



Newport Lakes Primary School

Prep 2017 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
Whole School					Assembly
INDONESIAN Ibu Lyndal	Prep P			Prep N	Prep L Prep S
SPORT Mr.A	Prep N Prep P Prep S	Prep L			
Music Ellen	Prep S			Prep L Prep P	Prep N
ART Laura	Prep L	Prep S Prep N			Prep P
LIBRARY	Prep L	Prep P		Prep S Prep N	
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.				

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 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 and Songs, Rhymes and Chants book at school each day.

Communication – Newsletter

In an effort to save paper we have an electronic whole school newsletter each fortnight. 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.



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).

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 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

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).

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: Term 1 Topic: ‘Who am I and How do I get along with others?’

This term the Preps will inquire into the use of stories to inform us about our lives and the lives of others. As a means of getting to know each other, children will share stories about themselves through art, drama and the use of objects. This will include simple narratives about where they live, their families, pets etc. They will investigate stories linked to their family, stories that help describe who they are in place and time. Children’s cultural backgrounds may also be drawn upon as a source of stories. This inquiry provides an opportunity to embed indigenous perspectives into student learning.

Students think about how they make friends, what values good friends have and how you can get along with everyone. We make links to the school value of respect. We will explore the question: How can I ensure I am safe and others are safe?

Students will be involved in ‘Discovery Time’ this term where they will be taught inquiry skills that will extend their thinking and questioning ability to investigate their wonderings.

Circle Time:

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.

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 23rd February – Prep Information Evening
- Wednesday 1st March – Meet and Greet (This is an opportunity for you to tell the teacher about your child)
- Thursday March 23rd – Pupil Free Day
- Friday 11th March – Local Walk excursion
- Monday 13th March – LABOUR Day
- Friday 31st 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, Taegan, Tarsh and Lyndal