

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March



Dear Prep Families,

We all loved being at school on our first Wednesday. The Preps had a fun Teddy Bears picnic Wednesday. It was great seeing so many families enjoying our family picnic last Thursday night. **We thank you so much for your support by attending the information evening.** We appreciate you taking the time out of your busy schedules to spend an hour finding out how you can help your child's first year at school. Here are some helpful websites that we talked about at the meeting. **Literacy / Numeracy Support:**

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/involve/Pages/literacynum.aspx>

### School Uniform

It is important that children wear correct school uniform. This includes **not wearing jewellery** to school, unless it is stud/sleeper earrings.

Please ensure that shoulder length (or longer) **hair is tied up**. This is for safety as well as management of nits.

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Thanks for remembering to put your child's name on everything. It will help the jumpers, drink bottles, hats and bags to find their way back to their owner.

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**For those who couldn't make it to the information evening here is some of the information covered:**

- Everyone would have seen the **navy blue take home reader bags** which have been brought home every night. We will be using them EVERY DAY at school so please return them. Students will have new books every week which they will be practising both at school and home.
- **The YELLOW library bags** are for students to borrow books from the library. Your classroom teacher will give the students an opportunity to visit the school library on a weekly or fortnightly visit. This gives the students a chance to take home a book of choice and interest. This is exciting; however, books will not be allowed to be taken home without these bags.
- We have been encouraging the preps to develop their independence and sense of responsibility. Small things such as carrying, packing, unpacking and zipping up their bags at every opportunity will help them develop these skills. Please encourage your child to be aware of their own belongings.

- **Classrooms are open from 8:30 and** this is an appropriate time to be at school. Students are welcome to spend time on the Prep playground, however, no teachers will be on yard duty until 8:30am, so please make sure they are supervised until this time.
- We want to stress the importance of your child being comfortable and confident with their book. We are looking for them to tell a story and understand the context of the book from the pictures. So please don't cover the pictures up as your child will rely on them to be successful. We will be asking your child to point to each word and to look at the first sounds of words so they learn to predict the text. If they do get stuck, and they will, we would ask you to point to the word and say it. Then ask your child to repeat it and have another go.
- The process of nightly reading is meant to be an enjoyable one for both you and your child. If they bring a book home more than once, this is ok. Repetition and confidence in reading is what we are striving for in the early weeks.
- We will hear your child on a regular fortnightly basis. This is when we will make achievable reading goals for your child which they should be able to articulate to you. We will endeavour to record these goals in their reading diary. It is important that the reading diary gets filled in on a regular basis and is brought back to school so we can record the progress your child is making.
- We have introduced a new program to Bacchus Marsh Primary School called Letters and Sounds. This program focuses on teaching the common sounds for letters and learning to blend them to help with reading. We will also be segmenting words, that is breaking words up into their sounds, to help with the spelling of words.
- In Numeracy we will be covering Number, Measurement, Statistics and Probability. We will be focusing on numbers 0-20. This is more than rote counting the numbers. We will be matching numerals to the words, and to the correct amount of objects, as well as learning everything about that number (eg. 5 is the same as 4 and 1, 3 and 2, 1 and 4, 2 and 3, 0 and 5), different ways of representing that number (eg. Tally points, dots on a dice, on a tens frame) and lots of other hands on activities.
- All classrooms will have their current Learning Intentions and Success Criteria displayed so you can see the areas we are focussing on at this time. It also gives you a great starting point for a conversation about the learning that is happening in school.

Thank You for your support.

The Prep Team

Michelle, Bec B, Zoe, Bec C, Bec P, Tiff, Adele, Jonelle and Andrea