Dear Parents

Welcome to the beginning of what will be a successful, rewarding and enjoyable year in Prep.

This is the beginning of a wonderful learning journey. We would like to thank you for your efforts in ensuring a great start to the school year. The transition from Kinder to school has been a successful one and students have had a delightful first week. It has been a pleasure to be greeted by eager and enthusiastic children. They are settling into the routines of school and we look forward to a special year together.

COMMUNICATION:

Home/school communication is hugely important. Each Prep student has a Reading Satchel. This satchel must be brought to school every day. Notices will arrive home in this satchel and will also be used to return notices to school. **All money and notices are to be brought to school in this satchel to the classroom and not to the office.**

School newsletters will be sent home with the oldest child at school every second Thursday.

Whilst we can appreciate that 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 fruit snack (all classes have a fruit snack at 11 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.

HATS:

All students must wear a hat in Term One to protect them from the sun.

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 around 34 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.

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.

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.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Ruby, Lex, Tamiah, Dekhlen</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Isabella, Manha, Amelia</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Jannaya, Arlo, Asrar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Chandra, Bilal, Dante</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Farah, A.J., Christopher</td>
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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

Play games
- card games
- jigsaws
- dice/boardgames

Shopping
- preparing shopping lists
- estimating costs
- tending money
- counting money
- budgeting pocket money

Time
- telling the time
- what’s on TV at 4.00pm?

INTEGRATED CURRICULUM:
In Term 1, students will be covering the following areas:
- Maintaining good health and living a healthy lifestyle.
- Engaging in physical activity.
- Building positive social relationships.

During this term we will be focusing on the following topics: School Rules, My Family and I and Safety Within the Classroom.

The students will work with their “Co-operating at Preston South” booklet this term.

SPECIALIST CLASSES:

VISUAL ARTS (ART):
All students participate in a one-hour Art session each week. Throughout the year, students will develop their artistic skills in the following areas: drawing, painting, printing, construction and clay. All students are required to wear an Art Smock.

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.
LOTE:
The Language Other Than English

program follows a communicative approach in which the children participate in a variety of activities writing, listening and speaking in the chosen language. (Greek, Macedonian and Mandarin.)

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. Try to set a good example with your own lunches. Encourage children to be involved in their own lunch preparation and their choices about foods to include. Praise your child when they choose healthy foods for the lunch box.

There are limited times for children to eat during the day, especially at school. Children may prefer to play with friends instead of eating. 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 fruit bread or crackers, Water.

WHAT CAN YOU DO AT HOME?

- Parents should record the title of the book and the date in the Reading Diary.
- The comment section should be filled out as well.
- Children will read the book they have had overnight to a parent and at school the following day. Then they will choose a new book to take home.
- As a weekly task children will bring home their alphabet scrap book whereby they will be asked to finding magazine clippings or items they can paste to match the focus letter for the week. Thank you for your support.

Miryana Ristovski and Tina Kyriazopoulos
PREP TEACHERS

SPECIALIST TIMETABLE FOR TERM 1:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Big Buddies Art</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>LOTE Library</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Performing Arts Physical Education</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Music</td>
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COMING EVENTS:

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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>No school every Wednesday due to Prep Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 23 February</td>
<td>Teddy Bear’s Picnic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 9 March</td>
<td>Labor Holiday</td>
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<td>Friday 27 March</td>
<td>End of Term 1</td>
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