Dear Parents,

Prep DM

Newsletter, Term 1, 2015

Miss Natalie Dullard
&
Miss Ciara McCormack

St Joseph’s Primary School, Malvern

Dear Parents,
Welcome to the 2015 school year and welcome to Prep!
Thank you so much for entrusting your beautiful children to us this year. It has been wonderful getting to know all of them. The children have so far made a smooth transition and are beginning to adjust to the school routine. We look forward to celebrating the developments and successes of your child’s progress with you throughout the year.

THE TRANSITION INTO THE PREP YEAR IS ABOUT ESTABLISHING EXPECTATIONS, Routines AND INDEPENDENCE

Skills
The following skills will be encouraged
✓ Independence
✓ Taking initiative
✓ Responsibility for self and actions
✓ Time management
✓ Organisational

Blue Communication Bags/Reader Bags
Your child has been given a named blue communication bag. This bag will be used to hold the following:

• All notices (both from home and from school)
• Take home reader
• Take home reading log book

Please check your child’s communication bag each evening for notes and important information.

Morning Routine
As your child settles into school life, routines are essential and need to be encouraged and followed as closely as possible.

The classroom doors open at 8:40am. We ask that students do not enter the classroom before this time as the rooms may be unsupervised. Teachers will be in the room supervising children from 8:40am each morning. The Prep children are already doing a wonderful job at learning the morning routines. Please encourage your child to do the following things independently before school starts at 8:50am...

• Put their school bag away in their locker
• Come in with a smile and say good morning to their teachers and friends
• Put their drink bottle on their table
• Check their blue communication bag for any notices from home and put these into the office bucket or to their teacher
• Place their blue communication bag the designated tub

We ask that you talk your child through the morning tasks rather than doing it for them.
Developmental Play
While the Prep children are settling in and learning the routines we will be having developmental play at the beginning of each day. Developmental Day has many benefits, including:
- Opportunities to improve fine and gross motor development
- Develops creativity and imagination
- Practise social skills
- Interact with classmates socially
- Form new friendships
- Work with a partner or in teams.

A range of activities will be set up each morning such as...
- Puppets
- Building and construction
- Play-dough
- Free drawing, tracing, colouring
- Puzzles
- Group games (memory, snap, snakes and ladders etc)

Nut-free school
St Joseph’s is a nut free school. There are a number of children in the school with severe nut allergies. Thank you for your understanding.

Assembly
We hold a whole-school assembly each week. The assembly takes place each Thursday in the school hall at 2.30pm which parents and family members are invited to attend. During the assemblies each class presents two certificates. Birthday awards are also given out at assembly. Classes take in turns to present highlights of their learning at assembly, we will inform you when the Preps will be presenting.

Hats
In Terms One and Four the children will wear their school hats on the yard at lunch and recess time, as well as during outside sport and P.E classes. The children keep their hats in their tubs, this way they only have to remember to bring them once and they don’t get left at home. Children who do not have a hat are asked to sit under the friendship tree.
Our rule at St. Joseph’s is ‘No Hat No Play’.

Water Drink Bottles
We encourage children to always have a drink bottle on their table at school with water in it. In the mornings the children can put their drink bottles on their tables. In the afternoon when they pack up they will put them back into their bags to go home for cleaning and refilling.

Labelling Everything
Please label everything!!!!

Being on Time/Bell Times
Our school grounds open at 8.30am and the first bell rings at 8:50am. It is important that the children arrive at school before 8:50 a.m. as we begin our morning routines and Literacy sessions as soon as the bell goes. It is very disruptive for students to arrive late as often they miss out on important instructions for the day and learning experiences. The children are dismissed to go home at 3:25pm outside the Prep classrooms.

Take Home Readers
As the children are not yet bringing home readers a great idea is for them to listen to picture story books and retell the story in their own words the next night/s. Nursery rhymes as well as library books can also be fantastic types of literature to share at home.

Later on in Term One the children will select a book each day to take home. These books will not be matched to their reading ability until further notice when a letter will be sent home outlining the reading process at home. This is a wonderful opportunity for you and your child to enjoy the magic of reading together. Read these books to your child and encourage your child to turn the pages, ask them to point to where to start reading and where read after that, discuss the pictures, join in rhymes and repetition and most importantly have fun! Readers will be kept in the blue communication bags with a reading log book for you to fill in each night.

**Please spend approximately 10 minutes each night reading to or with your child.**

**Being a Friendly Kid**

All the Preps have joined our St Joseph’s Friendly Kid’s Club. The Friendly Kid's Club is a fun way of introducing rules and expectations within the classroom. The students have come up with the ideas themselves. The Preps have decided that friendly kids...

- Share
- Take turns
- Care for one another
- Use nice words and a nice voice when speaking to one another
- Listen to our friends and our teachers when they are speaking
- Use good manners
- Try our best
- Let others join in

In the classroom this list is displayed. Each student has joined the club by displaying friendly actions. It would great if parents could refer to the ‘Friendly Kid’s Club’ rules and expectations at home.

**Parent Helpers**

We greatly welcome any time you are willing and able to give in our Literacy Block. Parent helpers assist during the Literacy Block between 9am and 11am.

Parent Helpers will be starting in Term Two for Preps. A sign up sheet will be out the front of the classroom at the start of Term Two. A prerequisite for parents wishing to help in the classroom during the Literacy Block is your attendance at a ‘Parent Helper Information Session’ run by our Literacy Coordinator, Mary Murphy. You will be notified with the full details of this session soon.

**PREP CURRICULUM**

**Religious Education**

The children will be introduced to our class prayer table and participate in daily prayer, which will include listening to our school prayer and song. The children will be guided to make spontaneous oral prayers of intercession and thanks.

This Term students will explore the image of Jesus the Good Shepherd and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Children will use symbols, gestures and objects to participate in communal prayer.

**Literacy**
A two hour literacy block begins each day. **Literacy** will incorporate one hour of uninterrupted **reading** followed by another uninterrupted hour of **writing**. We include a variety of literature in our literacy program, such as nursery rhymes, poems, songs, fictional stories and non-fiction texts. During the literacy block students will work either in small groups, independently or with a teacher/parent helper.

**Phonics**
As part of our Literacy programme, we incorporate a phonics program called ‘Read Write Inc.’
As school we teach the children to:
- Say the sound
- Read the sound
- Write the sound

Read Write Inc. is a rigorous and dynamic teaching programme, proven to create fluent, enthusiastic readers, confident speakers and willing writers.

**Sight words – ‘Fish’ words**
In Term 2, children will be given a set of words to take home to practise. The sight words or as we refer to them ‘fish’ words are the most frequently used words in English. Research shows that children who have a strong bank of automatic sight words can increase their reading fluency (rate of reading), and reading comprehension.

A notice outlining Fish Words in more detail will be sent out in Term Two.

**Numeracy**
Children engage in one hour of numeracy each day. Experiences at this level are predominantly from a concrete base. This enables the learner to lay foundations for more abstract mathematics in the future.

**In Numeracy this term we will be focusing on:**
- Data Representation and Interpretation
- Counting – Comparing and ordering numbers
- Shape 2D and 3D – Familiar shapes in environment
- Addition – Practical Situations
- Time – Days of the Week and Events in the day

**Inquiry**
We have a fantastic year ahead for the children’s learning in ‘Inquiry’. This term our topic will be what are the good choices we need to make to be a healthy person? Children will be investigating the following questions:
- How can we co-operate and work together?
- How do our actions and words affect others?
- What makes us unique and special?
- Why do we have rules?

**You Can Do It**
This program promotes emotional intelligence and resilience in primary school.

From this the children will be able to:

- Read and take into consideration the feelings of others
- Develop an awareness of their own feelings
- Have the ability to regulate and calm their own feelings
- Have a sense of connectedness and belonging
The 5 values of the You Can Do It program include:

- Resilience
- Organisation
- Persistence
- Getting Along
- Confidence

The children are introduced to these values through a number of fun characters, such as ‘Gabby Get Along’ and ‘Oscar Organisation’. This term we will be focusing on Getting Along.

**Special Things Happening in Prep**

**Show and Share**
Show and Share time will be held at the end of each day. This is a marvellous time for students to gain confidence with their oral language skills. In week 4 the students will be talking all about themselves. Each student will be given a ‘Me Bag’ to fill with objects from home that tell the class about themselves. From week 4 we will be following the Show and Share timetable attached to this newsletter. Please ensure you talk to your child prior to his/her Show and Share day about what they will talk about/bring in to school.

**Buddy Program**
At St. Joseph’s, the Prep students are involved in a buddy program. This is a peer support Program run throughout the year between the Prep students and the students in Grade 5/6. Each Prep child has been given a ‘buddy’ or ‘buddies’ from Grade 5/6. During the course of the year, they will take part in a variety of activities and develop a special bond.

The Prep students know that they have one or two special people out in the playground that they have one special person out in the playground that they can go to, someone who takes care of them and makes them feel very special. It is a valuable and rewarding program for both Prep and the 5/6 students.

**Bell Times**
8:50am – School begins
10:50am – Lunch eating time
11:10am – Outside Play
12:00pm – Lunch concludes
2:00pm – Recess
2:30 – Recess concludes
3:25 – Home Time

*Any children coming to school after 8:55am needs to be signed in at the office by the adult who is bringing them to school*

*Any parents wishing to collect their children from school early will need to sign out at the office and give their child’s classroom teacher the yellow sign out slip*

**Absences**
Please notify the school office as soon as possible if your child is absent or send an e-mail or written note to your child’s classroom teacher.
Extra Curricula
As the year goes on a number of extracurricular activities will be available for your child to take part in. These include...
- Before school tennis club
- Garden Club
- Games Club
- Chess Club
- Mathematics Club
- Library – open every Tuesday lunchtime
- Lego club
- Metro Music Lessons (please see the office for more information about individual lessons at school)

Prep requirements from home:
In addition to the list of prep requirements from home of:
- SPF 30+ Roll On Sunscreen
- X2 large boxes of tissues
- X2 large packet of antibacterial wipes
- X1 bottle of antibacterial hand sanitiser gel

Can the children also please bring in two packets of band aids.

St Joseph’s Leadership team:
- Principal: Jenny Hogan
- Deputy Principal & Head of Teaching and Learning: Matthew Sweeney
- Religious Education Leader: Natalie Dullard
- Student Well-being Leaders: Faye Forbes and Rebecca Hyde
- Mathematics Leader: Martin Earl
- Literacy Leader: Mary Murphy
- ICT Coordinator: Nick Bosworth
- Junior School Leader: Rebecca Hyde
- Senior School Leader: Vanessa Gooden

Parent/Teacher Communication
If there is anything you would like to contact us about please don’t hesitate to call or email. Please feel free to pop in before or after school for a quick chat anytime. If you require a longer time to meet please let us know and we can arrange a time and day that suits.

We look forward to getting to know both you and your child as we embark on this exciting journey!

Kindest Regards,

Natalie Dullard and Ciara McCormack.

Natalie Dullard (Prep DC Classroom Teacher - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday)
natalied@sjmalvern.catholic.edu.au

Ciara McCormack (Prep DC Classroom Teacher - Thursdays)
ciaram@sjmalvern.catholic.edu.au

St Joseph’s telephone Number: 9509 3092
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAYS IN FEBRUARY:</td>
<td>No school for Preps – Numeracy Interviews – please sign your child up for a time on the signup sheet outside the Prep classrooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th February</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th February</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th February</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th February</td>
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<td>Monday 9th February</td>
<td>Principal’s Morning Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 10th February</td>
<td>Parent Information Night 7pm in school hall followed by an information session in your child’s classroom</td>
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<td>Friday 13th February</td>
<td>Beginning of school year mass 9.15am at St Joseph’s church – All welcome!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18th February</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Mass, 9.15am – All welcome!</td>
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<td>Tuesday 3rd March</td>
<td>Prep Parent/Teacher Information Sharing 1-8pm</td>
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<td>Friday 6th March</td>
<td>School Closure Day – Pupil free day</td>
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<td>Monday 9th March</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
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<td>Friday 13th March</td>
<td>P&amp;F Cake and Produce Stall 3.30pm in school hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 16th March</td>
<td>Swimming commences – more information to come</td>
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<td>Friday 20th March</td>
<td>Prep community helper dress up day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 20th March</td>
<td>P&amp;F Welcome Picnic at school – all welcome!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 27th March</td>
<td>Swimming concludes Term 1 concludes</td>
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Prep DM Specialist Timetable
Term 1, 2015

MONDAY

**CHILDREN WEAR THEIR SPORTS UNIFORM TO SCHOOL ON MONDAY**

ITALIAN with Mrs Falla

CLASS SPORT with Miss Dullard

TUESDAY

MUSIC with Mr Hutton

VISUAL ART with Mrs Burke

WEDNESDAY

**CHILDREN WEAR THEIR SPORTS UNIFORM TO SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY**

P.E with Mr Bosworth

THURSDAY

Library with Miss McCormack – Children need to bring their library bag with their library book to school EVERY Thursday
### Term 1 Show and Share Topics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Monday commencing</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 Monday 16th February</td>
<td>All about me - Children will be given a brown paper bag to fill with things about them, for example a photo of their family, an object related to something they like doing, for example a paint brush, a picture of their favourite food.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Monday 23rd February</td>
<td>Friendly kids – Children take a photo or draw a picture of them being friendly and explain how they can be a friendly kid at home and at school like Gaby Get Along</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Monday 2nd March</td>
<td>I'm so special – Children take a flower template home and draw or write what makes them special on the petals</td>
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<td>7 Monday 9th March</td>
<td>People who help us – Children tell the class about their favourite community helper and explain why the helper is their favourite</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Monday 16th March</td>
<td>Days of the week – Children make a poster about their favourite day of the week</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Monday 23rd March</td>
<td>Free choice</td>
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### Prep DM Show and Share Roster

All children are encouraged to participate in Show and Share each week. Please take the time to prepare your child for what he/she is going to bring each week and allow them time to practise what they are going to say. Show and Share is a fantastic opportunity for your child to develop their oral language skills as well as their self-confidence. Thank you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jake</td>
<td>Eve</td>
<td>Tom</td>
<td>Archie</td>
<td>Sophie G</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valen</td>
<td>Sam</td>
<td>Ava</td>
<td>Piero</td>
<td>Jacob</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heath</td>
<td>Aisling</td>
<td>Sophie P</td>
<td>Ingrid</td>
<td>Elina</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Patrick</td>
<td>Joshua</td>
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