



## Prep Newsletter - Term One, 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Prep at 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.

Please find in this newsletter an outline of Term One in Prep!

### Religion:

Our unit this term is called 'Will you be my friend?' In this topic, the overarching theme 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 are also introduced to the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. The understandings covered are that:

- Jesus made friends with lots of different people
- The Bible tells us the stories of Jesus' friends
- Jesus' closest friends were called his disciples
- Jesus is my friend
- Friends spend time together. I spend time with Jesus when I pray
- When I pray, meditate and am still, I am helping my mind and body to be healthy
- The events of Holy Week lead to Easter Sunday. This is a very important day in our Church calendar



### Literacy:

This term we will be focusing on letters and the sounds they make. We will focus on Phonological Awareness, e.g. rhyming, syllables in words, initial and final sounds in words. We will be orientating the book, this includes locating the title, author, using pictures as clues, identifying where we start reading and orally summarising a story after listening to it. We will begin focus groups to address individual needs. The valuable time we have had with your child, particularly in the 1:1 testing, has informed us of a starting point for your child's learning and directed our teaching. At this stage, most children are at the pre-writing stage, so our focus this term is on writing conventions, e.g. writing left to right, correct pencil grip and letter formation, students writing their own names. Students will be introduced to a Recount and illustrate and/or begin to record sounds in words from their personal experiences (e.g. weekend experiences). The children are given opportunities to develop their skills and confidence in Speaking and Listening in both whole group and small group situations.

**Maths:**

This term the children will begin by learning about the numbers 0 to 10 - counting to and from, writing the numerals as well as words, identifying numbers that come before/after, etc. We will also explore 2D Shapes, patterns and measurement, including the days of the week.



**Integrated Inquiry and Social Emotional Learning:**

This term our Inquiry unit is linked to the Religion unit, "Will you be my friend?". From the Inquiry point of view, the understandings being covered include:

- I know how to be a good friend
- I know the school rules and how they keep us safe
- Skills to initiate and maintain friendships
- Different people look after me
- There are many ways to look after myself and others
- I need to look after my body to keep myself healthy



**Specialist Classes:**

Please be advised that the specialist classes for students this semester are as follows:

Prep D	Prep O
<p><u>Tuesday:</u> Auslan Phys-Ed</p> <p><u>Wednesdays:</u> STEMMS (commencing March)</p> <p><u>Thursday:</u> Performing Arts Library (please bring library bag)</p>	<p><u>Monday:</u> Library (please bring library bag)</p> <p><u>Tuesday:</u> Auslan</p> <p><u>Wednesday:</u> Phys-Ed Performing Arts STEMMS (commencing March)</p>

During February students will have some of their Wednesday specialist classes on other days when the specialist teachers can slot them in.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you feel the need:

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Looking forward to a wonderful year together,

Amy Darvell and Tess Odgers