

August 18th 2017



Dear Prep Families,

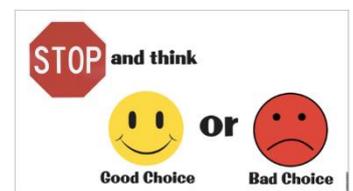
We are getting to the business end of the term now. We certainly have a busy few weeks coming up. Please refer to our Dates to Remember to keep on top of our dress up days, Jump Rope for Heart and Father's Day Breakfast.

New Outdoor Learning Space for Prep!

Did you know that we are currently designing a new outdoor learning space for Prep? The space is the area at the end of the Prep/One building and will be used during Investigations. We need your help to create this space for our Preps. We are having working bees, one Friday 8th September 3.30 - 5pm and Saturday 9th September 9 -11am. Please check your diaries to see if you are available to help us prepare the area in Friday's Working Bee and/or lay down the different ground coverings on the Saturday. More information to follow.

Problem Solving

Your child will face many challenges as they grow, whether it is starting school, joining a sporting team or going to their first sleepover. The ability to make decisions and solve problems develops as your child learns to cope with daily challenges. Young children are not expected to sort through every issue on their own, and it is likely that they will require lots of guidance from their family. The good news is encouraging your child to take part in problem solving will help them develop this skill over time.



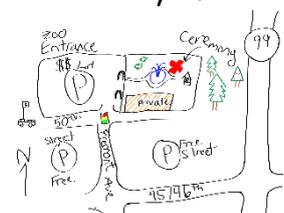
The following steps are a useful guide to teaching your child about problem solving. Encourage your child to take part so that they can slowly learn to do it for themselves.

Remember, it is best to begin when your child is feeling calm and relaxed. Start with an issue where you know they are likely to experience some success. If your child is very anxious or angry, help them to calm down first (e.g. having some quiet time, taking some deep breaths) or leave problem solving for another day or another issue when you know your child is ready to participate.

1. Identify the problem.
2. Find solutions and work out the best choice one.
3. Check in: how did it go?

For more information visit www.kidsmatter.edu.au

Reading Tip for Parents: Map it Out It's important to provide your child with a variety of fiction and non-fiction reading. A fun way to do this is to get a map and show them the way from your house to the grocery store or another familiar destination. Have your child write out the directions, street by street, and then read them to you as you walk or drive to the store - like a living GPS!



Letters And Sounds

Letters and Sounds Groups meet 4 times a week:
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10.15-10.45
Friday 11.30-12.00.

Your child's Letters and Sounds teacher's name will be stuck into their reader diary.

The following are the focus sounds and blends for the next two weeks.
Please look for your child's Letters and Sounds teacher below for their focus which you can support at home.

Mrs Blokland and Mrs Seidel-Davies - Letter formation and sounds of 'ear', 'air', 'ure', 'oa', 'ee', 'igh',

Miss Edwards - Letter formation and sounds of 'x', 'y', 'z', 'zz' and 'qu'

Mrs Vines and Mrs Miles - Letter formation and sounds of 'h', 'b', 'f', 'l'

Mrs Taylor - Formation and sounds of 'y', 'z', 'zz', 'qu', 'ch', 'sh' and tricky words - we, me, be, he, she.

Mrs Pike and Mrs Johnson - Formation and sounds of 'ee', 'oa', 'oo', 'ar', 'or', 'ur', 'ow', 'oi' and the tricky words - we, me, be, was.

Mrs Conroy - Letter formation and sounds of 'tr', 'cr', 'pr', 'dr', 'fr', 'br', 'gr'.

Term 3 Important Dates

- * Tuesday August 22nd - Prep Dress up as a Garden Gnome Day
- * Tuesday August 29th - Jump Rope for Heart Skipping - 9.10am
- * Friday 1st Sept - Father's Day Breakfast 8am - 8.30am
- * Sept 4th - 8th - Book Week
- * Sept 4th - Book Week Dress Up Day
- * Sept 7th - Book Week Performance 'Super Duper'
- * Tuesday Sept 12th - Bravehearts 'Ditto Show' At School
- * Wednesday Sept 13th - Melbourne Zoo Excursion
- * Friday Sept 22nd - Last day of term, Footy Dress Up Day, 2.30 dismissal

Thank you for your support,

The Prep Team

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



PREP SWIMMING PROGRAM: INFORMATION

Dear Parent/Guardian

During Term Four we offer our Prep children the opportunity to take part in a five-day Swimming Program at the Paul Sadler Swim School, Holts Lane Bacchus Marsh.

The cost of the program is **\$55.00**, which includes **five 45 minutes swimming sessions** held over five consecutive days and **bus transport** to and from the venue.

The Program will commence on 30th October, (Week 4, Term 4). Details as to when your child swims will follow in Term 4, once attendance numbers have been established.

We have been using the Swim School for several years and consider their swimming program to be an excellent start to children becoming safer around water. To keep our communication and program running as smooth as possible, please read the following information when deciding whether you would like your child to participate.

While it is an important aspect of the program that your child gains experience and increases their confidence in the water, this program includes other areas of learning. The organisational and social skills developed throughout the five day course are also important aspects of your child's education. Finding clothes, dressing and engaging with their classmates in an environment outside of the school, have in the past proven to be valuable skills gained as a result of participating in the Swimming Program.

While we would like every child to participate, we understand that families have valid reasons why they may not want their child involved. Please feel free to discuss your concerns with me or your child's teacher. ***(If payment is one of your concerns, please speak to the office staff regarding a payment plan).***

If your child **WILL NOT** be swimming, could you please inform your child's teacher **ASAP**.

THIS IS AN INFORMATION SHEET ONLY. Medical, Swimming Ability and permission notices will be sent home at the start of Term 4.

Regards

Yvonne MULLER