



Prep Newsletter Term 1 2025

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2025 school year!

We are off to a flying start with students already showing continuing independence in the mornings as they unpack their own bags and settle themselves for the start of the day. We appreciate your assistance with this and we especially love seeing students carrying their own school bags when they enter and leave the school yard each day!

It was lovely meeting with you and your children during the first week of term! The assessments we did provide us with a great starting point for future learning.

IMPORTANT

- Please be aware that there are students within the Prep year level who have **SEVERE nut, egg and dairy allergies**. Please try to avoid sending nut products (e.g. peanut butter, nutella, certain muesli bars) to school and remind students that they are **not** to share food with one another. In class we are reinforcing the need to **wash/sanitise** hands before and after handling foods and toileting.
- Just a reminder, the playground and play equipment on the Prep Area deck is **not to be played with** before and or after school. **No students or siblings should be playing in that area.**
- As the yard after school can be quite busy and congested we appreciate families leaving the yard as soon as students are dismissed.
- Please make sure to read the important information on one of our new students at the end of this newsletter.

ASSEMBLY:

Our school week will finish with assembly on Friday at 2:50 pm (approx). Students will have their bags already packed and at their class line ready to go for the end of school bell.

COMMUNICATION

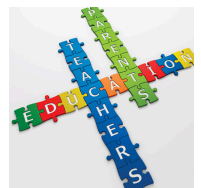
A reminder to all families that we mainly use the following 3 Apps for school/family communications:

Audiri- For all information sent from the school or teachers about events or important things to remember/reminders.

Operoo- please make sure this is updated with your child's health information-permission forms may also be sent via Operoo.

CDF Pay- online canteen ordering system.

Please install these on a device so you can keep up with all that's going on.



Later in the term we will also begin to use

Seesaw—More details will be sent home with your child about how to join and use Seesaw.

Class teachers may also be contacted via email.

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MORNING ROUTINE

As each student enters the classroom they will unpack their own bags in the morning. They need to unpack their...**green communication folder (which we are holding onto until Monday)** and **water bottle**. These items remain in the classroom until home time each day. We also ask the students to take their lunch box out of their bag and place it **in front** of their bag in their locker for easy accessibility at eating times.



At around **9.30am** each day all students have a "**Fruit Break**" in which they are encouraged to eat a healthy snack in the form of either a piece of fruit or some vegetables. This is separate to their morning recess snack. This does not need to be in a separate container, just their lunchbox is fine. This makes it easier at pack up time when putting everything away, rather than having too many containers.

LITERACY

Next week we will begin our InitialLit Program which provides whole class instruction in literacy. Throughout Term 1, the students will be taught phonological skills to prepare them for later reading and writing tasks. There is a strong focus on spoken and printed words and sounds within words. Students will learn that there are 3 ways to "read" a book...read the pictures, retell the story and read the words. We will begin to look at the alphabet as a whole, identifying letters and sounds and look at the initial sounds in known words. The Preps have begun to practise writing their names, with a particular distinction on starting their name with a capital letter and continuing with lower case.

TAKE HOME BOOKS

Reading Together

This is an important way for children to make the link from spoken words to written words. Reading with your child will support this. When your child reads to you, allow time for working out words and ask questions to see if he or she understands what they have read. It's also important for you to show your child how you read every day for different purposes, for example: recipes, greeting cards, calendars, shopping lists, food labels, instructions, maps, newspapers, emails, signs, and websites.



Book talk This is an important part of reading. Chat about the book before, during and after reading and really encourage your child to talk about their ideas and ask questions about the book. Here are some questions you can ask at different times before, during and after reading the book: » What would you like to read about? » Would you like to choose a book you know? » Look at the cover – what do you think this book is about? » What is happening in the pictures? » How could we work out these tricky words? » What do you think is going to happen next? » What was your favourite part of the book? » Who was your favourite character in the story? Why did you like that character? » If you could change the ending of this book, what would it be? » Write down what your child is telling you about an experience and then read it back together. » Draw pictures about the scenes or characters. » Explore words using a dictionary. » Talk about what authors and illustrators do. » Point out important things about a book – for example, the front cover, the spine, the contents page, or the title.

In Term 1, students will take home **picture story books** – to keep at home for "homework". They will pick one book on a **Monday** and then return it in exchange for another one on **Thursday**. On night 1, we ask that you read this book to your child as an enjoyable reading experience. Then the following nights after you reread that same book, discuss the story content and use the questions on the inside cover to help develop your child's ability to comprehend. This is a really important step in the process of learning to become a confident reader. You can record their reading and keep tabs on their progress with stickers from their '**My Reading Record Book**' which each student will be given Monday 10th February. Always keep this in the **green folder**.

NUMERACY

The Preps will begin the year by asking and answering yes/no questions as a way of getting to know each other better. We are exploring various ways of presenting and organising information (graphs). We will be experimenting with patterns and shapes using lots of concrete materials. Students will play games to enhance their number knowledge. They will be matching number names and numerals and they will learn to instantly recognise a small collection. There is also a big focus on correct number formation.



INQUIRY

Throughout our Inquiry Unit we will be exploring special places around our school and community. In Student Wellbeing, we will focus on the Resilience Project, Zones of Regulation and Emotional Literacy—which involves identifying and describing emotions.

RELIGION

Students are learning about Jesus' life on Earth and His death and resurrection. Students will begin to understand that Lent is the season of waiting and preparing for the great celebration of Easter. They will be introduced to the parable of the Good Shepherd as a way of demonstrating the love God has for each and every one of us.

REMINDERS & HELPFUL HINTS

- We encourage students to leave their school hats in their cubbies at school overnight (unless they need them to wear home if walking or for after school care). This ensures they are always at school.
- Please be mindful to show or pack foods that your child can open easily by **themselves**
- Please be careful when packing grapes, remind your child how to chew them properly or cut them up
- Please ensure **ALL** school stationery items are at school (even spares)
- If you have not brought in your **Art Smock**, please bring it in
- A reminder that all students are required to bring a **small tub of playdough** to school
- A personalized bottle of hand sanitizer popped into a lunchbox will help keep germs at bay
- If children wish to leave their hats at schools during Term 1 and 4, they are welcome to keep these in their lockers, to prevent them missing out on play or getting lost. However you can still take these home if needed
- Please check your child's hair regularly for head lice
- Students will not begin borrowing books from the Library until Term 2

- Teachers are **unable** to hand out birthday party invitations as such celebrations are out of school events
- If you have ordered a lunch order for your child from the canteen, please provide them with a fruit and recess snack as lunch orders will not arrive until lunchtime.
- **Students in Prep wear their sport uniform on Mondays and Thursdays.**

Prep Specialists

Prep students will attend 6 Specialist subjects each Thursday and Friday, which will be 45 minutes in duration:-

Day of Week	Specialist
Monday	Prep Movement (sport uniform)
Thursday	STEM Art PE (sport uniform)
Friday	Music eLearning Italian

SPECIAL DATES *Please be aware that these dates are subject to change**

Week 2	Prep Wine and Cheese Night	Friday 7th Feb
Week 3		
Week 4	Parent Teacher Information Exchange (Year 1-6) Not for PREPS	Monday 17th & Wednesday 19th Feb
Week 5		
Week 6	Shrove Tuesday Ash Wednesday School Closure Days	Tuesday 4th March Wednesday 5th March Thursday 6th & Friday 7th March
Week 7	Labour Day Public Holiday	Monday 10th March
Week 8	St Patrick's Day Festival	Friday 21st March 3:30pm onwards
Week 9	End of Term Whole School Mass	Tuesday 25th March
Week 10	End of Term 1 - 12:30 pm finish	Friday 4th April

Kind regards: Nikahla Short, Stephanie Hulse and Emily Thorley