Term 1 is a sunsmart term. Don’t forget your hat!

Flemington Primary
PREP NEWSLETTER TERM 1 2016

Dear Prep Parents,

Welcome to Flemington Primary School and congratulations to both parents and children on a smooth start to school. The Preps are settling into their new school routine with big smiles and positive attitudes. School is different to what your child has been used to, requiring participation in more structured activities and concentration for longer periods of time. Naturally, the children will be tired and require plenty of rest and relaxation when at home. Don’t be surprised if the novelty of the first week wears thin when they realise that school is an ongoing event: we will certainly strive to maintain their interest.

There are a few important reminders about Prep events over the first term. Please read the following information carefully and if you have any queries, don’t hesitate to contact your child’s teacher.

- **Prep interviews** - Interviews with your child’s teacher have commenced on Wednesdays. Both you and your child are required to attend. The purpose of the interview is not only for parents to meet the teacher, but for the teacher to gain an understanding of your child’s learning needs through their participation in set activities. Your interview schedule will be displayed outside your child’s classroom. Please see your child’s teacher if you do not already have an interview time. If the scheduled time is not suitable, please see Mollie, Vivien or Mairin to arrange a more suitable time.

- **Preps returning to school full-time** - Preps will continue to have Wednesdays off until Wednesday the 16th of March. They will continue to attend full time from this day on.

- **Specialist classes** - Preps will attend a one hour session of Art, Music, Library, ICT, Chinese and Physical Education each week.

- **Dropping off children** - Children have learnt to line up each morning outside their classrooms. We ask that parents please continue to say their good-byes briefly. This helps your child to settle quickly into the daily routine. We strongly encourage the children to begin taking some responsibility for their own belongings now, by hanging up their own bags and hats in the morning. School begins at 8:45am.

- **Picking up children** - When picking up your child at the end of the day, we ask that parents please wait outside the building for children. The teachers will walk the children to the doors of the building where they can be collected by parents. Children finish at 3:30pm.

- **Whole School Assembly** - Friday 26th February will be the Prep’s first visit to whole school assembly. All parents are welcome. After Assembly the teachers will bring all preps back to the prep area for pick up. Assembly begins at 3pm.

- **Perceptual Motor Skills Program (PMP)** - Perceptual Motor Skills Program (PMP) will begin on Wednesday 16th of March. This program promotes movement, coordination, general fitness, spatial awareness and the related vocabulary (up, between, left, etc) through group activities and set games. The program runs with the highly valued assistance of committed parents. If you are available, have a Working with Children Check and would like to assist in the running of the PMP program please fill out the form and return it to your child’s teacher.
• Classroom Helpers - If you are interested in helping with Literacy and Numeracy during 2016, you must complete the parent helpers training on Tuesday 16th February and have a current Working with Children Check (obtained from the Post Office). The parent helpers program will begin in week 4 (beginning Monday 22nd February). If you would like to assist in the classroom or PMP please fill out the form that will be sent home in week 3.

• Fruit break - The prep students will have a fruit break at 10am each day. We ask that you send a piece of fruit or cut up vegetables for your child to snack on.

• Homework - Homework will commence in the form of shared & independent reading and word lists. These activities will suit your individual child’s needs and will be introduced at different stages during the term.

• Birthdays - We are more than happy to celebrate your child’s birthday at school with small treats such as cakes or lollies. To maintain the sanity of the prep teachers, please provide individual treats such as Freddo frogs, small lolly bags or cupcakes rather than whole cakes as we are unable to cut these in the classroom. If your child has any allergies please see your child’s teacher to discuss options regarding birthday food.

• Play equipment - To maintain the safety of all children, the play equipment in the yard is designated age appropriate. Children in Prep to 2 are permitted to play on the equipment and in the sandpit in the P-2 play area. They are not permitted on the oval or in the amphitheatre during school recess and lunchtimes. Please ensure your child follows these rules when playing in the playground after school.

• Hats – In Terms 1 and 4 the children are reminded to wear a broad brimmed hat. If your child does not have their hat they must stay under cover on the blue seats outside the Learning Neighbourhood building during recess and lunchtime. NO HAT, NO PLAY.

• Flemington Primary School has a compulsory school uniform policy. Please ensure that your child is dressed in the correct clothing. This includes closed toe shoes. No sandals.

• Labels – Please ensure all your child’s belongings (hats, jumpers, lunchboxes, drink bottles, etc) are labelled. It makes our job so much easier!

• Notices – All classroom notices requiring parent/guardian signatures are to be returned by the due date to the classroom teacher.

• Satchels – Check satchels for notes everyday and return satchels to school with home readers and diary.

• Punctuality - Just a reminder that the first school bell rings at 8.45am ready for the children to start class at 8:50am. The start of the year has been busy and the pace continues to be non-stop for all of us. Getting to school in the morning can be delayed with traffic and all the other daily issues. These things give us even more reason to be organised the night before. When your child has finished their reading or homework get them to put it straight back into their bags. If they need anything for the next day such as sport, that should also be placed with their bag. Organisation is the key here! It is something we stress as parents and teachers.

It is important that the children begin to pack their bags from an early age as it gets them into the habit of getting their school things ready themselves. This also develops independence. Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late. Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do precious minutes are lost. A child who is fifteen minutes late to school each day misses one week of school every year.

• Allergies – Please notify the school (class teacher) if your child has any allergies. We have children within the Prep area and the wider school community who suffer severe life-threatening reactions to some foods. As part of our management of these students’ allergies, we ask for the co-operation of all parents in providing a safe environment at school. We ask that all nut products including peanuts, peanut butter, Nutella, bars or biscuits with nuts in them and all tree nuts such as cashews, are not part of any child’s lunch at anytime. We also ask that you reinforce our policy of not sharing food at school. You can do this by discussing the importance of this issue with your child at home.
• **Illness** – all of us, at one time or another, fall victim to colds, flus or viruses. To minimise the spread of such illnesses, we ask that you be mindful of sending your child to school if they display symptoms which are concerning. This will sometimes require a judgment call, which you, as parents, are obviously best placed to make. If your child has been vomiting we ask that you ensure your child is fully recovered before returning to school.

• **Rubbish Free Lunch** – Flemington Primary School has moved towards being a ‘Rubbish Free Lunch’ School. Please assist us with this and refrain from sending unnecessary packaging in your child’s lunch box. We have an eating bell at recess and lunch time. Students will be given 15 minutes to eat their recess and lunch indoors. Please help us to achieve this by packing as little ‘rubbish’ as possible.

Some Ideas for a Rubbish Free Lunch

**Do include:**
- Sandwiches in reusable containers (clearly named)
- Cut up fruit or vegetables without packaging
- Drinks in containers that can be reused or recycled
- Snacks purchased in bulk and brought in reusable containers

**Don’t include:**
- Individually wrapped snacks
- Plastic bags that are not reusable
- Disposable forks and spoons
- Straws

**Don’t forget the Prep Information Night** is on Thursday the 11th February at 6.00pm. We will be covering an overview of the Prep Program. Hope to see you there.

**Important Dates**
- * Tuesday 9th February: Prep Photo day
- * Friday 26th February Preps attend Assembly
- * Monday 14th March: Labour Day holiday. No School
- * Wednesday 16th March: Preps first Wednesday, PMP begins
- * Thursday 24th March: Term 1 Reports home
- * Thursday 24th March: Last day of term 1, 1:30pm finish

We look forward to an exciting and rewarding year in 2016. Please remember, if you have any concerns, queries or questions throughout the year, please feel free to make contact with your child’s teacher by contacting them before or after school or making an appointment with them.

Regards,

**Prep teachers:**

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