



# Ruyton Girls' School

## Prep 2025 Orientation





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## Welcome from the Head of Junior School

Welcome to our Junior School community. We are delighted to have you join us for this special time in your child's life. Starting school is an exciting milestone, and we are dedicated to creating a warm, supportive, and safe environment where your child can thrive.

Our Prep Orientation Program is a wonderful opportunity for students and parents to familiarise themselves with Ruyton Girls' Junior School. We believe student and parent participation is key to a smooth transition into the formal years of schooling. If possible, we encourage you to try to have your child attend each orientation session.

During your visits, we will warmly welcome you and your child into the Prep classrooms and the broader school environment. You and your child will have the chance to get to know the people, spaces, and routines that make our school such a special place, helping your whole family feel comfortable and excited about starting school. We aim for you and your child to feel confident and at ease as you join our community.

We look forward to getting to know you and sharing this exciting journey. We are committed to making your child's start at school a positive and enriching experience.



**Ms Catherine Samuel**

Head of Junior School



## Helpful Contacts

Deputy Head of Junior School  
**Mr Julian Mutton**



Junior School Learning Leader  
**Ms Ellen Savill**



Junior School Reception and Administrator  
**Mrs Adele Cook**



Junior School Reception and Administrator  
**Mrs Caroline Merrett**



Ruyton Admissions  
**Ms Elena Servinis**



Ruyton Admissions  
**Mrs Rachel Sloan**

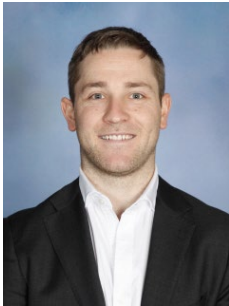


*Please note that teachers and staff may change from one year to the next or throughout the year. The classroom teachers for the following year are announced at the final orientation session.*



## Helpful Contacts

2024 Prep Classroom Teacher  
**Mr Aidan Cotchett**



2024 Prep Classroom Teacher  
**Mrs Cheryl Malcolm**



2024 Prep Assistant  
**Mrs Tanya Dluzniak**



2024 Prep Assistant and Teacher Assistant  
**Ms Liz Barry**



Director of Individual Learning  
**Mrs Mel Roy**



Junior School Individual Learning Teacher  
**Mrs Laura Clyde**



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## Key Dates

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Attending</b>
Thursday 15 August 3.45pm – 4.30pm	Junior School Prep Studios	Prep 2025 Playdate	Students and parents
Friday 1 November 9.00am – 10.00am	Junior School Prep Studios	Prep Orientation Session 1	Students
	Junior School Open Space	Parent Information session	Parents
Friday 15 November 9.00am – 10.30am	Junior School Prep Studios	Prep Orientation Session 2	Students
	Ruyton Courtyard Café	Parent Panel Coffee Morning	Parents
Friday 29 November 9.00am – 11.00am	Junior School Prep Studios	Prep orientation session 3	Students
Term 4	Varied kindergartens	Kindergarten visits	Ruyton teachers
Friday 31 January 2025	Junior School Prep Studios	First day of school	Students and parents
Term 1 Date to-be-confirmed	Junior School	Year-level Parent Information session	Parents only
Wednesday 5 February Wednesday 12 February Wednesday 19 February	Junior School Prep Studios	Prep assessment days	Students



## Prep 2025 Playdate

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**Date:** Thursday 15 August 2024

**Time:** 3.45pm – 4.30pm

**Venue:** Junior School Prep Studios

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The Prep 2025 playdate is designed to introduce children and parents early to Prep Studios and the Junior School community. This informal, play-based gathering allows children to meet and play with their future classmates, helping them to become comfortable with their new environment and introducing them to the Prep studios before the formal orientation program begins in Term 4.

This playdate allows parents to connect with other parents and several Junior School teachers, including current Prep teachers, the Head of Junior School, and other key staff. The event aims to foster a sense of belonging and community, laying the foundation for a smooth and supportive orientation into Junior School.





## Prep Orientation #1 and Parent Information Session

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- Date:** Friday 1 November 2024  
**Time:** 9.00am – 10.00am  
**Venue:** Junior School Prep Studios and Open Space
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The first Prep Orientation Morning is designed to help students become familiar with their new classroom environment, teachers, and classmates through a one-hour initial Orientation session. This experience aims to build students' confidence, support those who may feel apprehensive, and allow teachers to start developing a rapport with the students.

While students engage in classroom activities, parents are invited to attend an information session. This session will cover practical aspects of beginning school, school readiness, and the orientation process, ensuring parents are well-prepared to support their children's smooth transition into the school environment.







## Prep Orientation #2 and Parent Panel Coffee Morning

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**Date:** Friday 15 November 2024

**Time:** 9.00am – 10.30am

**Location:** Junior School

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The second Prep Orientation Morning focuses on giving students another opportunity to get to know their teachers and new friends. This session will last a little longer, offering extended time in the classroom. During this time, your child will engage in a variety of activities in the classroom and, weather permitting, enjoy the playground outside. Teachers will observe students and, along with other information, help inform classes for the following year.

Meanwhile, parents are invited to a Parent Panel Session. This session, hosted by the Head of the Junior School, will feature a panel of our current parents who will share useful information and advice from their experiences. Parents will discuss preparing their children and themselves and practical tips to help establish routines and assist with the school orientation. Hearing from other parents can be incredibly beneficial as you navigate this orientation.





## Prep Orientation #3

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**Date:** Friday 29 November 2024

**Time:** 9.00am – 11.00am

**Venue:** Junior School

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For the third Prep Orientation Morning, students will meet their class and class teacher for 2025. This visit will further develop your child's independence in the new Prep environment. During this session, the children will spend more time getting to know their classmates and classroom teacher for 2025.

The time and careful thought teachers put into organising classes for the year ahead are significant. They take into consideration the social, personal, and learning needs of every student to ensure the best learning environment, considering every child. Teachers use their professional knowledge and experience to draw upon these factors to carefully create well-balanced classes. Please note that we do not take teacher or student requests as part of the class placement process. To assist students in settling, we ask that parents say goodbye outside the Prep rooms and either make their way off-campus for a coffee or wait in their cars for this session.





## Kindergarten Visits and Observations

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**Date:** Term 4

**Location:** Various

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Throughout Term 4, a current Prep teacher and the Head of Junior School will visit each Kindergarten setting, including our Ruyton Early Learning (EL), to observe students in a comfortable and familiar environment. During these visits, we will also speak with educators who know your child well. This process enables us to get to know your children even better, and we will consider this information for the following year.

You will receive an email requesting additional details about your child's Kindergarten. If your child is enrolled in our Ruyton EL, we will still observe them in our setting to ensure a comprehensive understanding of each child's needs.





## Start of the Year

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### First Day of School

Friday 31 January 2025

Students should arrive in summer uniform on the first day of school at approximately 8.30am and wait outside the classroom on the Prep Playground, where their class teacher will meet them. Please wait outside with your child until your teacher has opened the classroom. Students need to bring their school bag, which should contain a fruit snack, recess, lunch, and a water bottle. We encourage you to pack the school bag with your child so they know what is in it.

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### Prep Assessment Days

Wednesday 5 February, Wednesday 12 February and Wednesday 19 February 2025

At the beginning of the school year, Prep students will attend full-day school on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for the first three weeks. The first three Wednesdays will be Prep Assessment Days. On one of these Wednesdays, your child will be invited to attend a one-hour one-on-one session with their classroom teacher to complete initial testing and allow the teacher to begin getting to know their student. The school will contact families to schedule these sessions at the beginning of the school year. These are student-only sessions. Prep students only attend school at their scheduled appointment time.

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### Prep Parent Information Session

Parents will be invited to a Parent Information Evening in the second or third week of school. This is an opportunity to hear from your classroom teacher and learn more about the day-to-day organisation of the classroom and what to look forward to for the term and year ahead.