

# Prep Update

Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2017

Dear Prep Parents,

Well, can you believe it...Term 1 has come to an end and it has just flown past. Your children have been at school for 9 weeks! We have been very busy this term and it is a credit to you and your children on their successful adjustment to life at primary school. They are confident with school routines, specialist classes, the canteen, roles and responsibilities in the classroom and group work amongst the classes to name a few achievements we have shared this term.



It was wonderful to see so many families yesterday afternoon to share the "School Experience" with their children. It is truly incredible how much your children have grown already.

**YARD PLAY AREAS:** The children have adapted very well to the extended play area and they are successfully able to use the five finger rule when dealing with any issues in the yard. This is a great way to develop students' resilience and gives them a real sense of independence and ownership when decision-making. Next term, the Prep play area will be extended to include the Oval during the first half of their recess and lunch play. We anticipate that the Prep sandpit will be installed during the holidays.

**TERM 1 REFLECTION:** We have had an enormously busy but rewarding first term this year. It all started with a rush and has not stopped since. We are very proud of the academic, social and emotional growth the students have had this term. They have spent time becoming familiar with a great variety of school routines and we have had a big focus on developing their social and emotional skills. It has been very rewarding watching the students expand their friendships and mix with different groups within their class and year level. It has been lovely getting to know your children and it was with great pride that we watched the children mix in their house groups during our Safety Rotational activities. We have spent the term looking at many different English and Mathematical skills and the children have really enjoyed sharing details about themselves and their families with peers. They gained some valuable knowledge from our Special Visitors talking about "Staying Safe". We are very fortunate to have a wonderful school community including family members who have given up their own time to come in and educate our children on vital safety information.

**TERM 2:** Term 2 will commence at 8:45am on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> April. Please note: On Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> April it is ANZAC Day and students will not be required at school. There is a Curriculum Day scheduled on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> May. A parent session will also run in the evening, 1<sup>st</sup> May. More details to follow early next term.

**READING REMINDER:** We would like to remind you that it is the Classroom Teacher's responsibility to assess your child's reading and word recognition (M100 words). Please remember, the take home books that your child brings home are in fact aimed at being "easy" and enjoyable reading for the children. Our instructional reading at school is where we focus on developing reading skills and strategies. In addition to this, the children have generally read their take home book prior to it coming home. They are familiar with the book they are bringing home to you. Our school policy indicates that Prep students should do no more than 30 minutes of homework per night. Please refer to the "homework matrix" that is placed in the student's homework book to reinforce life skills and consolidate classroom learning. In Prep, our daily classroom routine is very busy and structured so our daily homework task is for the children to read take

home reading books per night, practise any of the reading strategies that we are using at school and complete any of the optional tasks on the rubric. We periodically test your child on the M100 words so if you feel that they are confident recognising and reading these site vocabulary words in various texts be assured that we do test them regularly. They will not be disadvantaged by practising their M100 words and are in fact encouraged to keep revisiting ALL words in their homework book. The aim of the students' homework task is to reinforce classroom work and build confidence in your child's language skills. The children will NOT be bringing home reading books over the holiday period. If you would like them to do some reading then please feel free to use either books you have at home or visit the local library.

### **HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES:**

We do not expect your children to complete any "school work" over the holiday but if you are looking for activities to entertain your children we have put together a list of ideas below:

- Find all the graphs, digraphs or trigraphs in their story.
- Look for compound words, rhyming words, etc in their story.
- Find M100 words in the book they are reading.
- Practise spelling the M100 words in order to transfer this skill to their story writing.
- Count and identify different structures of the text (sentences, punctuation, etc).
- Encourage fluency and expression in reading.
- Ask inferential questions about what the student has read.
- Look for mathematical opportunities when at home or out and about.
- Explore Reading Eggs and Mathletics.
- Cook together and measure out ingredients.
- Count as many different objects as you can.
- Put your toys in order from largest to smallest.
- Have races and practise ordering from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>.



**IN THE CLASSROOM:** Next term, along with our Literacy and Numeracy curriculum, we will begin our term concentrating on "Healthy Habits, Healthy You!" We will be investigating the role of good nutrition and understanding the importance of personal hygiene. We will be focusing on the Earth Sciences later in the term. It is very exciting because during next term we will attend our first school excursion. You will get details early next term regarding our excursion.

**THANK YOU:** We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the terrific support and trust you have placed in us this term. Your children enjoy life, they are curious, they like to laugh and sing, they enjoy being challenged and they are not afraid to try new things. You and your child have been brave enough to take the great leap into learning. Your love and support makes an enormous impact on their work at school. Please take some time to pat yourself on the back for your part in this wonderful journey.

We wish you all a terrific holiday. Stay safe, enjoy a well earned break and Happy Easter. We look forward to seeing you all again next term.

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

