



Prep Unit Newsletter - No 1

06/02/09

Welcome Note

This is the first of your Prep Unit Newsletters for 2008! At the beginning of each term you will receive a Prep Unit Newsletter keeping you informed of what is happening in our unit. A copy of your child's weekly timetable will be sent home shortly. The timetable will let you know the days of regular events such as Library, PMP, Art, PE and French. Over the course of the year some changes may be made to this timetable.

We have had an excellent start to the year and the Preps have settled in very well! We are all looking forward to a great year ahead!

School Lunches

In the Prep Unit we encourage children to eat something at snack and lunch times. If a child does not want to eat everything in his/her lunchbox, we ask the child to take the un-eaten food home. This allows parents to see what has not been eaten and judge the correct amount of food to pack. Please don't be surprised if your child only eats a small amount at school, as he/she may not feel hungry during the school day. If you have any questions about your child's eating habits at school please come and talk with us. Drink bottles with **water only** can be used in the classroom throughout the day. Sweet drinks are not permitted in the classroom. Please do not freeze drink bottles which will be used inside!

Assessment Sessions and Homework

During the month of February, every Prep child will be required to come up to school for 1 hour on a Wednesday to participate in a 'one on one' assessment session with their teacher. This session is used to plan and target your child's learning programs in English and Maths. It involves a range of enjoyable maths games, sharing a short picture book and a discussion about alphabet letters.

Children at this early stage of learning are often very tired at the end of the school day; therefore, reading and alphabet practise is all that you need to do with your child at home.

Green Satchels and Blue Folders

Your child's satchel is used for the take home book each night, the red school diary where you record what book was read each night, the blue folder for alphabet (and, later on, words) practise and any work or notes sent home. Blue folders will be sent home shortly.

School Newsletter

Every Wednesday the school newsletter is sent home with the eldest in the family. The newsletter is an important way to keep informed about important dates, events and what is happening at school. Please check your child's satchel.

School Uniform

School uniform this term is summer clothing as outlined the red Prep information booklet and parents are reminded that all students must wear a **school broad brim hat** whenever they are outside in terms 1 & 4 of the school year. School shoes must be black and socks white.

PMP

The Perceptual Motor Program (PMP) is a series of activities that promote rhythm, agility, space awareness, co-ordination, balance, confidence and language development. PMP will be run in term 2 this year. To operate successfully parent helpers are needed. An information session will be held for parent helpers prior to the program beginning. More information will be sent home shortly.

Morning Routine

Each morning when the music starts your child will need to place his or her bag in the bag bays in the breezeway. Using the Prep doors at the breezeway end of the corridor, he/she will then need to bring the following things into the classroom: any notes for the teacher, his/her take home book, school diary and blue alphabet/word list folder in the green satchel. Library books can be brought to school on the relevant day for your child.

All routines take time to master but they are an important part of school life and we encourage independence!

Red School Diary

The diary is a communication tool between school and home. Please record any information you wish to pass on to the class teacher in this diary. Each night please record the book your child reads on the corresponding day. Red diaries will be checked daily. **If your child is absent please fill in the absence form at the back of the diary.** Upon your child's return please make a diary entry notifying your child's teacher of the absence form. If your child doesn't have a red school diary they can be purchased from the school office

Pick Up Areas

To make collection of students at the end of the day easier, we have created separate grade areas for parents to collect their children from outside. The areas for collection from **Monday 9th February**: Prep B and F can be collected from the Prep planter boxes (north side).

Prep S and C can be collected from the sandpit area (south side).

Please keep the breezeway area as clear as possible and wait for your child's class to be brought out to you at the designated area! Your help will be greatly appreciated as it is a busy time of the day and the less congestion the better!!

We hope that this arrangement will assist parents in the collection of their children. Please remember to return your child's nametag to their teacher so that we know they have been collected. As the year progresses and your child develops more confidence, they will be allowed to meet parents at the school gates. But for the month of February, we ask that all students are collected from the above areas.

Thank you!

Classroom Helpers

At Bellaire we value the assistance of parent helpers and invite parents to help in their child's classroom. Prep parent helpers will begin in term 2 as it is important to allow the students time to settle into school with independence! More information and an expression of interest slip will be sent home with your child later in the term.

Supplies

Please send along **all** of your child's school supplies including art smock and library bag as these programs have begun. Please send along your child's green satchel each day! If you need to purchase one, they are available from the Uniform Shop open Monday 8.45am—9.15am and every Friday from 3.15—3.45pm.

School Assembly

Assembly is held every Friday at 3-3.30pm in the undercover area outside the multi purpose room.

Parents are invited to attend each week! Student of the Week and other awards are presented at this time!

School Photos

School Photos will be taken on Friday 13th February. Each student will be given an envelope during the week prior. Students will be required to bring their envelope with money to school on this day. Family photos (school children only) are also taken and envelopes can be collected from the office.

Thank you. Blanche Cook, Carly Fantini, Nigel Holloway and Jo Barry