

PREP
PARENT HANDBOOK



**LEIBLER
YAVNEH
COLLEGE**



WELCOME

At Leibler Yavneh College we are proud of our warm and engaging learning environment. We hope that you will enjoy your parent involvement with the College now that your child is commencing Prep at our Slezak Campus — Elsternwick. Whether your association with the College is a new one this year, or whether it is a continuing one, we look forward to supporting your child as he/she makes the transition from kindergarten to school.

We believe that learning is a life-long journey. Your child's Prep experience will be critical in developing his/her love of learning. The first year of Primary schooling will be a year of significant change for both your child and yourselves as parents. We look forward to working together with you to provide your child with a positive learning experience.

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COMMUNICATION

All notices, events and school excursions are communicated via an App: Compass. To receive access to Compass, please be in touch with the Primary School Office (primary@yavneh.vic.edu.au). There is also a weekly College newsletter, 'Keshet', which informs you of forthcoming events, provides educational information and reports on special events. It is emailed home every Friday. 'Keshet' is also available on the College website at www.yavneh.vic.edu.au.

TEACHERS

Teachers are the first port of call

We appreciate and encourage communication from parents regarding the positive aspects of College events, as well as any concerns that you may have from time to time. Should you have a concern, please contact your child's Home Group Teachers (General Studies and Jewish Studies) to discuss your concern. For any further follow-up, please consult with the Head of Primary.

PREPARING FOR SCHOOL

Physically, ensure your child can:

- take care of him/herself
- open a lunch box
- feed him/herself
- flush the toilet
- unscrew a drink bottle
- wash his/her hands
- dress him/herself
- tie shoelaces
- use a tissue correctly
- pack up his/her belongings
- recognise his/her name in English and Hebrew

Emotionally, encourage:

- self-confidence
- thinking before acting
- persistence with learning
- sense of responsibility
- independence
- sense of consequence for actions

Socially, encourage your child to:

- listen to others
- know how to take turns
- follow instructions
- relate to other children
- share and co-operate
- ask for help when needed

Prep Screenings and Immunisation Certificate

We ask parents to undertake basic Health Screenings such as Hearing and Vision before the commencement of the school year. It would be appreciated if copies of screening reports together with your child's immunisation certificate (if you have not already done so) be given to your child's class teacher at scheduled orientation meeting between your child and their teachers on the day prior to the year commencing.

It is a legal requirement that upon entry into Prep, parents must provide a current, up-to-date Immunisation Certificate. Certificates must be provided before or on Prep Orientation Day. Parents may obtain a copy of their child's immunisation history statement from their local Medicare office, Medicare online or by calling 1800 653 809.



ADJUSTING TO SCHOOL LIFE

A child's first days at school are tiring. Some of the possible reasons may be:

- Term 1 has the hottest days of the year
- Some children become overwhelmed by the activities and excitement of the day's program

Remember each child is an individual in ability, maturity, learning style, motivation and interest. It is important for you to be aware that each child is different. Some children will be just starting to handle writing implements while others will be writing their names. Some children will want you to read to them and others will be beginning to read.

The partnership between school and home, the parents and teachers, is vital to ensure that your child has the chance to develop at his/her own rate with maximum support and opportunity.

PARENT / SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Building confidence and optimistic thinking

There are many things parents can do to help children feel confident and optimistic about starting school. You could talk with them about what school will be like and maybe share some happy stories from your own school days. Borrow books from the library with positive stories about starting school.

You can also help your children to build confidence and optimism by encouraging a habit of positive thinking and expressing gratitude. Asking children to tell you about the good things that happen each day helps develop healthy habits and encourages them to thrive mentally and physically.

Make sure your child knows where you will be waiting to collect him/her after school. Parents are to wait for their child inside the school grounds, at the front of the school. Teachers will walk children to the waiting area and supervise them. Children will be taken to the Primary office at 4.10pm if a parent is late. On the occasion that you are delayed, a message can be left at the Primary office, or emailed to your child's teacher or Primary office.

Give your child a nutritious kosher lunch. Part of your child's learning experiences includes discussion about healthy eating habits. We recommend children have a piece of fruit/vegetable for morning tea and afternoon tea rather than 'nosh' in addition to lunch food. Please note we are a "NUT AWARE SCHOOL". We have a number of children who have severe allergies to nuts that can be life-threatening within seconds. We ask that you carefully consider this when preparing your child's lunch.

Please send a refillable bottle for water, and place a "cool block" in with your child's lunch.

THE FIRST DAY

Prep children begin school on Wednesday 2 February 2022. On Tuesday 1 February, we will be scheduling a short 10 minute orientation meeting for you and your child with your child's Prep teachers. You will receive an email early in January inviting you to book your orientation meeting. We have found that this eases the Preps into the first day of school. Please bring all books (labelled) and stationery to the interview.

Please ensure that your child arrives at the classroom by 8.20am each day. When you arrive at school, please take your child to the Prep classroom door located on the deck. Teachers will be there to greet your child and help settle him/her with a game or activity.

In the morning, it is best to farewell your child at their classroom door and leave reasonably quickly as it can become overwhelming if there are too many adults around. Inform your child that you are leaving and that you will come back to collect them at home time. If circumstances change and someone else is to collect your child, please notify the teachers or the Primary office in writing.

Until the end of February, there is an optional collection time at 2.00pm. This enables students to ease into their new routine. However, should you wish your child to remain at school for the entire day, until 4.00pm, Prep teachers will run play-based activities. Please do not collect your child between 2.00 - 4.00pm as this tends to be very unsettling for the children staying for the duration of the day.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN COLLEGE ACTIVITIES IS ENCOURAGED.

We are fortunate to have a wide variety of ways in which you can become involved. These include: Excursions and Incursions; Parent Convenors; Athletics Carnival; Swim Survival Program, and more.

Please ensure that the following information is provided to your child's teacher at their orientation meeting:

- Relevant medical information such as hearing, vision, chronic illness
- Emergency telephone numbers and emergency contact names. These should be kept up to date whenever there is a change
- IMMUNISATION CERTIFICATE (please bring on orientation day – this is required for school entry)

Please provide your child with:

- A Leibler Yavneh College school bag
- An art smock, which is clearly named, for use during art/craft activities to protect College uniform items. Art smocks can be ordered from the Booklist
- A blue Leibler Yavneh College Reading Bag from the uniform shop
- A College sun hat (we are a Sun Smart school, hats

- are compulsory in Term 1 and Term 4)
- A box of tissues (each semester)
- A change of underclothes (kept in the front of schoolbag)
- Roll-on sunscreen
- A snack/lunch (we are a Nut-Aware school)
- We encourage waste free lunchboxes to reduce our carbon footprint

Please label all clothing and items that your child brings to school, as well as lunch boxes, drink bottles, food containers and College bags including all books.

FRIDAY FOLDER

Your child will also bring home his/her "Friday Folder" every Friday. Each child's document wallet contains his/her work completed during the school week. Parents are requested to remove all of the papers and return this folder to school each Monday.

JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM



HEBREW LANGUAGE AND TORAH CURRICULUM

Lamdeni Program

During Prep, children are introduced to the Lamdeni program. They are exposed to the first steps towards reading and writing Hebrew (Ivrit).

The combination of these programs encompasses all learning styles using interactive resources and activities to ensure engagement in learning. Each day they bring home reading material that will reinforce letters and sounds taught.

In Prep, our focus in Hebrew is to develop our students' listening and speaking skills. Our teaching is based on the "Milk and Honey" program which was developed in Israel specifically for young students. A wide range of activities are used to promote the students thinking skills and language abilities. Through games, books, songs, videos, dance and movement the students acquire new vocabulary and an understanding of language structures that they apply successfully throughout the lesson.

Tefilla (Prayer)

Tefillot are added throughout the year, but the emphasis is on quality rather than quantity. Each new Tefilla that is introduced is accompanied by an explanation to ensure that the Tefilla is understood and is meaningful to your child. Correct pronunciation of the words is, of course, very important. As the children learn to read, they are encouraged to follow inside the Siddur. Children use a special Siddur prepared for Prep.

Chagim (Festivals)

Each Chag (Festival) is taught in the following way:

- The story and Halachot of the Chag
- A special workbook is used. This workbook combines a collection of blank pages and pictures for the children to complete, related to the Chag. The children take these workbooks home, allowing them to review what they have learnt with their family
- The children learn songs, dances and plays related to the Chag
- Creative artwork is done and taken home by the children before the Chag

Brachot (Blessings)

The children are taught Brachot and recite them daily when they have their fruit, snacks and lunches. In addition, a special theme is devoted to Brachot, in which children learn a variety of Brachot other than those said on food. Birkat Hamazon is said daily with new sections added through the year.

Chazal (our Sages) Stories — Mitzvot

To enhance the learning of Yahadut (Judaism), stories are chosen and taught through drama, picture and song. Among the many topics chosen are Bikur Cholim (visiting the sick), Hachnasat Orchim (inviting guests) and Tzedakah (charity).

Parashat Hashavua (the weekly Torah reading)

Each week children learn the story and/or a Mitzvah pertaining to the week's Parasha. We have also Parasha art and craft activities. Review questions are sent home on Fridays so that the whole family can fulfil the important Mitzvah of Limud Torah – learning Torah.

Shabbat (Sabbath)

Kabbalat Shabbat is conducted in a very special way.

It is a learning experience, as well as an enjoyable time together. The children learn Shabbat Brachot, Tefillot and Zemirot.

Rosh Chodesh (the first day of the new month)

A Primary School Assembly is usually held on Rosh Chodesh.

Assemblies are run by our Primary Captains and always begin with the Australian National Anthem, Welcome to country and then a D'var Torah. Assembly ends with Hatikvah.

Eretz Yisrael (the Land of Israel)

In every topic and theme, the importance of Eretz Yisrael is stressed. The link between Eretz Yisrael, Am Yisrael and Torat Yisrael is taught in connection to every Chag and special event. Children develop a love for Israel and learn about her past and present.

Informal Jewish Education

Our Sherut Leumi girls run activities with our Prep children on a regular basis.

These interactive and fun activities are built around themes such as Shabbat and Israel.

GENERAL STUDIES PROGRAM

CURRICULUM

The Prep program is guided by the Early Years Framework and the Australian Curriculum. Students are exposed to explicit teaching in core curricula such as English and Mathematics. Opportunities to apply concepts taught are offered during our play-based approach to learning sessions. The Primary school uses the Australian Curriculum as the basis for curriculum planning. It sets out the core areas of learning that are required for a well-rounded generalist education. Curriculum areas include: English, Mathematics, Sciences, Design and Technologies, Digital Technologies and the Arts.

English

The English curriculum is built around the three interrelated strands of language, literature and literacy. The Teaching and Learning integrates and balances all three strands. Together, the three strands focus on developing students' knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and creating. The children are introduced to an explicit evidence based literacy program that includes phonemic awareness, spelling rules and letter formation. Students are encouraged to have an active and enjoyable exploration of a variety of texts that will help develop an awareness of the purposes of reading and writing and an appreciation of the richness of literature. Students participate in a stimulating environment based on student exploration, targeted teaching and modelling. Learning

within the English curriculum builds on many concepts, skills and processes developed in earlier years. Teachers plan for the development and strengthening of these skills and understandings as needed.

From the beginning of the year students will be borrowing books from a class library to read with and to your child. This sharing of literature is a valuable learning tool. Towards the end of Term 1 children will bring home their 'take home books' to read in the blue Yavneh Reading Bag.

Books are to be enjoyed by both the parent and the child.

The purpose of 'home-reading' is to celebrate what your child can already read. Therefore, reading should be conducted in a stress-free atmosphere at home. Teachers will explain the importance of shared reading at the Prep English and Hebrew Reading Information evening.

Numeracy

The Prep Mathematics program includes investigations in number and algebra, measurement and geometry, statistics and probability. In Prep, children learn to identify and discuss similarities and differences between two objects. They explore congruent shapes, and the concept of symmetry in pictures and their environment. They learn to estimate, count, make and record collections of at least twenty objects. They begin to understand and use

UNIFORM

The Uniform shop is open: Monday	7.30am - 10.30am
Wednesday	7.30am - 10.30am
Thursday	2.00pm - 5.00pm

Uniforms can also be ordered in person or online via flexischools.com.au

All orders are filled weekly and are delivered to student classrooms.

The uniform shop will also be open in the last week of January 2022 by appointment.

Please email uniformstaff@yavneh.vic.edu.au

language for describing, ordering and comparing the length, mass and capacity of objects. They also learn to communicate and discuss mathematical ideas, using real life examples and concrete materials.

Developmental Play

Children learn best when engaged in open ended, meaningful, directed play-based activities. It is important for children to experience this type of learning often, particularly in the first few years of school. Exploring concepts through play invites imagination and creativity within a context that is relevant and engaging. When running Developmental Play sessions teachers organise groups across all the classes in order to provide additional opportunities for children to socialise with all the children in the level and not only be limited to mixing with the children in their own class. Time spent with the buddies also occurs with all classes. By spending time doing cross class activities children are able to foster new friendships and nurture existing relationships with children in different classes.

Daily Timetable / Specialist Subjects

A copy of your child's class timetable will be sent home and placed outside the classroom and on our school application or Compass.

The timetable outlines the Jewish Studies periods which include the study of Hebrew.

The timetable also reflects the learning areas within the General Studies program which includes Numeracy, Literacy, Art, Music, Sport and Library.

On Sport days, your child will be required to come to school in full sports uniform.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The children in Prep are involved in a variety of special events throughout the year. Special activities are conducted for most of the Chagim, including, to name just a few, Purim 'fancy-dress' parade, Chabad matza baking factory, Pesach Model Seder, Yom Ha'Atzmaut activities, Chabad Shofar factory and Sukkah hopping. Other events include Science Week, First 100 days of school, Book Week, monthly Rosh Chodesh assemblies, intensive swim/survival program and Athletics carnival in November.

SCHOOL HOURS

For Years Prep, 1 and 2 children the school day commences at 8.20am and ends at 4.00pm, except for Fridays, when school ends at 3.10pm throughout the year. School closes early on the day before a Chag, such as Erev Shavuot, Erev Rosh Hashana, Erev Yom Kippur, Erev Sukkot and Erev Shmini Atzeret. Details of times are included in the Keshar and school calendar.

Please have your child at their classroom by 8.20am before the bell rings. Each morning your child's day will begin at 8.20am sharp with roll call and Tefilla. It is therefore a very important time of the day.

If your child arrives after 8.30am he/she is to please go directly to the Primary Office to collect a late slip. This late slip is for the homeroom teacher to record your child as late, not absent.

If you are going to be late collecting your child or the pickup arrangements have been changed (that is, after 4.00pm), we ask you to contact primary@yavneh.vic.edu.au to leave a message for your child. Students will be taken to the Primary office after 4.10pm. Please send a note with your child if you are picking up your child early from school. Parents are required to sign their child out of school at the primary

office when picking up their child early from school. You will receive a stamped slip that must be handed to the guards as you exit the campus.

If your child is absent from school, please ensure you email Reception: absentees@yavneh.vic.edu.au and CC the classroom teacher. This is a government requirement.

Before School Care

Supervised before school care is available at the front of the College from 8.00am - 8.20am each day. Your child should be dropped off at the guardhouse if arriving before 8.20am. The Prep and Year One playgrounds are not supervised before school.

COLLEGE NURSE

The College employs a Nurse from 8.15am to 4.15pm Monday to Thursday and 8.15am to 3.15pm on Fridays. The nurse is employed to provide general first aid care and emergency first aid in the event of an accident or illness occurring during school hours. The College nurse is also responsible for continuing to update our medical and health policies and protocols, including allergies and asthma.

The College is also fortunate to have a number of teaching and office staff who are qualified first aiders. The College has an ongoing program of professional development to maintain the first aid qualifications of staff.

PARENT / TEACHER

Prep English and Hebrew Reading Night

On Thursday 24 February, parents are invited to attend an information evening to learn about the English and Hebrew reading programs. This evening gives parents an opportunity to hear from class teachers about daily routines and the literacy program, Initialit, as well as provide a forum for any general queries.

Parent / Teacher Conferences

Interviews are conducted twice per year in Prep, in Term 1 and again during Term 3.

Reports

Your child will receive reports twice a year, at the end of each Semester. Your child's set of reports will contain information regarding all curriculum covered during the semester. These reports can be accessed via Compass. They clearly outline the specific outcomes for the various subjects taught. Copies of your child's sets of reports from Years Prep to 6 are held at the College. A hard copy or email of the report will be provided on request.

BIRTHDAYS

In order to encourage "healthy body, healthy minds", we will move the focus from food based celebrations to celebrating with classroom activities. No treats are necessary.

WE TRUST

THAT YOU AND YOUR CHILD WILL HAVE A MEMORABLE AND EXCITING PREP YEAR AT LEIBLER YAVNEH COLLEGE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING MANY HAPPY SCHOOL YEARS TOGETHER.



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