



# Prep Newsletter - Term One, 2025



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 12th <b>Parent Info Night</b> 5.45pm - 6.30pm & 6.45pm - 7.30pm	Sunday February 23rd <b>Founder's Day Mass</b> 9:45am St John's Mitcham	Tuesday February 25th <b>Prep Parent Welcome Dinner 6:30pm - 8:30pm</b>	
Tuesday March 4th <b>Shrove Tuesday</b>	Wednesday March 5th <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	Friday March 7th <b>School Closure</b>	Monday March 10th <b>Labour Day Public Holiday</b>
Friday March 21st <b>P&amp;F Cinema Night</b>	Thursday April 3rd <b>Last Day of Term 1 in the classroom &amp; Learning Conferences</b>	Friday April 4th <b>Learning Conferences</b>	

Timetable	PD	PB
PE	Tuesday	
Auslan	Wednesday (Week 6 onwards)	
STEM	Wednesday (Week 6 onwards)	
PERFORMING ARTS	Thursday	Tuesday
Library	Friday (we will inform you when borrowing begins)	

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 letters, words and sentences 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 recognise and name the number of objects within a collection up to 10 using subitising. 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 are 5 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. The children will sequence daily events.</p> <p>In our location unit the children will describe the position and location of themselves and objects in relation to other people and objects within a familiar space, using language such as describing the position of an item in relation to other items in the space using language like 'inside', 'underneath, beside, and on top of.</p>

WEEKLY SOUND FOCUS		
Week 1 ~ Mm	Week 2 ~ Mm & Ss	Week 3 ~ Ff & Aa
Week 4 ~ Pp & Tt	Week 5 ~ Cc & li	Week 6 ~ Bb & Hh
Week 7 ~ Nn & Oo	Week 8 ~ Dd & Gg	Week 9 ~ Ll & Vv
Week 10 ~ revise, practise & apply		

**History - Where am I from?  
Term 1 Value: Respect**

SEL	INQUIRY LEARNING
<p>The children will learn about the value of respect by practicing kindness, fairness, and being considerate of their peers. They will recognise and follow the school rules, identify people who keep them safe at school, and develop strategies to build friendships, like including others and saying sorry. The children will explore and name emotions using a 'Mood Meter' and learn about developing a growth mindset, understanding that challenges are a normal part of life, and practicing strategies to overcome problems. They will also continue to build their relationship with their Year 6 Buddy (ies).</p>	<p>The children will learn about their family history and share some special family items. They will identify their family connections to places and listen to shared stories from parents and grandparents, to build on the understanding that our peers have culturally diverse backgrounds.</p> <p>They will develop a sense of their own identity and belonging by sequencing significant personal events in their lives, such as the birth of a sibling or moving house, using photos or drawings.</p>
<b>RELIGION</b>	
<p>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 children will learn about prayer as talking and listening to God and they will also be introduced to the image of Jesus and his family. They will reflect on how Jesus shows kindness and how they too can be kind just like he was, by reflecting on the parable of the Good Samaritan. 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 also learn about the events of Holy Week that lead to Easter Sunday.</p>	

**HOME LEARNING**

<p><b><u>Home Reading will commence Monday February 24th.</u></b></p> <p>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!</p>	<p>Home learning will always be meaningful and may be given at various times throughout the term for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reinforce skills and knowledge that your child is acquiring at school (Needs Based)</li> <li>• To research, prepare for presentations, collect materials, administer surveys etc. to support classroom topics of study (Topic Based)</li> <li>• To engage families in learning (Family Based)</li> </ul>
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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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