

Preston South Primary School

Foundation Newsletter



Welcome to Preps at Preston South PS

Our Prep Team

Prep K

Tina Kyriazopoulos –
Team Leader (class teacher)
Kim Smith (support)

Prep R

Miryana Ristovski
(class teacher)
Sandra DeVuono (support)

Prep G

Jake Gatto (class teacher)

Specialist Teachers
Simon Lukic (Physical Education and
Performing Arts)
Lisa Niceski (Visual Arts)

Prep M

Carolyn McVeigh
(Class Teacher)

Term Dates ~ 2018

Term 1
30th January to 29th March

Term 3
16th July to 21st September

Term 2
16th April to 29th June

Term 4
8th October to 21st December



Preston South Primary School
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Important Dates to Remember:

**Wednesdays –
7th, 14th, 21st and 28th**

February

Students are not required to attend school unless they have an appointment time with their teacher.

Wednesday 28th February

Prep Information Night

Monday 5th March

Students begin their full first week of school.

Tuesday 6th March

Teddy Bear Picnic

Monday 12th March-

Labour Day Holiday

Thursday 15th March

Family Fun Night

Thursday 29th March

Last day of Term 1 – 2.30 pm dismissal

Welcome to our Term 1 Newsletter!

We have been so impressed with how quickly the Prep students have settled into their new school environment. Thank you for supporting and preparing your children for this successful beginning to school.

School newsletters will be available on line every second Friday and emailed to families.

Prep Staff are available to discuss your child's needs and development. These discussions can be initiated by staff or the family and should be at a time to suit all concerned.

Whilst we can appreciate the mornings can be a little hectic, it is extremely important that students arrive on time. Students should be lined up outside the Prep area before 8.50 am, ready to come inside after the bell.

It is important to allow your child to be responsible for placing their bag on their hook and finding their snack (all classes have a snack at 10.55 am). A teacher will be on duty before school from 8.40 am and no child should be left unsupervised before this time.

Punctuality is important, as the scene is often set during the first 15 minutes of the day. Late arrivals are required to get a late pass from the office and then enter the classroom quietly.

Prep Team

Hats



All students must wear a hat in Term One and Term Four to protect them from the sun. Please apply sunscreen at home before your child comes to school.

Students without hats are required to stay under cover in the yard at playtimes. Please remember to label your child's name on their hats.

Please ensure all clothing and belongings are labelled clearly and legibly with your child's full name. With 64 new students in the area it is unavoidable that items such as jackets, bags, home reading folders, shoes, lunch boxes and containers get mislaid. Often someone has accidentally taken the wrong item home but, if it is named, it can be returned. Label EVERYTHING to avoid having to replace lost items.

Healthy Lunch Boxes for Children

Healthy lunches and snacks are important for children and help with concentration and learning. Healthy eating changes are not always easy to make. Encourage children to be involved in their own lunch preparation and their choices about foods to be included in their lunchboxes. Praise your child when they choose healthy foods for their lunch box. There are set times for students to eat throughout the day. Teachers supervise eating times. Children may prefer to play with friends instead of eating so we encourage all children to sit and eat before heading out to play.

Suggested items to put in a lunch box:

- Vegetables
- Fresh fruit
- Dairy food – cheese or yoghurt
- Protein food – slice of lean meat, hard-boiled egg or beans
- Starchy food – bread, roll, pita or flat bread, bread or crackers,

Our canteen menu is attached. Please ensure lunch orders are sent to school Thursday so lunches can be delivered on Friday.

Allergies/Anaphylaxis

We would like to inform parents that there are a number of students in preps that have severe allergies to nuts. To help keep the classroom safe, it would be greatly appreciated if you could be mindful when sending food to school that contain nuts by reminding your child not to share food.

English:

Literacy skills are exciting developments in your child's life.

Over the term they will be learning to hold a pencil correctly, recognize letters/sounds, write letters and begin to formulate written words. Students will begin to learn how to read by looking at the sounds of letters and sounding out words, looking for words they can recognize from sight and use illustrations to find the meaning of unfamiliar words.

Prep students will be taking home their Alphabet Scrapbooks for homework beginning this week. Please refer to the leaflet attached on the inside page of the scrapbook which indicates the focus letter being explored. Included on the first page are some examples and ideas to encourage students to explore the letter shape and sound.

Students will be learning the High Frequency Words: They will initially bring home gold coloured words to learn and this will be followed by a new set of words as they develop confidence in reading each set of words that are coloured coded.

Word Study

Sight word acquisition is an important building block in the construction of a child's ability to read. When children are able to read all the high frequency words, they will access up to 75% of what is printed in almost any piece of children's literature.

The more one-on-one time children have learning and practising sight words with an adult, the greater the chances of integrating these words in their long-term memory. As part of our Word Study program for students from prep to grade two, students will be participating in reading the 200 High Frequency Words. (Magic Words).

Your child will receive a list of words on coloured cards which they will be required to revise at home and will be assessed on their ability to read these high frequency words on a weekly basis. This regular at home revision combined with school practise will increase your child's exposure to the high frequency words and provide them with the confidence in reading and using these words in their reading and writing.

Curriculum

- Repetition is the key to sight word acquisition and the more opportunities your child is given to practice and expand their vocabulary, the more their literacy skills will improve.
- Familiarity with such high frequency words is a crucial step towards developing your child's confidence and competency as a reader.

As your child reads the words independently they will progress to the next coloured word list. We ask parents to participate in this regular revision program to assist in their child's word study.

The colour coded cards are as follows:

Golden	Red	Blue	green	Orange	Indigo
Violet	Pink	Purple	Aqua	Lime	Lemon

Mathematics:

Encourage your child to use mathematics in real situations:

Cooking:

- time how long things take to cook
- talk about cooking utensils, size of containers and capacity
- measuring ingredients
- preparing shopping lists
- estimating costs
- tending money
- counting money
- budgeting pocket money

Play games

- card games
- jigsaws
- dice/boardgames

Time

- telling the time
- what's on TV/radio at 4.00pm?

Inquiry :

In Term 1, students will be covering the following areas:

- Engaging in physical activity.
- Building positive social relationships.

Our Inquiry Units this year

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Shaping Identity Students will strive to reach adventurous goals. They will be aware of how people are different and practice strategies to be safe and healthy at home and in the classroom.	Changes Students will be more aware of changes in their lives and will understand that change is all around us. They will appreciate why things change and what might change in the future.	Bridge and Beyond Students will appreciate and consider the properties of materials of things that they use in their lives. They will consider the properties of different materials when they embark on a design project of their own.	Great and Small Students will be able to identify different animals and their features. They will consider how they can save water at home and at school, and when they visit natural environments, students will consider how they can help care for habitats and the animals that live in them.

Curriculum

Specialist classes

PERFORMING ARTS:

This term students will experiment with diverse sounds and discover how they can be effectively combined. Students will learn to listen and respond to music, becoming aware of the elements of beat, rhythm, pitch, dynamics and tempo as they sing, play, improvise and move to music. Students will be given the opportunity to talk about the experiences of music they hear in their community, identifying what they enjoy and why. Students will explore sound and silence and ways of using their voices to express ideas. Students will sing and play instruments to create and practise chants, songs and rhymes including those used by cultural groups in the local community.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

Physical Education covers the following areas: fitness, dance, gymnastics, Fundamental Motor Skills, Gross Motor Skills and ball handling.

LIBRARY:

Students have a one-hour library session per week. During this time they may borrow a book of their choice for a week.

All students need to have a library bag in order to borrow a book. Students will be provided with a library bag by the school.

VISUAL ARTS:

This term, students will explore drawing and associated techniques. Students will create a variety of works with varied materials including; crayons, markers and pencils. Students will be encouraged to explore, experiment, observe and appreciate a variety of Art works, styles and techniques. Students will be encouraged to refine their skills and begin to add detail within their work.

LANGUAGES:

At Preston South PS, our Language Program follows a communicative approach. Students take part in language classes weekly and may have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities including writing, reading, listening and speaking in the chosen language.

Specialist Timetable:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Visual Arts Physical Education Assembly Library	Big Buddies		LOTE	Performing Arts

Take Home Readers:

The purpose of the Home Reading Program is to develop daily reading habits and to provide a pleasurable shared reading experience, giving children the opportunity to practise their newly acquired reading skills on a text that is generally less challenging.

Students will begin to take home reading books starting from the 2nd week of Term.

Students need to practise reading every night at home; this only has to be for 15 minutes. For the first few books it may be someone reading to the child and build up to your child recognizing familiar letters or High Frequency Words that have been learnt in class.

When reading with your child, encourage them to point to the words as they read, discuss the pictures with you and try to work out unfamiliar words by sounding them out, looking at the initial sound and using picture cues to assist them. Try and have a conversation with your child about what they have read and make predictions about the story before they read.

Share Time:

In Term 1, students will benefit from participating in weekly 'Share Time'. 'Share Time' days are on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Monday	Zaara, Miles, Lily, Eve
Tuesday	Reuben, Mohammed, Harvey
Wednesday	Zane, Felix, Elaine
Thursday	Matilda, Bonnie, Jack
Friday	Reem, Isabeau, Asma

Birthdays:

We love to celebrate birthdays with the children! If your child is celebrating a birthday, an alternative to food items is preferable. Please do not feel you have to bring anything along.

Home Support

