



Prep Update

Week 1
Term 2, 2017



Dear Prep Parents,

Welcome back to Term 2. We hope that you all had a terrific holiday and that the Easter Bunny was kind. It is great to see the children have returned to school with such enthusiasm and big smiles all round. We have another busy term ahead of us. This term we will go on our first excursion with the Prep students and it will be very exciting for us all. A note will be coming home shortly about our excursion.

Term 2: On Tuesday, 25th April it is ANZAC Day and students will not be required at school. There is a Curriculum Day scheduled on Monday, 1st May. A parent session will also run in the evening, 1st May. Please see the school website for further details.

SAVE THE DATE: On Monday, 8th May, the Prep students will be presenting in our School Assembly in the New Hall beginning at 2.15pm. On Monday, 15th May, the students will be participating in our annual House Cross Country. More details to follow shortly.

WET WEATHER MORNINGS: During the winter months wet weather mornings are much more frequent. The protocol for Preps during these mornings are:

- Students are to put their bags away in their classroom, and then the students should play in the undercover areas near their classrooms. Teachers will collect the students from these areas. Please remember students should not be at school before 8.30am.
- As teachers have meetings and yard duty before school begins, it is important that students **do not** stay in the classroom unsupervised. If the rain is heavy enough, a “wet day timetable” will be announced and then the children will be supervised in the classroom.

SHOW AND TELL: It was terrific listening to the children share their holiday stories and special interests last term. Show and Tell is an important time for the students to practise speaking in front of a small group and also develop their listening and questioning skills. A note will be sent home shortly detailing our Show and Tell topics for Term 2. Thank you for helping your child at home prepare for their special presentation day. Show and Tell will begin in Week 2.

HOMEWORK MATRIX: In your child’s Homework Book you will find a new Homework Matrix for this term. It includes a selection of reading tasks and optional activities to do at home. We hope you enjoy completing the range of activities!

LUNCH ORDERS: A reminder for parents that **Tuesday is Nude Food Day.** A gentle reminder to pack your child a play lunch on the day they have a lunch order as lunch orders are picked up at lunch time.

LANGUAGE UPDATE: In Term 2 we are learning about the following letters: Ww, Nn, Pp, Hh, Oo, Kk, Jj, Dd and Ii. The students will be discovering syllables, rhyming words, the vowels and varied punctuation including quotation marks or “talking marks” as we sometimes call them in Prep. We have begun Strategy Groups in all classrooms and have started Shared Reading.

NUMERACY UPDATE: This term we are learning about pattern making, comparing the weight and height of objects, making graphs and learning about mapping and grids. We are focusing on learning the number words and matching these to the numerals, for example one/1. We will be doing lots of fun games to learn all about these important topics during our rotations, so your child might be able to play a few of these games with you at home!

To begin this term, our **Inquiry unit** is concentrating on “Healthy Habits, Healthy You!” We will be investigating the role of good nutrition and understanding the importance of personal hygiene. As part of this unit of work, the students will be looking at the food they bring to school and sorting into the different food groups. We will be looking forward to taking photos of everyone’s lunchboxes during this unit in the next couple of weeks! We will be focusing on the Earth Sciences shortly.

ALPHABET AND GOLDEN WORD RECOGNITION: We would like to encourage you and your family to practise recognising all letters of the alphabet with your child. Although we do learn about a letter each week it is of great advantage to your child if they can learn the name and sound of all the letters of the alphabet. This assists them greatly when learning their M100 words, when attempting to sound out unknown words in books and with their story writing.

READING TIPS FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD

- Using your child’s high frequency words (coloured words in Homework Book) in everyday situations. For example, try recognising them in their take home reading books, in stories or magazines that you may read, or on signs/menus when out and about.
- Make it fun! Using your high frequency words, make some flash cards and have a race to learn them. Play games like fish, snap and memory with their words to encourage them to learn them out of the order they are printed in.
- Make a regular time to read with your child, whether it is morning or night, a reading routine is a terrific way to set up your child for success.
- Talk about the book. Look at the pictures and discuss what is happening before you read the story. This is a huge help for comprehension of the book – showing that they understand what has happened.
- Practise recognising letters inside words. Get your child to find all the ‘E’s’ on a page or to trace around the letter that the words starts with.
- Ask your child to sound out words and encourage them to do this when writing letters or cards to people.
- Make sure your child can verbalise a sentence to you before attempting to write it down, as this is one of the biggest hurdles when writing, trying to remember what they want to write!



It is great to see your children back at school and we are looking forward to an exciting term ahead. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to see the classroom teacher.

CARLY FORBES, FRANCES DE VALLE, DONNA WHEATLEY AND SARAH MCGRATH.

