



# Prep Newsletter - Term One, 2024



We would like to warmly welcome you to St James!

We are very excited about the year ahead, and are thrilled with how well the children have settled into Prep. We hope the year will be a happy and enjoyable beginning to your child's school life and one in which many new learning discoveries and friendships will be made. Thank you for entrusting your wonderful children to our care. We look forward to watching your child grow in a happy, safe and encouraging environment. Our team is dedicated to creating a sense of community and we have planned some exciting activities and events to facilitate connections among the children and teachers.

IMPORTANT EVENTS - more information to come!		
Wednesday February 14th <b>Ash Wednesday &amp; Parent Info Night</b>	Sunday February 18th <b>Founder's Day Mass</b> <i>11:15am St John's Mitcham</i>	Tuesday February 27th <b>Prep Parent Welcome Dinner 6:30pm - 8:30pm</b>
Friday March 1st <b>P&amp;F Cinema Night</b>	Friday March 8th <b>School Closure</b>	Monday March 11th <b>Labour Day Public Holiday</b>
Friday March 22nd <b>Mass with Fr Dispin</b> 9am Community Centre	Wednesday March 27th <b>Last Day of Term 1 in the classroom &amp; Learning Conferences</b>	Thursday March 28th <b>Learning Conferences</b>

Timetable	PD	PO
PE	Tuesday	
Auslan	Wednesday (Week 5 onwards)	
STEM	Wednesday (Week 5 onwards)	
PERFORMING ARTS	Thursday	Friday
Library	Friday	

LITERACY
<p>This term, the children will develop their beginning and emerging reading skills. They will focus on their understanding of concepts about print and features of texts. This includes text directionality, the distinction between sentences, words and letters and their understanding that a text conveys a message. They will engage in learning tasks where they recognise and recall the name and most common sound made by several upper and lower case letters of the alphabet. Children will use this developing phonemic knowledge when attempting to work out unknown words. They will engage in comprehension strategies such as, sequencing and retelling a simple story and making personal connections, to demonstrate their understanding of texts.</p> <p>The children will be introduced to the writing process and early writing skills through modelled and shared writing experiences. They will begin forming each upper and lower case letter, as well as using correct pencil grip, and will practise writing their name using correct letter formation. The children will draw and write personal recounts about their weekend experiences, listening to the beginning, final and medial sounds in words and recording letters to represent them.</p> <p>They will identify rhyming words and syllables, and practise isolating, blending and segmenting sounds in words.</p>

MATHS
<p>This term, the children have been copying and creating simple repeated patterns. The children will name, represent and order numbers from zero to at least 20. They will practise using 1:1 correspondence to count objects and explore number bonds to 10, naming them as 'Friends of 10'. They will partition collections of up to 10 objects in different ways such as, '6 is 4 and 2 more' or 'It's 7 because there is 5 there and 2 more'.</p> <p>The children will sequence the days of the week. They will identify times of the day, including morning, afternoon and night-time, and connect them to familiar events and actions.</p> <p>The children will sort, name and create familiar 2D shapes, recognising and describing their features and identifying them within objects in the environment.</p>

WEEKLY SOUND FOCUS		
Week 1 ~ Mm	Week 2 ~ Ss	Week 3 ~ Ff
Week 4 ~ Aa	Week 5 ~ Pp	Week 6 ~ Tt
Week 7 ~ Cc	Week 8 ~ Ii	Week 9 ~ Nn

## Wellbeing - How can I be safe, happy and healthy?

### Term 1 Value: Kindness

#### SEL

The children will engage in specific learning tasks where they will begin to recognise and name emotions. They will be introduced to a 'Mood Meter' that encourages them to express and name their own feelings. The children will learn about having a growth mindset, as they begin to recognise that problems or challenges are a normal part of life and learn strategies that can help them manage problems. They will identify their personal strengths and learn that they belong together as a class family. The children will continue to build their relationship with their Year 6 Buddy(ies).

#### INQUIRY LEARNING

The children will name and demonstrate our school rules and identify people who keep us safe. They will learn and practise strategies to build and maintain friendships at school, such as including others and saying sorry, and will reflect on how our relationships contribute to our happiness. They will discuss the importance of a healthy lunchbox and further develop their understanding of personal hygiene practices, including hand washing. They will embrace the value of kindness as they take action to 'fill each other's buckets' and recognise that being kind, fair and respectful to others can support the health and wellbeing of our classroom.

#### RELIGION

The children will participate and contribute to the establishment of our class prayer space. They will practise making the Sign of the Cross and join in during prayer times and Christian Meditation. The overarching theme this term is that our relationships are central to who we are and all that we do and we must develop and nurture them. Students will learn about prayer as talking and listening to God and they will also be introduced to the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. They will reflect on how Jesus shows kindness and how they too can be kind just like he was. The children will gain an understanding that Jesus made friends with lots of different people. They will learn that we can hear stories about Jesus and his friends in the Bible, especially his closest friends, the disciples. The children will understand that friends spend time together and that they can spend time with their friend Jesus when they pray. They will develop their understanding that when they pray, meditate and are still, they are helping their mind and body to be healthy. The children will also learn about the events of Holy Week that lead to Easter Sunday.

## HOME LEARNING

#### Home Reading will commence Monday February 19th.

It is expected that all children read for a minimum of 10 mins per night, four times a week. Children are required to record their reading in their Log Books each night. Please ensure these Logbooks are kept in mailbags and brought to school, as they contain log in details children use at school. Please continue to ensure the focus remains on reading for enjoyment, as it is our priority to foster a love of reading!

Home learning will always be meaningful and may be given at various times throughout the term for the following reasons:

- To reinforce skills and knowledge that your child is acquiring at school (Needs Based)
- To research, prepare for presentations, collect materials, administer surveys etc. to support classroom topics of study (Topic Based)
- To engage families in learning (Family Based)



Our newsletter provides a brief overview of our learning across all areas in the classroom. We will also be in contact via email as events and needs arise. Please don't forget to check the School Newsletter weekly for important information and the most updated dates for upcoming events.

**Please continue to contact us should the need arise. Looking forward to sharing another term of partnership and learning!**

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