

# Term 1 Newsletter

## Prep L

Rosemary Lyons [rlyon13@eq.edu.au](mailto:rlyon13@eq.edu.au)

### Dear families,

It has been lovely to meet you. I am very excited to be teaching Prep and I am looking forward to getting to know your child. This is a big year of learning for your child and your support and involvement will assist them greatly.

**Communication Book** - We have set up your child's communication book. Books will go between home and school each day in your child's Blue Bag. More information has been provided in the communication book.

**Reading Folder** – In a few weeks we will start to send home a reading folder in the Blue Bag. There will be a reading log where we ask you to record daily reading, as we will be handing out certificates of reading for every 25 entries. Further details will be included in the reading log.

**Snack & Water bottles**– We have a *short 10min break* during our first session where we stop for a healthy snack. We ask that you send a healthy option in a small portion so that it can be eaten in the 10mins. Eg fruit, vegetables, cheese & crackers, yoghurt, an egg. These are all great options. We also encourage students to drink water at this time and throughout the day. water bottles with a straw or sipper are preferred to reduce spills in the classroom.

### Specialist Lessons

#### Wednesdays:

**PE** with Mr Maxwell.

**Digital Technology** with Mr Reynolds. Students will need their headphones.

#### Thursdays:

**Library** with Mrs Lyons. Students will need their library bag.

**Music** with Miss Kay.

**PE** with Mr Maxwell.

#### Fridays:

**Drama** with Miss Kay.

**Health** with Mr Maxwell.



### This Term's Learning

#### English

This term's English unit has a spoken assessment task where students will retell a familiar picture book story. We will be looking at these books during learning time. We are looking for the retelling of key ideas including the character and the setting and the use of language features such as words and phrases from our learning and the texts.

Students will need to speak in front of a small group of peers and will be sharing their thoughts and preferences.

We will use the following prompts:

- My favourite story is called ... (title).
- This story is about ... (character and events).
- I liked it when ...
- This story reminds me ...

We have started this unit with nursery rhymes and will move into picture story books that have a clear and simple structure for retelling.

### Letters & Sounds

We have started on our reading journey!

We've been developing our phonological skills – hearing the different sounds in words, clapping syllables & looking for rhyming words. We have also been singing the alphabet and becoming more confident with recognising the letters and their names.

From Week 2 we will focus on the first six letters from our structured sequence and teach letter names and their most common sound. The first six letters we will learn are 's a t i p n.' We will explicitly teach these and provide many opportunities for practice, including sending home some short and simple reading sheets with instructions. We will also learn to identify the focus letter from other letters, and practice writing it using correct letter formation and a functional pencil grip. We will then start to blend them to make words. The skill of blending is crucial in learning to read.

### OLEY & Show and Tell

Our Show & Tell this term links to the learning in our OLEY (Oral Language Early Years program). OLEY aims to help students increase their oral (spoken) language skills. The development of oral language is crucial to a child's literacy development, including listening, speaking, reading and writing. The OLEY program also

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assists in identifying those students who may require additional support.

For the Show & Tell task we are looking for audible voices, speaking in sentences and the sharing of information. There are set 'discussion topics' each week. A sheet will be in their communication book weekly. Please assist your child to complete the information, ready for sharing on their rostered day.

### **Maths**

This term's Math unit has students describing the position and the location of themselves and objects in relation to other objects and people, within a familiar space. They will also collect, sort and compare data in response to questions in familiar contexts.

Students will also:

- use physical and virtual materials to look for and make connections between number names, numerals and quantities
- learn to recognise repetition in pattern sequences and apply this to creatively build repeating patterns in a range of contexts
- develop a sense of sameness, difference and change when engaging in play-based activities about patterns

### **Science**

We are learning from the Physical Strand of Science this term and will be grouping plants and animals based on external features.

We will:

- begin to build confidence in using questions and investigations to explore and explain the natural world.
- use our senses and equipment, and while examining plant or animal specimens during nature walks.
- practice safe procedures.
- identify examples of people using observation and questioning to learn about the natural world and
- explore ways of recording observations.
- investigate ways Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples gain knowledge and communicate observations.



### **Humanities & Social Sciences**

In HASS we will learn about the people in our family, where they were born and raised, and how they are related to each other. We will explore how they are unique and what the word 'family' means. They will look at how families are similar and different and compare family celebrations.

### **Health and Physical Education**

- *PE: Wednesday and Thursday*
- *Health: Friday*

**Health and Physical Education** are taught by our Specialist HPE teacher Mr Maxwell. This semester we are focusing on PE split over 2 x 30-minute lessons and health with its own 30-minute session (total of 1.5hrs).

Students are expected to be safe (by following instructions and staying within boundaries set), be respectful (by taking turns, communicating with kind language and following instructions) and always having a go (attempt all activities).

**Physical Education:** Students will be focusing on building their gross motor skills through a variety of different activities

- Balance
- Obstacle courses
- Running
- Basic Yoga

**Health:** In our health unit we aim to develop students' relationships with others through the respectful relationship program. Topics include:

- Emotional awareness
- Personal strengths
- Positive interactions and respect for others

### **Social and Emotional Learning - The TRANSPORTERS**

Back in the classroom we will be supporting students to develop their skills at identifying different emotions through being aware of the changes to facial expressions. We will use a program called The Transporters. It is a series of short 5 minute videos that we then discuss.

### **The ARTS**

**Music, Dance, Drama and Media** are taught by our Specialist Music teacher Miss Kay.

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This semester we are focusing on Drama and Music split over 2 x 30 minute lessons a week.

In the Music room students are expected to be safe (by following instructions and staying within boundaries set), be respectful (by taking turns, communicating with kind language and following instructions) and have a go (attempt all activities).

### Drama – Friday

In our drama unit this year we aim to develop students':

- confidence and self-esteem and
- create a sense of curiosity, enjoyment and achievement through exploring and playing roles, and imagining situations.

This term students will be exposed to emotions and how our body shows emotions and we will make connections on how characters show emotions. We will also work on students confidence to perform in front of the class using rhymes and puppets.

### Music - Thursday

In our Music unit this year we aim to develop students':

- confidence to be creative and thoughtful and
- knowledge and skills for listening with intent and purpose, composing and performing.

This term students will be exposed to different voices – singing and speaking. They will explore the use of their voice and work on listening and matching pitch. Students will also practice sharing musical instruments and learn to play the beat.

### Visual Arts

In Visual Arts we will use a range of materials to create artworks (Lego, playdough, drawing, painting).

We will:

- learn how to show an idea or story through artworks - by showing a character, place or event.
- use our artworks to help retell a story or event in simple sentence structure using 'beginning-middle-end'.
- describe our experiences, observations, ideas and/ or feelings about artworks that we encounter at school, home and/ or in the community.



Please bring any concerns or questions to me.

My email is [rlyon13@eq.edu.au](mailto:rlyon13@eq.edu.au)

I look forward to celebrating many milestones and many happy events this year.

*Kind regards,  
Rosemary*