



Prep Update Week 2



Friday, 10th February, 2017

Dear Prep Parents,

It's been wonderful to see the Preps settle into their school life so well! Thank you very much for all of your support in helping your child approach each school morning with such excitement and confidence. Giving your child the opportunity to be independent by carrying their own bag, walking into the classroom on their own and putting their belongings in the right spot is vital in assisting the students to become settled into the school day.

Below is some useful information that will enable a smooth transition for you and your student.

- ☺ **PREP HOURS:** The hours for Prep students will be **8:45am until 3:00pm** as from next Monday, 13th February.
IN THE MORNINGS: All Prep students are to wait **OUTSIDE** until the second bell goes. They will line up on their class coloured dots on the asphalt area between the two school buildings. Please assist your child to line up where their Grades coloured dots are displayed. The students will be met by their class teacher and taken inside from there.
IN THE AFTERNOONS: As from Monday, 13th February we will begin walking the Prep students to the **asphalt area where the dots are** to be picked up at **3:00p.m.** Teachers will wait with all students in this area until they have been picked up.
- ☺ **CLASSROOM SUPPLIES:** Thank you to those who have sent ALL of their child's supplies (art smock, library bag, sun hat, tissues) already. Please ensure ALL these items are **NAMED** before sending them to school.
- ☺ Next **Tuesday, 14th and Wednesday, 15th February** we have our Meet the Teacher meetings. A note has been sent home with your child earlier this week. Please see your classroom teacher if you need assistance to book a time.
- ☺ **TAKE HOME BOOK BAGS:** We are excited because we have received almost all our book bags! From Monday, 13th February we will begin our take home reading program. Your child will bring home a wordbook to practise recognising high frequency words and a reading record to keep track of all the wonderful reading they are doing. Please ensure that the students bring their book bag to school each day. The book bag is where we will place any notices to go home. Please ensure that you check your child's bag daily as any of our school notices will be in their book bag.
- ☺ **ASSEMBLY:** Our School assembly is held on a Monday afternoon in the new hall from 2.20 pm. **PLEASE NOTE – Preps will not be attending assembly until Monday, 6th March.**
- ☺ **CLASS CONTACT LIST:** Thank you to those parents who have returned their information for the class contact list. If you would like to be included in the list please return the notice ASAP so that each class co-ordinator can get started on the contact list. This list is very valuable if you want to contact other parents within your class.
- ☺ **NUDE FOOD TUESDAY:** Every **Tuesday** at MEPS is "Nude Food Tuesday". This is an initiative set up by the Sustainability Team to encourage students to bring food "nude" and to reduce the litter around the school. We highly encourage the students to bring a packed lunch **without** any wrappers, cling wrap, foil, etc. A lot of you are already bringing nude food with the amazing containers you have! It is a weekly competition so we hope you and your children get into the "Nude Food" spirit!
- ☺ **CANTEEN/LUNCH ORDERS:** There will be **no lunch orders** for Preps until **Monday, 27th February.** We will be learning how to use the canteen on **Thursday, 23rd February** when we visit Daniella for a special icy pole day. Please refer to the separate note that will be sent home shortly.

- ☺ **TIQBIZ** — If you have not already got connected on Tiqbiz we recommend that you do so. All our notices are posted on Tiqbiz for your convenience. To access Tiqbiz download the app and then follow the prompts. Select “Foundation” and “Whole School” to access up-to-date Prep information and important school information.
- ☺ **SPARE CLOTHES:** Please ensure that your child has a **NAMED** spare pair of pants, socks and undies that should ALWAYS be in your child’s school bag in case of any ‘accidents’.
- ☺ **FOOD ALLERGIES:** We would like to remind parents to be aware of allergies in the year level. One student in the year level has allergies to cow milk, soy milk and preservatives. Please see your classroom teacher if you are wanting to bring in a special birthday treat to share. We would also appreciate reinforcing with your child that we do not “share” our lunchbox food at school.
- ☺ **SCHOOL PHOTO DAY:** On **Tuesday, 28th February** we will be getting our school photos taken at school. The Prep children are always early in the day so that they are still “sparkling clean” and looking gorgeous!
- ☺ **CLASSROOM TIMETABLE:** Your classroom teacher has sent home their relevant timetable. It will include when the children will be having their specialist classes so that you know when they will need their library bag, runners on for PE, etc.
- ☺ **PREP COMPLIMENTARY START UP BAG FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING:** The Department of Education and Training has kindly sent a bag to every Prep child in the State of Victoria that we handed out last week. It contains a variety of information that we hope you find useful.
- ☺ **LITERACY NEWS:** This week in Literacy we have been focusing on the phoneme commonly represented by ‘Ss’. Over the next few weeks we are practising our Wall Story sentences, with our wall storybooks to be sent home soon for daily reading practise. We are focusing on our composed sentences, distinguishing between letters, words and sentences and looking at high frequency words. We are also focusing on common punctuation such as full stops and capital letters. In the next few weeks in Literacy we will be focusing on the letters ‘Mm’, ‘Tt’, ‘Gg’ and ‘Ff’ and continue with many and varied reading, writing and speaking activities.
- ☺ **NUMERACY NEWS:** Over the next few weeks in Numeracy we will be looking closely at the numbers 1, 2 and 3 – practising how to write and count collections of objects up to 20. We are also exploring 2D shapes and creating a birthday graph. Ask your child to count for you at home!
- ☺ In Term 1 we will spend a lot of our school day getting to know each other, our school surroundings, making new friends and practising many of the school routines. We are creating some important classroom and outside playing rules. Discussing these important lifelong skills at home will help your child understand their importance.
- ☺ Your child will take home their Take Home Book Bag on Monday. Inside you will find 3 take-home books for the children to read throughout the week. There will be a reading logbook to enter books read and a homework book with sight words to practise. Inside the homework book you will find some specific instructions on how to help facilitate your child’s reading. Please take time to read these **VERY important guidelines**.



If you have any questions, concerns or comments please don’t hesitate to see your child’s teacher. Please bring along any relevant information or questions to your Meet the Teacher meeting next Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon. We will be sending home notices about reading helpers soon. We hope it has been a happy time for your family. We are very excited about the year ahead as we learn and grow together.

Thank you for your continued support.



THE PREP TEACHERS.