



Year Prep - 2024 Term 1 Overview

Welcome to Term 1 in Prep!

Our aim is to bring enthusiasm, excitement and innovative ideas to the classroom, to ensure your child is engaged and actively learning. The Term 1 focus in Prep is always on the personal and social skills required for the students to settle into their new class and school environment. The students' well-being is of paramount importance and the priority is for them to feel safe, supported, engaged and happy. The students will be supported to establish new friendships and relationships, learn school routines and procedures, and continue to develop positive learning dispositions.

Beginning this term and continuing throughout the year, the students will investigate the Habits of Mind and the use of a Growth Mindset as part of our school-wide approach to learning. A Growth Mindset allows the students to view their mistakes as potential learning opportunities, and the Habits of Mind are a set of 16 positive learning dispositions. Our focus this term will be 'Managing Impulsivity'.



The learning dispositions enable the students to develop skills that support a positive attitude towards learning and life. In the classroom, a culture is developed that instills in the students an understanding that mistakes can help us learn and that greater effort equates to greater achievement over time.

These approaches align with our School Values, 'I am a learner', 'I am a friend' and 'I am respectful', and complement the key principles of 'The Resilience Project', which are Gratitude, Empathy/Kindness and Mindfulness (GEM).

We look forward to getting to know your child and working collaboratively with you in our complementary roles as co-educators.

RELIGION

Daily prayer and regular Christian meditation are an integral part of our Religious Education program. The Preps have created a class prayer cloth which will be used for afternoon meditation and prayer sessions.

Called to be Me

In this unit, the students will grow in understanding that:

- we are all unique
- we are all members of God's family.

Praying to God

In this unit, the students will grow in understanding that:

- prayer is a special time for 'talking to God'
- we start prayers with the Sign of the Cross
- meditation is a time to sit in stillness and silence, and open our hearts to God
- Easter is a special time of celebration.



INTEGRATED TOPIC

'Me and My School' - Health & Humanities

The students will explore their personal identity and the ways in which they belong to different groups such as their families, classroom and school. The students will also explore the meaning of our three School Values, 'I am a friend', 'I am a learner' and 'I am respectful'.

The students will:

- identify their likes and dislikes; abilities and strengths
- explore the ways in which they are members of our class and the wider school community
- understand that within each group they belong to, including their family and their school groups, they have certain rights and responsibilities
- identify our three School Values and demonstrate ways in which they can be enacted.



MATHEMATICS

Developing 'number sense' is an essential component of learning in Mathematics and every lesson will begin with a short activity that engages students and tunes them into the learning. Activities can include counting, skip counting, subitising (automatic visual recognition of the number of objects in a small group), number talks and purposeful Mathematics games.

The Victorian Curriculum outlines four Mathematical Proficiencies: *understanding*, *fluency*, *problem solving* and *reasoning*. For Prep students, *understanding* would include connecting names, numerals and quantities, and partitioning numbers in various ways; *fluency* would include counting numbers in sequence both forwards and backwards; *problem solving* would include using materials to model problems, and *reasoning* would include explaining patterns (numbers or objects) that have been created.

Through a variety of whole class, small group and partner learning activities, the following topics will be covered this term:

Number

- connecting number names and numerals up to 10 and beyond
- reading, writing and interpreting numbers up to 10 and beyond
- ordering numbers to 10, including identifying the number before and after
- counting forwards and backwards, initially by 1s, up to 20 and beyond
- exploring number facts to 5, including 'friends of 5', eg. 2 and 3, 4 and 1
- identifying and creating patterns with a range of objects.



Measurement and Geometry

- identifying, naming and sorting a variety of regular two-dimensional shapes
- connecting days of the week to familiar events (e.g. weekly and daily school routine).

ENGLISH

Reading

Through modelled, shared, guided and independent reading activities, the students will:

- develop understandings about the concepts of print (e.g. that text is read from left to right)
- identify how pictures and words in texts connect
- identify and locate punctuation marks, upper and lowercase letters, words and sentences
- enjoy listening to stories read aloud and make connections with the characters and events in a story.



Through the focus on phonemic awareness, the students will:

- identify the difference between a letter and a word
- begin to hear and identify the beginning, middle and ending sound in words
- identify rhyming words.

Through the focus on phonics, the students will:

- explore the letter names and sounds of the letters in the alphabet
- begin to blend known sounds together to read simple words.

Writing

Through modelled, shared, guided and independent writing activities, the students will:

- use their imagination to respond to prompts and tell a story through pictures
- begin to use their growing knowledge of sounds and words to write letters, words and sentences to accompany their pictures.

Throughout the term, the students will:

- participate in a range of fine motor strengthening activities to assist them with their handwriting
- focus on the mechanics of handwriting, including the correct pencil grip and seating posture.



Speaking & Listening

The students will be encouraged to develop their oral communication skills to speak clearly and to listen and respond, in a variety of formal and informal situations.

During partner, small group and whole class discussions, the students will:

- share simple ideas
- respond to questions and ideas from others
- learn the importance of turn taking and respectful listening.

LIBRARY

In the Library, the students will:

- explore and become familiar with the Library layout and procedures
- identify the 'picture fiction' section of the Library
- experience the responsibility and joy of borrowing a library book each week
- be exposed to a variety of picture books focusing on rhyme and repetition.

Library Borrowing Day is Thursday and all students are required to have a library bag. Please remember, 'No bag, no borrowing'.

SOCIAL and EMOTIONAL LEARNING - The Resilience Project

'The Resilience Project' delivers an emotionally engaging program to the students and is based on the concepts of Gratitude, Empathy/Kindness and Mindfulness (GEM). Lessons based on this project will occur weekly through the term.



The topics that will be covered this term are:

- 'A Good Friend' - identifying some actions of a good friend
- 'Feelings' - identifying different feelings
- 'Gratitude Chain' - understanding what gratitude is and how being grateful makes us feel.

VISUAL ARTS

The students will be exploring ideas related to themselves, their experiences, observations and imagination, to create visual artworks to present, share and display throughout Term 1.

The students will:

- experiment with different materials, techniques, and the elements of colour, shape and line, to create artworks in response to personal experiences and shared literature.





ITALIAN

'Introduzioni e Saluti' (Introductions and Greetings)

During Term 1, the students will be encouraged to develop their verbal language skills in Italian, by following instructions and being exposed to Italian communication. They will learn about the ways to greet others, using both 'hello' and 'goodbye', and introduce and provide simple details about themselves.

PERFORMING ARTS

The students will participate in a range of Performing Arts activities to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills.

The students will:

- learn songs and play music games to explore and develop their musical skills
- learn to keep a steady beat in music in a variety of ways (e.g. clapping, stepping, pointing to visual icons)
- use stimuli such as stories, poems, music and images to explore ideas and feelings in drama
- take part in purposeful dramatic play.



Karil Torcasio

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This term, the students will be engaged in a range of skills and games to support the development of their physical and interpersonal skills. They will explore safety and responsibility in movement activities, including rules and procedures, and sharing space and equipment.

The students will

- develop their locomotor skills such as *jogging*, *leaping* and *balancing*, as well as their fundamental motor skills of *run* whilst participating in minor modified sports and games.

Coach Bruno

SCIENCE

This term, the students will begin by exploring the questions, 'What is Science?', 'What is a scientist?' and 'Where do scientists work?'. By sharing their previous knowledge and experiences with each other, the students will begin to develop collaborative skills and a shared scientific language and mindset.

The students will continue to use this language and mindset to develop a greater awareness of themselves and their world as they explore this term's focus on Chemical Science.

The students will:

- observe the properties of materials around us
- identify how the properties of objects are used for different purposes, e.g. wood for building, glass for windows
- classify objects based on their similarities and differences.



Janelle Baldwin

HOME LEARNING

You can support your child's learning at home by providing opportunities to engage in reading shared books and encouraging them to locate various letters and sounds in words. Ask your child to identify what letters particular words start with and play games such as 'I Spy', in which letters and sounds are the focus.

REMINDERS

Tuesday:

- Performing Arts
- Italian
- Physical Education - sport uniform to be worn

Thursday:

- Huff and Puff 8:55 - 9:05am
- Science
- Library - library bags are required for borrowing
- Sport - sport uniform to be worn

CLASSROOM TEACHER CONTACT INFORMATION:

Please do not hesitate to contact us anytime throughout the school year with any concerns, questions or information. If you would prefer to meet with us, please email to arrange a mutually convenient time.