

Term 1 Newsletter

Prep

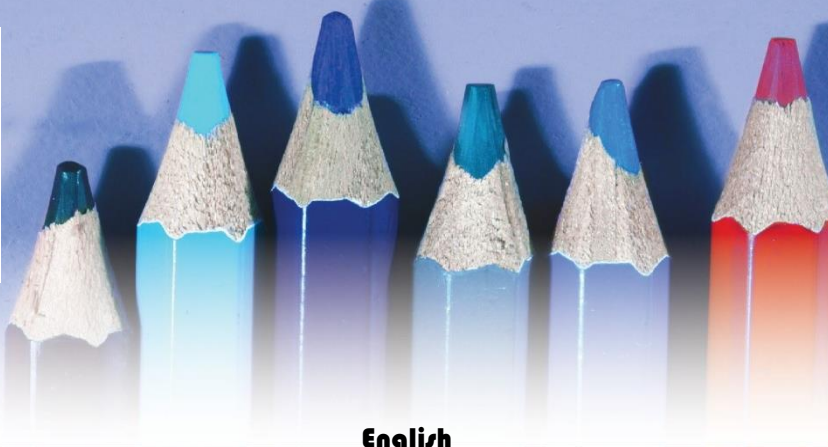
General Information

Welcome to 2024 and the first year of your child's schooling! We have a busy and exciting year planned for our students. The Preps are doing amazingly well settling into their new routines and getting to know all their classmates and teachers.

Thank you to everyone for bringing your child's booklist items in and for ensuring that all school items are named. Please check hats, lunchboxes and water bottles regularly to ensure your child's name is still visible.

As it is still very hot at the moment, please ensure that your child is coming to school every day with a hat and water bottle. It is also recommended that students have an ice brick in their lunchbox to keep their lunch cool as lunchboxes are stored in their backpacks during the day. *(With the exceptionally humid weather that we are experiencing at the moment, students are invited to keep their lunchboxes inside our air-conditioned classrooms).* Each day students will have a fruit/veg snack during first session. Please ensure that it is in a named container and that it is a small snack that your student can finish in 5-10 minutes, e.g. 5 strawberries, a small banana, half a large apple, 3 medium pieces of watermelon, half a carrot.

In Prep our teaching and learning is guided by the Age-Appropriate Pedagogies Framework. This means that the children and teachers will be engaged in learning activities that are active, agentic, language rich, playful, scaffolded, creative, collaborative and learner focused. We love that this Framework helps us to ensure that learning in Prep is responsive to the needs and interests of our young students and caters to their different learning styles. It helps to ensure that all students are engaged in a variety of learning experiences and having fun while they learn.



English

This term we will be focusing on oral language, exploring letters and the sounds they make (phonics), words and their meanings (vocabulary), and correct letter formations. We will also have a strong focus on why we read and write as well as exploring a range of books and identifying different text features.

We will also be investigating:

- different types of books: fiction and non-fiction
- the different features of books (title, author, illustrator, title page, illustrations, text).
- the way Illustrations and words are linked, with both carrying meaning.
- making connections between what we know and what we read.
- reading and writing from left to right.
- How to write a simple sentence using correct sentence structure.
- Simple punctuation – capital letters and full stops
- reading simple predictable and decodable texts.

Name Writing

A big focus in Term 1 is learning how to recognise our names and write them correctly. Throughout the year we will be practising our name writing every day. We will start with just our first name before moving on to include our surnames.

We will be concentrating on:

- using a capital letter at the beginning followed by lower case letters for the remainder of the name
- correct pencil grip
- correct letter formation

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Maths

Maths is more than just numbers. It includes classifying objects, making patterns, exploring the properties of 2D and 3D shapes and solving problems. Maths in Prep is always fun. We will be using manipulatives and making sure we get up and move our bodies as much as possible. We even love to take our maths lessons outside of the classroom whenever possible. Each term, students will investigate all areas of Mathematics and will build on their previous learning.

This term we will be:

- oral counting to 10 and continuing to 20.
- connecting numbers to a group of objects.
- representing numbers in different ways.
- subitising to 5 - looking at a number of objects and knowing how many without counting.
- comparing groups of items and using the words more/less/same as/not the same as.
- exploring positional language – following simple instructions using positional language.
- learning about the days of the week – naming the days the correct order and connecting days to familiar events.
- measuring and comparing – heavier/lighter, longer/shorter, taller/shorter
- naming basic 2D shapes - eg square, circle, rectangle.
- sorting and classifying objects by 1 attribute - eg colour, shape, size, number.
- copying and continuing patterns – using sounds or concrete objects.

Science

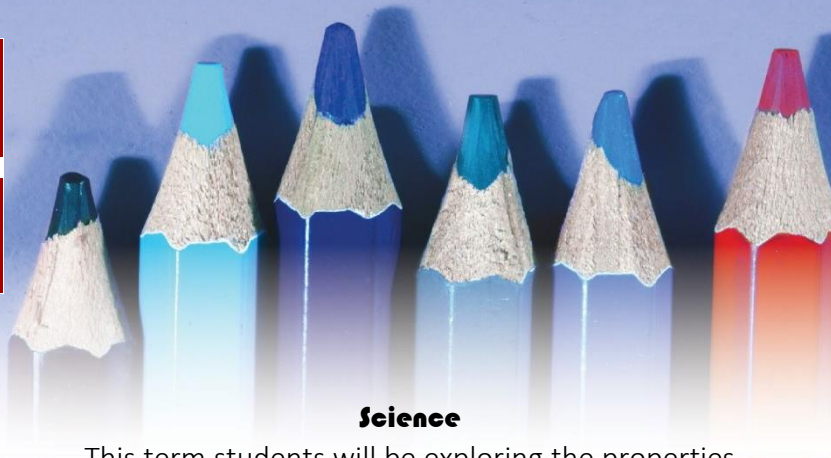
This term students will be exploring the properties of different materials. In this unit, they will use their senses to observe materials and their properties. Students will learn why different materials are used for different purposes and that the properties of these materials help to determine their suitability. Students will use this knowledge to select appropriate materials to create different artworks.

Humanities & Social Sciences

In HASS we will be learning about our families and how they are similar and different to other families. We would love every student to send in a photo of their family that we will be using in several activities in class. Students will create a family portrait and orally present their family portrait to the class and share who their family is.

Health and Physical Education

This term, students will be learning how to participate in a range of fundamental movement skills that combine gross and fine motor skills for purpose and enjoyment. Students will learn how to move their body safely within a designated space and follow rules to demonstrate how to play fairly and inclusively. As part of the Health unit, students will be learning to recognise similarities and differences between themselves and others and how to explain different emotions people experience. Term 1 brings with it warmer weather therefore students must bring a hat and water bottle to PE to ensure they can stay sun safe and hydrated.



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Performing Arts

This term students will explore a range of music, dance and drama activities including recreating rhymes they know, performing rhymes to the class using puppets, working on following instructions and working as a team. In the Music room students are expected to stay safe, be respectful and have a go. Throughout this term, this will be modelled and explicitly taught.

Visual Arts

In this unit, students will use a range of techniques and materials to create a number of artworks. We will be viewing and creating a range of artworks using different drawing and collage techniques. Students will reflect on their own and their peers art work. This will help them develop the ability to voice a personal preference, take inspiration from others and consider how they might want to change their own art work.

Students will create a portfolio of work that will be displayed for viewing at our Celebration of Learning event at the end of the term.

Respectful Relationships

This year we will be exploring respectful relationships. Students will learn a range of skills to help them navigate friendships and be respectful and successful members of our school community.

In Prep this will include:

- how to recognise and manage our emotions
- how to be a good friend
- how to be a kind and respectful member of our class / school
- how to manage conflict successfully
- how to negotiate and share when working with others
- how to keep ourselves and others safe
- how to get help if we are feeling unsafe

