



JUNIOR PRIMARY HANDBOOK

Freshwater Christian College
Administered by Cairns Christian College Ltd
CRICOS Number: 01033E

Welcome to Junior Primary

We are happy to welcome your child into a Junior Primary class and we look forward to working together with you as members of the Freshwater Christian College family.

This information book (with helpful hints and requirements) has been prepared to assist you and your child settle easily into school life as we start (or continue) on this new adventure together.

College Mission Statement

At Freshwater Christian College, we believe in the unique gifting of each individual within our community and exist to provide a safe and empowered learning environment that promotes caring relationships and authentic Christian Values

What are the College Values?

We believe that a graduate of the College should be well grounded academically but also display character that honours God.

Our Teaching Objectives

Students who adopt the College values as their own have a great foundation for life. Our four teaching objectives are a reflection of our Mission Statement.

- H** High Expectations
- O** Overt Christian Values
- P** Positive and caring relationships
- E** Empowered learning

Quality Christian Education

At Freshwater Christian College, we teach all classes from a Christian world view, and incorporate biblical values as a set of principles to serve our students for life. Our teachers are all committed Christians who allow their love of God to shine through their commitment to teach in a Christian College.

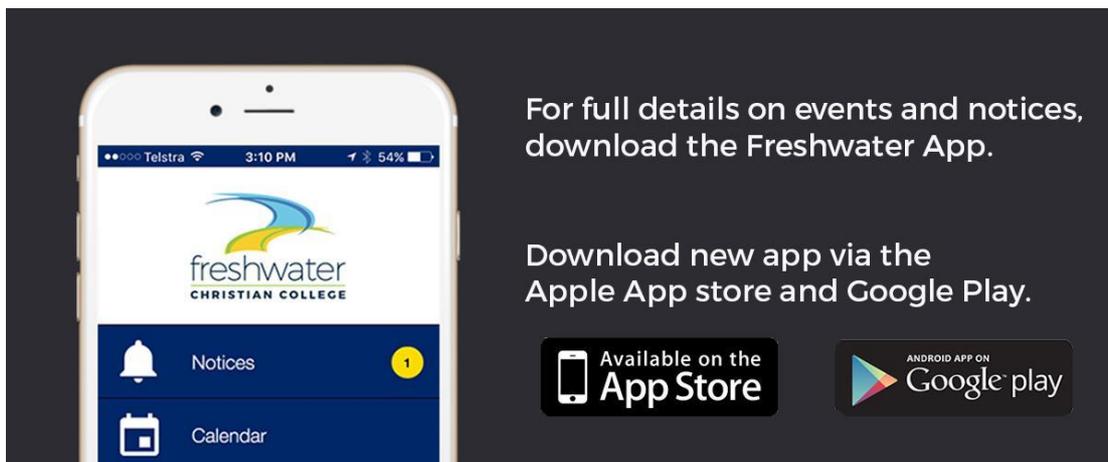


Within our Junior Primary School, we follow the Australian Curriculum for key learning areas - English, Mathematics, HASS, Science, Health and Physical Education, The Arts, Technology and Languages.

Our teachers are expected to be life long-learners themselves and to keep abreast of current teaching methodologies through available professional development, self-study, reflection on current practices, collaboration and continuous professional learning sessions at school linked to personal growth goals.

Special Calendar Events

- ID Photos
- Parent Teacher Interviews
- Cross Country
- College Fair
- Athletics Carnival
- Book Week & Book Parade
- Open Night (Class Information Night)
- Awards Night (last week of term)
- Swimming Carnival
- Years Four, Five and Six also have a camp every year.



Please refer to the College App for dates and notices (including changes to dates) downloadable via the Apple App Store and Google Play.

Working Together



We are a Christian School where Jesus Christ and His Love are a part of all that we do. Children are encouraged to join in classroom prayer times and chapel services. We would ask each family to take time to pray for your children's teachers and peers. If you have a need for which the class can pray, let us know, as we are all a part of God's family. Feel free to communicate with your teacher and we welcome you to become involved in classroom life.

Your child's introduction to School

- Prep

In the Prep class, the focus will be on investigating, understanding and effective problem solving as well as developing a sheer joy in learning. Initially, Prep students will engage in meaningful activities that foster early writing, reading and mathematical skills. Foundational work in English and Mathematics will then be introduced to develop the skills necessary for a smooth transition entry to Year One. Children will also have experience in other Key Learning Areas, except Japanese. The Jolly Phonics program is used to develop strong phonemic awareness and sound sentence writing.

At this level of early childhood development, it is important for our program to be flexible and to cater for group and individual needs. Social skills (sharing and caring for others) and role play are encouraged as an important part of learning, leading to a better understanding of oral and written work. Students are encouraged to be active learners through inquiry based play and hands on activities which develop basic skills. Literacy and numeracy foundations are explicitly established during Prep.

- Year One

Our Year One program builds on the strong foundations established throughout the Prep year and extends students to begin formal education in all *key learning areas* with an emphasis on learning by doing so as to develop fluency and independence. Year One introduces a more formal approach to teaching, without losing the play and fun to learn approach from Prep. Japanese is introduced at Year One level.

- Year Two and Year Three

Our firm foundations in Prep and Year One allow our Year Two and Three students to explore further the areas of mathematical thinking, especially strategies, place value and problem solving. They continue to develop further their written and spoken English skills towards a strong independence that will allow them to transition well into Upper Primary.

Curriculum

Students who attend Freshwater Christian College's Primary School are welcomed by teachers who are dedicated to seeing them develop their character and academic potential.



- Devotions

Our school is Christ-centred and our morning always begins with devotions every day in the classroom and also on Wednesday's during Chapel, which is held 11.45am to 12.30pm. Parents are more than welcome to attend.

Students take time to learn Bible verses, hear Bible stories and discuss how to apply them to life. Scripture Memory is the trophy every student can earn on Awards Night, except Prep students.

It is our firm belief that the development of a child's spiritual being is important for their overall development, life journey and future success.

- Literacy & Numeracy

Our foundational target is for students to be able to spell, read and write accurately and with confidence and to be able to apply mathematical thinking and strategies accurately. Students learn to read by applying semantic (general knowledge), syntactic (grammar conventions) and phonological (letter sounds) cues as well as developing an extensive sight vocabulary. They learn to construct different texts using appropriate forms of genre. Listening and speaking skills are also emphasized. Skills in Literacy underpin all key learning areas.

Effective reading comprehension skills are taught explicitly and with intention. There is a sound emphasis on using mathematical strategies, understanding place value and patterning, and being able to apply mathematical knowledge to different real-life situations. Students enjoy learning by doing through an inquiry hands on approach and using their skills in relevant situations. Connecting with digital technologies provides opportunities for greater connection, understanding and extension.

- Music

All students join in the school music program. There is one formal lesson per week. Music and singing are also a part of many classroom lessons. Years Three, Four, Five and Six can elect to participate in the Senior Primary Choir.

Students may also take part in the Instrumental Program at an age appropriate time. Mrs Tina Evans co-ordinates this program. Her contact details are tinae@freshwatercc.qld.edu.au.

- Chess

All students from Prep to Year Six will receive chess tuition every week as part of our mathematics curriculum. Research around the world has proved that chess benefits students in their learning and our college is investing in this process through the use of our chess coach. We also offer Chess Club during school lunch breaks for students as an Extra-Curricula option to help advance their skills. Students have the opportunity to participate in regional chess tournaments in Terms 1, 2 and 3.

- Japanese



Years One, Two and Three participate in one Japanese lesson each week. Japanese tuition continues into Secondary.

- Sport

Our Primary Physical Education teacher is responsible for a program of games, skill development and an introduction to sports, athletics and swimming. Students wear sports uniform on the designated sport day for their class. All Junior Primary students participate in an intensive swimming course in Term four and are involved in our Cross Country, Athletics and swimming Carnivals.

- Library

Students have a library lesson each week and may borrow books each week. All students require a school library bag (available from the College) as part of their Stationary Scheme.

On The First Day of School

- Please bring morning tea and lunch items and dress in full school uniform on day one.
- Please ensure your child's name is on ALL their belongings.
- Feel free to come to the classroom to settle in your child.
- If there are any special needs on this day, please write them down and leave the note on the teacher's table.
- They may not be able to give you their full attention between 8.30 am and 9.00 am.

Some students are confident when starting school while others feel nervous and teary on this big day and find it difficult to leave mum and dad. If your child seems upset, please remember that we have their best interest at heart, even if we suggest that mum or dad goes home. Feel free to phone the office later to see how they have settled in if you are worried, or we will call you to reassure you.

Students entering Prep and Year One should be encouraged to

- Write their own name (Capital letter followed by lower case e.g. Michael)
- Find their name on ALL belongings – especially on their hat
- Know the difference between their food for morning tea and food for lunch
- Tie shoelaces if necessary
- Go to the toilet independently

School Hours

School hours are from 8.30 am to 2.50 pm with the first bell ringing at 8:25am.



Please do not be late as this upsets essential classroom routines. If circumstances arise which result in the student being late to school, we ask that you check-in at the Primary Reception on the way to class for a "Late Stamp".

Likewise, if students are leaving early during the school day, they must be signed out at Primary Reception. Prep students must be picked up by a reliable person. All students are collected in the afternoon through the school Stop/Drop/Go procedures, unless they take the bus or are in the after-school Homework Centre.

A bus service and Homework Centre are available if needed. Casual or permanent bookings are available with these services.

As a safety precaution, please advise your child's teacher in writing of any changes to your usual procedures. Prep students are not required to be signed in or out, however students need to say "Good Afternoon" to their teachers (who will note they have been collected by their parent/guardian). Teachers must be informed prior, if another person has been arranged to collect your child for safety reasons.

Food for School

Diet is important for young growing bodies. Please limit the number of "treats" and the amount of pre-packaged food in your child's lunchbox. For morning tea, we recommend you choose from crackers or fruit, a sandwich, cheese, yogurt or a healthy snack. We encourage your children to drink water. Lollies, chocolate and high sugar processed foods are not allowed in Prep and are not recommended in any student's lunch as they can have a negative effect on learning and behaviour.

Our College is a ***Nut Free School***. We ask you to refrain from including peanut products because of the allergic reactions which can be experienced by some children already in the College. This includes Nutella and Peanut Butter.

Also, please ensure your children have an adequate breakfast before coming to school so that they are at maximum learning capacity to start the day.

We have fridges in classrooms and please ask that you use a lunchbox, not an insulated bag, as they do not fit into our fridges.

Food Purchases



- FCC café orders can be written on a brown paper bag or orders placed online via the website Flexischools. Students are not allowed to purchase their lunch over the counter.
- Bag orders for the café are put into a lunchbox in class and then the orders are delivered to the classroom.
- Online Café orders through the Flexischool website are accepted up until 9am on each school day. This ensures that our café has enough time to prepare all the lunches for all orders. The website for Flexischool is: www.flexischools.com.au
- The café is open five days a week.
- A fundraising Cake stall is held every second Wednesday at morning tea. Classes take it in turn to supply the home baking. Children purchase goodies for 50c and funds raised support overseas children and community projects. Cake stall is held on every even week of a term, starting from Week 2.

What can parents do to promote success?

To develop an early delight in reading books and a desire and need to learn to read, we suggest you read to your child as much as possible. Make this an enjoyable time together for all involved. Remember to talk about what you've read to develop deeper thinking.

Encourage number recognition through incidental counting activities. Point out and discuss numbers found in the environment. Use lots of mathematical vocabulary in conversation e.g. light and heavy, near and far, over and under, less and more.

When your child asks a *learning* question, ask them what they think before you give the answer. This encourages them to realise they can think about things themselves. To know what they think is important and to verbalise the thinking process encourages confidence, success, independence and a delight in learning.

Reporting

Reports are written to current student outcomes in line with that Year level and incorporate a 5 point marking system. Formal written reports are issued for semesters one and two.

Parent/Teacher interviews are held prior to the Easter and September holidays. This is a time for parents and teachers to discuss student progress, hear the good things that are happening and to decide on ways to work through any areas that may need addressing. End of semester reports are electronically emailed to parents to help receive them in a timely manner.



Stationery

All Primary stationery is provided by the College.

School Uniforms

All students are expected to be in the correct school uniform at all times. Hats are an essential part of the uniform and the rule is:

NO HAT, NO PLAY

Please do your best to adhere to the correct college uniform requirements.

Prep Students

Freshwater Christian College sports shirt and navy blue College shorts, brown sandals or black shoes and blue socks. (No coloured shoes or sandals please).

Year One, Two and Three

Boys: Freshwater Christian College Primary shirt and navy College blue shorts. A wrist watch is the only acceptable accessory.

Girls: Freshwater Christian College dress and shirt.
Hair ties must be in the school colours of green, blue or gold. Earrings are studs or sleepers only.
N.B. Please no other jewellery as loss causes distress.

Shoes & Socks: Black polishable shoes with navy blue socks (No boots please)

Sports Uniforms (worn on designated days):
Sports shirt and navy blue shorts
Black or white joggers with navy socks.

Winter: A school jacket is available for winter.

Please name EVERYTHING

Please save us and your child the distress and embarrassment of having to deal with an incorrect uniform.



Our uniform shop is located on campus next to our Tuckshop and is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday during school terms on school days:

- 7.30am-8.30am
- 3.00pm-4.00pm

Parent Help

Parent help is always appreciated. The teachers will advise when they are ready. A parent night is held early in Term One to familiarise parents with classroom routines.

College Contact Details

School Principal: Mr Doug Holtam

Head of Primary/Deputy Principal: Mr Max Natoli

Primary Office Administrator: Mrs Margaret Baxter

Ph: 07 4055 1337 Fax: 07 4055 1930 Email: primary@fcc.qld.edu.au

Absentee Email: absentee@fcc.qld.edu.au

