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**

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<th>Specialist</th>
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<td>SPORT</td>
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<td>Ellen</td>
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<tr>
<td>BUDDIES PROGRAM</td>
<td>All Prep students have been allocated a Grade 6 buddy. We have already had a meet and greet session.</td>
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<td>ART</td>
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<td>Laura</td>
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<td>LIBRARY/COMPUTERS</td>
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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, class stories, ‘heart words’ book, hard copy of the school’s newsletter (if required), reading log and any other communication from home or school.

Please make sure your child has their take home books and reading logs at school each day.
**Library**
Children will be able to borrow books from the library to take home as soon as we begin library sessions (date TBC). 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 green 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). This bag needs to be returned to school as soon as possible with your child’s name clearly marked on the front of the bag.

**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 hat in their locker at school. 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).

**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 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.

**Assembly**
It is very important that your child arrives at school on time. All prep grades will line up in their designated areas on the basketball court. 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 is held on Friday afternoon in the multipurpose room beginning at 3.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**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.

**Literacy and Numeracy Interviews**
Please ensure you are aware of your child’s allocated Wednesday time slot for their assessment interview with their teacher (this was provided to you via letter last year). If you are unsure, please ask your child’s teacher to confirm date and time.
Curriculum Outline  Term 1

Literacy
All classes have a daily literacy time. This incorporates Reading, Speaking and Listening and Writing. 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 discussion centered on counting how many days we have been at school so far this term. Children learn about numbers and counting and place value at this time. They will then have a warm up activity which is usually a game, allowing the children to get their maths brain into gear.
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: **Term 1 Topic: ‘Unique Me’**

Throughout the term the Preps will be investigating and learning about themselves, their families and the community they live in. Preps will be venturing outside the school gates in class groups and walking within our local community. The Preps will be expected to walk safely on the footpath and adhere to safe and responsible behaviours. We will also be pointing out and
discussing special landmarks. In particular we will be noticing signs, house numbers and any other interesting information.

Thank you to families who have already returned their classroom family visit preferences. Please be reminded that we need these back by **Friday 13th of February** so we can begin these exciting visits by notifying you of your allocated time.

**Circle Time:**
In line with the school’s ‘Positive Behaviour Support Programs’ (PBS) students will be participating in a range of activities focusing on learning about our school values: resilience, responsibility, respect, critical thinking and compassion.

**eLearning:**
Please watch this space, exciting news to come!

**Key Dates**

- Thursday 12th February - information evening
- Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th February - classroom helpers induction
- Friday 20th February - pupil-free day *(child care is available for this day if parents register with Quantim Binnah in the multipurpose room. Teachers are involved in professional learning all day at school with a guest consultant, Kath Murdoch. Feel free to check out some of Kath’s work online.)*
- Thursday 26th February - Prep Family picnic
- Friday 27th February – local walk to the Newport Lakes (excursion)
- Wednesday 11th March - PT interviews.

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

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**Prep P:** pearson.taegan.t@edumail.vic.gov.au

Kind Regards,  
Prep Team - Diana, Sarah & Taegan