What’s happening in the classroom?

**Literacy**
All children have been placed in flexible, focused Guided Reading and Writing groups. By working together, we can cater for a wider range of Reading and Writing levels and so better meet the children’s changing needs. We will introduce a new letter each week and the children will complete related activities at a variety of levels. We don’t introduce the letters in alphabetical order, but in a way that best suits the children’s needs. The children will be introduced to reading through the use of shared big books, word games, small group directed activities, books made by the children in class and other published materials. Writing will be based on personal experiences and class work. Emphasis will be placed on understanding basic word, letter and punctuation conventions.

**Readers** will go home everyday in your child’s blue Book Bag. It is part of our daily classroom routine for students to change their reader and select a new one. Please fill in the reading log at the back of the Rocking Horse/Poem book as your child completes a reader. Please ensure that reading with your child is a pleasurable experience.

**The “Steps” Program** is based on the belief that students need to be able to accurately read and spell high frequency words. It is a systematic approach to the learning and mastery of the 100 Most Used Words. It provides a structure for recording individual student reading and spelling progress. The 100 Most Used Words List has been divided up into levels for students to work through at their own pace and ability level. Students are **NOT** expected to complete a Step in a week, or even a month. It is a gradual program of word mastery the pace of learning depends completely on the individual child’s ability to learn to read and spell new words. The “Steps” Program is to be combined with the learning of sound blends and groupings and the comprehensive range of reading and spelling activities we carry out in the classroom. Towards the end of term 1 your child will be given a set of Reading/Spelling Step words to be practised at home. These will also form a part of their literacy activities at school. Your child's progress will be monitored throughout the year.

**Numeracy**
Like Literacy, we will group the children across all Prep Classes for Numeracy each day, again this allows us to better cater for the children's needs. This term we will focus on: identifying, describing, drawing and naming common shapes, identifying shapes in our environment; counting forwards to 20; counting backwards from 10; accurately counting and making sets of at least 10 objects; recognising that zero is a number; estimating the size of collections of objects; using the terms first, second…….tenth to order objects and events; creating and correcting simple repeating patterns; sorting and classifying objects according to at least two attributes.

**Integrated Studies**
This term’s first Integrated Inquiry Unit is: ‘What’s Special about School’. Students learn the rules and values of our school with a strong emphasis on important social skills such as how to make friends and how to be a good friend and cooperate with others. Our second unit is called ‘Fun and Games’. We will look at a variety of indoor and outdoor games and the skills they promote. The children will also plan a special “games day” with their Grade 6 Buddy.

**Art**
The students will be introduced to a variety of activities in the Art room this term. They will develop some basic skills in the areas of collage, construction, modelling, painting, drawing, threads and textiles. Topics will be related to the classroom Integrated Inquiry Units where relevant.
Music
Preps and Prepkins will be introduced to Music by participating in activities such as singing, playing untuned percussion instruments, dancing, moving and listening. We will be concentrating on musical concepts such as beat and rhythm, contrasts in sound, fast and slow, high and low, starting and stopping, loud and soft. Taa and ti ti rhythm note values will be introduced through singing, listening and playing activities.

Physical Education
Term 1 will introduce the Preps to how PE classes run, focussing on the commands and safety requirements to ensure a happy and fun environment. We will be working on the fundamental motor skills, including running, jumping, leaping, hopping and skipping and the sequencing of movement skills together. These PE classes will also be a foundation to the developmental activities in PMP, due to commence later in the term.

Information Technology
The children will use computers in both the classroom and the Library to become familiar with keyboard use and educational programs, such as Baileys Book House, Millies Maths House and Kid Pix. They will also be introduced to Microsoft Word.

Parent Helpers
Trained Classroom Helpers participate in the classrooms during Literacy and Numeracy sessions. Parents also help with excursions, book covering, laminating and word processing etc. Level 1 teachers welcome offers of classroom help, which will begin in March. The school requires all parents wishing to regularly help in the classroom or attend excursions obtain a Working with Children Check from any Post Office. This check is free and lasts for 5 years. Please show the office when this has been obtained.

Supplies:
Books, pencils, textas, crayons etc have been distributed to students. These will be kept at school and books will be sent home at the end of the year. It would be appreciated if you could please send along a box of tissues for classroom use.

Personal Belongings
Please ensure that all your child’s belongings are clearly named.

Dates to Remember
- Tuesday 10th February “Getting to Know You” Parent/Teacher Interviews
- Monday 16th February Preps attend Assembly
- Thursday 19th February New Families Welcome Barbecue 6:00pm – 7:30pm
- Thursday 26th February Whole School Incursion – The Human Race
- Monday 2nd March Parent Information Evening 7:00pm
- Monday 9th March Labour Day Public Holiday
- Friday 3rd April End of Term 1- 2:30 dismissal

Reminder – Prep children do not attend school on Wednesday’s in Term 1.

Level One Team
Prep Teachers:
Mrs Michelle Stone, Mr Andrew Cassidy, Miss Lauren Newton and Mrs Tracey Dring