAN WE START?

**Students entering Pre-Prep must turn 4 years of age by 30 June in the year they start Pre-Prep.** Exemptions can be made for younger Students at the discretion of the Head of Junior School and Principal.

DATE OF BIRTH	PRE-PREP	PREP	YEAR 1
1 JULY 2015 - 30 JUNE 2016	2020	2021	2022
1 JULY 2016 - 30 JUNE 2017	2021	2022	2023
1 JULY 2017 - 30 JUNE 2018	2022	2023	2024
1 JULY 2018 - 30 JUNE 2019	2023	2024	2025



GET SOCIAL  
WITH BTC



## KEY LEARNING AREAS

The Pre-Prep program delivers a curriculum based on the following key learning areas:

### 1. Social and Personal Learning

- Outdoor and indoor play
- Cooperation and sharing
- Respect
- Independence
- Resilience
- Responsibility

### 2. Health and Physical Learning

- Healthy choices
- Gross motor skills
- Fine motor skills

### 3. Literacy, Language and Communication

- Stories read, told and dramatised
- Symbolic awareness of language
- Modelling the use and purpose of language
- Writing and drawing
- Oral language

### 4. Numeracy

- Block play
- Games
- Songs and rhythm
- Puzzles
- Counting

### 5. Science

- Thinking
- Investigating and predicting
- Imagining and responding
- Exploring their natural environment
- Manipulating and discovering
- Technology

### 6. Creative Arts

- Visual arts (various mediums)
- Performing art (drama)
- Music





## CHILDREN LEARN BEST WHEN THEY:

- Make connections between their prior experiences and learning in the school setting
- Participate in making decisions
- Make choices
- Share their opinions and experiences
- Discuss learning
- Learn in a responsible and supportive environment
- Learn through multi-sensory experiences
- Participate actively in learning that engages them emotionally, physically, cognitively and socially.

## WHAT TO WEAR & BRING TO SCHOOL:

- Pre-Prep students wear the BTC Sports Uniform, hat and joggers everyday
- Children bring a schoolbag with their own morning tea and lunch. A water bottle is essential
- At the commencement of Term 1, all students will bring the contents of their booklist to School and the classroom teacher will put everything away
- All children must be signed in and out by a parent or nominated guardian