



Prep Update

Friday, 3rd March, 2017

Dear Prep Parents,

Our Prep children are all enjoying their time outside playing with their new friends. All the Preps have made a terrific start into school life and we should all be very proud of them. The Preps have also enjoyed meeting their Buddies this week and sharing in some special activities! A friendly reminder for older siblings- to continue to allow a smooth transition for the Preps, please just say hello to your brother or sister and allow them to continue playing with their Prep friends.

Below are some important reminders to keep you up-to-date with what is happening at school over the next couple of weeks.

PREP HOURS

The hours for Prep students until Friday, 10th March is **8:45am until 3:00pm**.

Next week will be our last week of these hours.

IN THE MORNINGS

Children are to line up on the dots by the time the second bell rings at 8:45am. The teacher will meet the children there and walk them into class. There is teacher supervision throughout the school grounds from **8:30am** so if you need to leave, your child will be under supervision in the yard.

If you feel your child is confident enough, you are more than welcome to drop them at the gate and have them walk up all by themselves! We want to encourage this independence amongst the Prep students.

If you have any notices to return, or have any letters, birthday invitations, etc. could you please place these in your child's reading bag. This is a simple, safe and effective way for important notices/letters to be returned to your class teacher and is the preferred method for the office staff and teachers. Please let your child know if they need to check their reader bag and get notices out.

The Prep students are now able to use the canteen to purchase a little treat. We ask that they put their money into a safe place in their school bags. If your child has a lunch order purchased online, could you please let them know so there is no confusion when trying to find their lunch order.

IN THE AFTERNOONS

Today will be the last day that the teachers will walk your children to the asphalt area near the Prep rooms. On Monday, 6th March, the classroom teacher will walk the students to the front of the school at 3pm to meet you. We will walk past the usual meeting place in case you wish to wait on the asphalt area on our way to the front of the school. If possible, please discuss a special meeting place for you and your child. If you have any questions about this please contact your classroom teacher to make alternative arrangements.

READING HELPER PROGRAM

Our reading program is up and running. Thank you to the parents/grandparents who have been in to help. The children have enjoyed sharing their books with you! Please allow time to hear the children read their M100 words. Reading helpers should pass on any notices to their classroom teacher.

ASSEMBLY

The Prep children will attend assembly for the first time next Monday, 6th March. Assembly is in the new school hall and begins around 2.20pm. It is a very exciting time for the children where they get to sing the National Anthem and hear about what the rest of the school community are doing.

LATE ARRIVAL/EARLY PICK UP

If you happen to arrive late at school, or need to pick your child up early from class, it is **essential that you sign them in/out at the School Office**. We receive a copy of your late arrival/early leave pass and are legally required to keep these.

NUDE FOOD TUESDAY

A reminder that every **Tuesday** at MEPS has become "Nude Food Tuesday". We 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!

SPECIAL HELPERS

Calling volunteers! We will soon be learning about people who help us in the community. If you are a 'Special Helper' in our community and can spare some time to talk to the Prep children, please contact your classroom teacher.

LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY

Labour Day holiday is on **Monday, 13th March**. Children will not be required at school on this day.

READING EGGS

On Monday, you will find the log-in details for Reading Eggs in your child's homework book. As with Mathletics, these codes work on the computer and also the Reading Eggs app. We have completed the Placement Test with your child at school. The program has a range of online reading games and activities for the children to progress through and these are targeted to your child's reading ability. If you have any problems or queries, please see your classroom teacher.

IN THE CLASSROOM

ENGLISH

During our English sessions we have been working on Ss, Mm, Tt and Gg. We talk about the letter name, letter sound and also different letter combinations (graphemes) that make these sounds. In the next few weeks we will also look at Ff, Aa, Ee and Bb. The children have been practising using their golden words and other familiar words in their story writing and have enjoyed sharing our daily

letter each day. They have become familiar with a variety of punctuation including capital letters, full stops and exclamation marks. In our daily letter we also include "WOW" words. These are interesting words that make our letter more interesting. Eg. wonderful, exciting, etc. We have been working hard on our wall story about school and they will be coming home very soon to share with you.

MATHS

During our Maths sessions we have been concentrating on the formation of the numbers up to 4. We practise our counting daily (touching each object as they count) and we have been comparing different lengths. The children have been working on their shape recognition and have enjoyed learning about where to find these shapes out in the school ground.

The children are gaining a good understanding of our school routine, rules and expectations during the last couple of weeks. We have been spending valuable time getting to know our classmates and other Prep students and teachers at our school. The children have participated in the formation of classroom rules and talked about our school values: Respect, Responsibility, Challenge, Connectedness and Resilience. We will continue to focus on our school and "All about ME!" in the weeks to follow. If you have not yet returned the "Who am I?" baby photo and milestone sheet please do so as soon as possible; we will begin sharing these with the children next week.

READING TIPS FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD

The Three P's in Reading...

- **Pause:** Before telling your child the word, it is important to wait. Give the child time to "have a go" and attempt to work it out for themselves.
- **Prompt:** Assist your child by prompting them to look at the pictures. Ask them what word might make sense, does it sound right and what letter does the word start with.
- **Praise:** Make sure you praise your child and encourage them! If it isn't correct, that's okay, just try again! Be specific about your praise as well, eg; "I like the way you....." and "Great job at looking to the picture..." State of Victoria, DEECD, 1999, "Developing Literacy Partnerships", Addison Wesley Longman Australia.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to see your classroom teacher. The start of the school day can be very busy so the teacher may have to make a more suitable time needed.

Thank you for your continued support.
The Prep Teachers

