



Newport Lakes Primary School

Prep 2018 Newsletter Term 1

Dear Prep Parents,

Welcome to Newport Lakes Primary School. We have all enjoyed a very smooth beginning to the prep year! Congratulations to all parents and students.

Here are a few reminders and things to keep in mind:

Prep Specialist Timetable

Specialist	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
INDONESIAN Ibu Lyndal	Prep N			Prep L	Prep S
SPORT Mr.A	Prep S	Prep L		Prep N	
DRAMA Jackson					Prep L Prep S Prep N
ART Laura	Prep L	Prep N		Prep S	
LIBRARY			Prep N	Prep S	Prep L
BUDDIES PROGRAM	All Prep students have been allocated a Grade 5 or 6 buddy. We have already had a meet and greet session. Sessions will be at teachers discretion. We also encourage Preps to play with other children in prep during recess and lunchtime, not with their buddies. They are able to say 'hi' to their buddy, but play with children their own age.				

All Preps to wear appropriate footwear during physical education – school shoes or runners are OK, not slip-on shoes or ballet flats.

****Please note the specialist timetable may change throughout the year due to whole school timetable changes and updates.*

Blue Book Bags

This bag will be used to safely store your child's take home books, Songs, Rhymes and Chants book, Spelling books, class stories and any other communication from home or school. The Songs, Rhymes and Chants book will have familiar poems and sentences that your child will be able to read with you at home. Although we really encourage children to write as much as they would like, we ask that they do not use this book for their personal writing as we will run out of space fast.

Please make sure your child has their take home books, Spelling book and Songs, Rhymes and Chants book at school EACH and EVERY day.



Communication – Newsletter and blog

In an effort to save paper we have an electronic whole school newsletter each fortnight. We have also found this to be more convenient for the parents. To receive the newsletter you should access the school website and subscribe. You will then receive weekly school reminders of important dates and an email with a link to the newsletter.

There will be reminders sent out by the office when important events are coming up. Reminders will be sent out through Compass, and you will have various information through this system as well.

We will be setting up a Prep team blog, where we will let you know what we have been learning in the classroom. This won't generally be used to send you reminders, but rather to share our learning with you. You will get an email notification when the blog has been updated, and may include one or two posts for you to read. We encourage positive feedback on what we are doing, as we will be sharing these with the students.

Library

Children will be able to borrow books from the library to take home as soon as we begin library sessions.

The children will have a loan period of two weeks and can borrow up to 2 books at a time.

The children are asked to bring the red bag given to them from school and use it as a library bag (please keep the contents of the bag at home and send the bag to school empty).

Hats

Newport Lakes Primary School is a Sun Smart school and hats must be worn outside during Terms 1 and 4. The children may choose to leave their hats in their lockers at school overnight. During Terms 1 and 4 children without a hat are required to sit under the tree in the playground during recess and lunch (no hat, no play).

Sunscreen

We encourage all students to apply sunscreen prior to coming to school. If they need to reapply, they should bring a labelled sunscreen to school, and reapply before going outside. The school generally does not supply sunscreen, but we do have some communal bottles if needed.

Water Bottles

The children are encouraged to bring a bottle of water to school and keep this in their classroom. The bottles will be stored in an allocated drink bottle tub. The children will be encouraged to drink, especially in warm weather.

Many children also discover drinking from the drinking fountains and it is quite a novelty.

If your child isn't drinking as much from their waterbottle as usual, they may be consuming water from the fountains in their breaks at recess and lunchtime as well as scheduled toilet breaks. **No drinks other than water can be consumed in the classroom.**

Arriving at School

It is *very important* that your child arrive at school on time. All prep grades will line up in their designated areas near the Multipurpose Room. Music will be played from 8.57am and the school bell will ring at 9.00am. We recommend that you arrive at school 5-10 minutes early to allow the children to have a short play etc. before lining up to begin the school day.

School Assembly

School assembly is held on Friday afternoon in the multipurpose room beginning at 3.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. However, during Term one, the Preps will not be attending the whole school assembly. Prep assembly will be held every few weeks in the Library from 3.10pm. We will let you know on the weeks preps will be having an assembly.

Establishing routines

Talk with your child about the things they will need to be ready for school. Encourage your child to pack his or her own school bag, remembering to include the blue book bag and drink bottle each day. This will assist your child to develop a daily routine for school. Encourage your child to carry his or her school bag and be responsible for placing their bag in their bag locker each morning. The children are then asked to bring their water bottles and blue book bags inside the classroom and put them in the designated area.

Please do not escort your child into the corridor at the beginning of the day. The corridors are not wide enough to accommodate students, teachers, integration aides and parents as well. You can give your child a cuddle at the line up area before he or she heads inside.

Curriculum Outline Term 1

Literacy

All classes have a daily Literacy time. This incorporates Reading, Speaking and Listening, Writing and Phonological Awareness. At the beginning of the school year your child's teacher will assess your child in Literacy and Numeracy to establish 'starting points' for instruction. Teachers then plan programs to enhance the development of each child. Reading and Writing sessions include a time for the whole class to work together, a time for children to work in small groups with the teacher and a time for children to engage in independent reading and writing.



Some of the areas of Literacy focus in Term 1 include:

- Using appropriate speech to talk about personal experiences.
- Asking and answering questions and contributing ideas and information to discussion.
- Reading and responding to songs, rhymes and chants and class stories.
- Developing an awareness of the relationship between letters and sounds.
- Using letters, words and illustrations to write about personally significant events.

Numeracy

Numeracy classes begin with a warm up activity which is usually a game, allowing the children to get their maths brain into gear.

Children learn about numbers and counting and place value at this time.

We will have a shared focus on the mat followed by individual or small group time to explore concepts further. For the conclusion of the numeracy lesson, children will be provided with a reflection time to share their ideas and findings.



Areas of focus for numeracy in Term 1 include:

- **Number and Place Value:** counting, modeling, ordering and recording numbers.
- **Measurement and Geometry:** days of the week, months of the year, comparing the height and weight of everyday objects.
- **Space:** recognising, naming and drawing, sorting and matching shapes, using everyday location language.
- **Working Mathematically:** identifying and describing patterns and problem solving.

Shared Inquiry Unit

This year, Preps will be inquiring into five questions throughout the year. We feel that we can do more justice to each inquiry if we can pop in and out of it, as circumstances allow. So our five key questions this year are as follows:

How do we care for ourselves? (Health)
How do we care for places? (Geography & Sustainability)
What is it made of and how does it work? (Science/Technology)
Who am I/Who are you? (History, Health, Personal/Social, Cultural Capability)
How do living things grow and change? (Science/Technology)

All of our incursion and excursions throughout the year will lend themselves to further explore these questions, all of which are important questions to be thinking about during the first year of school. Students will be able to be involved in Discovery Time, where they will work on building their own Inquiry skills of 'self-management', 'researching', 'thinking', 'collaborating' and 'communicating' whilst exploring some of their wonderings about the world.

Health:

In line with the school's 'Positive Behaviours Program' (PBS) students will be participating in a range of activities focusing on learning about our school values: resilience, responsibility, respect, compassion and critical thinking. This will be during a weekly 'health' session, although it won't be

an isolated session, as skills, values and behaviours will be reinforced throughout the school day. Students will be involved in inquiries into 'how to make friends', problem solving role play, discussions about safety, just to name a few. They will be learning to monitor their own emotions, and be able to become more aware of how to be resilient young individuals.

eLearning:

Throughout the year, the use of eLearning will be incorporated into the curriculum to enhance teaching and learning. Students will be introduced to a range of applications to support their learning. A list of applications being used in the classroom will be sent home at a later date.

Key Dates

- Thursday 22nd February – Meet the teacher (This is an opportunity for you to tell the teacher about your child) Time: 2-7pm
- Thursday 1st March – Prep and New families Picnic at school
- Wednesday 7th March – Responsible Pet Ownership incursion
- Monday 12th March – Labour Day public holiday – NO SCHOOL ON THIS DAY
- Wednesday 14th March – St Johns First Aid in schools
- Thursday 15th March – Library Excursion
- Tuesday 20th March – Supreme Team Building Incursion
- Wednesday 21st March – School and Class photos
- Thursday 29th March – Last day Term 1 – **Early Dismissal at 2.30pm**

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us in person or via email on:

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Kind Regards,

Prep Team – Leisha, Diana and Tarsh