



Important Dates

DATE	EVENT
13th February	Prep Picnic
11th March	Labour Day-Public Holiday

Introduction

A warm welcome to all our new Prep families at Altona North Primary School. Our Preps have made a fantastic start to Term 1 and have settled in well with school routines and expectations. We can't wait to see you all at the Prep Picnic. We look forward to getting to know you and sharing a fantastic night.

Thank you to all parents for clearly labelling your child's bag, clothing and lunch box. 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.

We are a Sun Smart School, so all children are expected to wear a **SCHOOL Hat**. We thank-you for supporting this .

The Wednesday Testing Sessions are continuing until Week 5 of Term 1. These sessions are enabling us to gain valuable insight into each child's learning needs and will assist us to plan for their needs. Thank you to all our families for accommodating our times.

The main **Habits of Mind** that we will be introducing this term are **LISTEN** and **PERSIST** . All classrooms have set up their Literacy and Numeracy walls for children to refer to during their learning time and are already engaging with frequently!

Home Reading

Our Home Reading system will start Monday 4th March. Your child will bring home a book pack with 5 books inside. We request that you write the titles of the books in the 'Read It Book' (yellow log book). Inside the book pack there is also a special word ring containing 5 words from the Oxford 100 word list. We will be continually adding to the word ring throughout the year. Please return your child's book pack **every Tuesday** 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.

***Home reading bags returned every Tuesday.**

We are looking forward to working with you and your child this year.

Curriculum Overview

English

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 practise 'good reading traits' and read independently at this time.

Writing

Prep students will be introduced to the Writer's 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 (EOI)

All students in Prep are being assessed throughout the month of February. This is an assessment that Prep students in Victorian Government schools will undertake. The EOI involves a one on one interview between the teacher and the student, with responses being recorded by the teacher on an online system. The EOI assesses students against all dimensions of English Victorian Curriculum and provides comprehensive information that helps us to understand where they are at in their learning and what we need to do to support to them through their next learning steps.

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! We will lay the groundwork in developing their ability to solve open ended problems and introduce them to problem solving strategies.

Maths Online Interview (MOI)

The Numeracy interviews are being completed throughout February. The MOI assesses students on number, space and measurement and provides comprehensive information about their understandings of math concepts which will assist in planning for their learning.

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

Inquiry

Our Term 1 Humanities based Inquiry topic is **"Relationships"**. This topic involves the students in developing the **Major Understanding**;

'Working together makes our school world a better place'.

Questions to help guide our thinking and learning:

- Where do our families come from?
- How do we celebrate together?
- What does it mean to work together?
- Why does working co operatively together make us a happy classroom community?
- How can we work together to make our classroom world a better place?

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. *Peter*.

*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.

*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.

*We have our **Prep Family Picnic** next Tuesday 13th February. We look forward to seeing you at the picnic.

The Grade Prep Team,

Ms. Jenny Gaitanis Ms. Irichell Cajés Ms Katie Simeon

Effie & Anj ES Staff