

TERM 1, 2018

GRADE PREP NEWSLETTER

Important Dates

DATE	EVENT
7th, 14th, 21st, 28th of Feb	No school for Preps
28/2	Parent teacher Interviews
6/3	Pet Incursion



Unit Information / Introduction

A warm welcome to Altona North to all our new Prep families. Students are settling in well and readily becoming familiar with school routines and expectations.

Thank you to all parents for clearly labelling the children's bags, clothing and lunch boxes. As many students have similar bags and lunch boxes, this makes it easier for staff to return lost items and for students to identify their own belongings.

The school promotes healthy eating through class programs and our fruit program, where fruit is available for students to eat each Tuesday. Eating time is extended for all Prep children during Term 1.

Thank-you to all parents for bringing your child to the Wednesday Testing Sessions. This has enabled us to meet most of our families and allow us to gain valuable insight into each child's abilities.

The main Habits of Mind that we will be introducing this term are LISTEN and PERSIST.

Both classrooms have set up their Literacy and Numeracy Walls for children to refer to during their learning time.

HOME READING

Our Home Reading system will start Monday 19h February. Your child will bring home a Zip Book Pack with 5 books inside. We request that you write the titles of the books in the 'READ IT BOOK' (yellow log book). Please return your child's Book Pack every Monday for them to receive 5 new books. Please read through the 'READ IT BOOK' for ideas about how to make reading time a happy and positive experience for you and your child. We encourage you to share the book with your child as often as you can. Any questions please speak to your classroom teacher.

Looking forward to working with you and your child this year.

The Grade Prep Team,

Mrs. Elizabeth Paterson
Rm 2

Ms. Alexa Narnia

Mrs. Mary Day ESS



Curriculum Overview

ENGLISH

INDEPENDENT READING

Students in Prep will be involved in the development of their classroom library. The classroom library will be a continually evolving part of the classroom. It plays an important part in the curriculum and fosters positive habits and attitudes towards reading. Students are being encouraged to read independently at this time.

WRITING

Prep students will be introduced to the Writers Notebook. This is a very special book. Students will be encouraged to bring items from home such as; photos, tickets, memorabilia, etc. to include in their Writers Notebook to encourage them to write about things of interest to them.

ENGLISH ONLINE INTERVIEW

All students in prep are currently being assessed throughout the month of February. This is an assessment that all prep students in Victorian Government schools will undertake. The English Online Interview involves a one on one interview between the teacher and the student, with responses being recorded by the teacher on an online system. The English Online Interview assesses students against all dimensions of English Victorian Curriculum (reading & viewing, writing and speaking and listening) and provides comprehensive information about student achievement and capabilities.

MATHEMATICS

The Maths curriculum that the students will be involved in this Term will include; Number (counting, place value, number recognition), positional language (up down, above, below etc.), measurement (length). We will also be counting the first 100 days of school and be involved in activities around this, and we will have a party on day 100!

NUMERACY INTERVIEW

The Numeracy interview is an assessment that all Prep students undertake. It assesses students on number, space and measurement. The Numeracy Interview will also take place on the Wednesdays in February. Your child's teacher will remind you about appointments.

INQUIRY

Our term one Inquiry Topic is "Relationships". This topic involves the students in developing the Major Understanding of 'Working together makes our school world a better place'.

Questions to help guide our thinking and learning:

What does it mean to work together?

Why does working co-operatively together make us a happy classroom community?

MATHEMATICS AT HOME

Please involve your child in everyday situations that involve mathematics for example:

Counting one to ten and beyond.

Finding basic geometric shapes e.g square, circle, rectangle and triangle

Noticing numbers in their home and local environment

Using mathematical language e.g: behind, beside, in front of, under, over, next to etc

Simple measuring - long-short; longer-shorter; longest-shortest

REMINDERS

* When your child writes their name at school they will be encouraged to use a capital at the start and lower case for the other letters e.g. Jenny

*Practise with your child the easiest way to pack their school bags. Many of the bags are so full children have problems finding items and keeping them safe.

*Please make sure that snacks and food are in packaging that children can open easily.

*Soon your child will bring home a red Prep starter bag with activities and information for you to keep. This bag will make an ideal swim bag for the swimming program later in the year.

*Please check your child's bag for work samples, school notes or newsletters. Newsletters go out on Thursday's with the oldest or only child from your family at the school.

*Home reading bags returned every Monday.