

6 November 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Leadership Team of Galilee are happy to announce that in 2022, Galilee will be an increase to three Prep classes. This is a change from our current model of two Prep classes. The three Prep classes will be capped at a maximum of 19 students, and in 2022 will transition into two regular size Year One classes. We will consider this model recurring in future years if deemed successful and affordable, ensuring our youngest students are provided with a solid foundation to their education.

Some of the reasons behind this change are:

Prep Transition 2020-2021

As with many changes this year due to COVID-19, the Transition for 2021 Preps has been greatly affected. Onsite transitions have not yet been possible due to Government and Catholic Education Melbourne restrictions. In the meantime, sessions have been moved to online, which has made transition to Prep very different for our youngest students. We are hopeful that our new approach will ease the children into the school environment with additional teacher support in their first year of schooling.

Greater support

In their first year of formal schooling, children require additional support in many areas - personal, social, emotional and academic. Skills in these areas are usually developed in a kindergarten environment to increase children's school-readiness. This year, many children have not had regular access to a kinder year. Having three smaller class sizes allows us to address these needs more effectively to ensure that our Prep children are well-prepared for the following years of their primary education.

Classroom support

Reducing our Prep class sizes with lower student to teacher ratios means that additional support can be allocated to children in other year levels. This is essential as a result of the COVID impact in 2020. Classroom support through our Learning Support Officers, Therapists and formal intervention programmes will be much more available to other year levels of the school in 2021.

We look forward to welcoming our new Preps to their first onsite transition session this Monday!

Kind regards,



Simon Millar
Principal, Galilee Regional Catholic Primary School