

Prep Term Letter, Term 3, 2018

Dear Prep Families,

Welcome to Term 3 of Prep at Our Lady of Dolours.

This term has many exciting units and activities organised. You will have noticed our 'Wee-Tea" we have collected from our worm farm. This is a brilliant fertiliser for plants and gardens. We will have fertiliser available for family and community before and after school. I'm sure you have heard a lot about our worm farm. We will continue to link our Laudato Si practices in all aspects of learning. Multiple topics will be covered across each subject area this term and are planned on a short-cycle basis.

Excursion

As an early years group, we are also taking the students in Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 on an excursion in Week 6 to tie in with our Science and HASS units. On Friday 24 August, we will be going to the Lego Centre in South Brisbane, the Museum and the library. We will be looking for volunteers to help. There is a link available on the welcome page of the Year 1 blog where you can offer to volunteer. We will notify parents closer to the time if we require them to help, depending on how many volunteers we get. We appreciate any assistance you can offer and would be looking at 5 parent volunteers from each class. This will be an active excursion, we will be walking to Mitchelton train station, catching the train to South Brisbane, breaking up into three groups and each going to a different activity. We will meet up to catch the train home at the end of the day.

Book Week

OLD has a tradition during book week. Each child is welcomed to come dressed as a character from their favourite book. On Tuesday 21st August, OLD will be holding a Book Parade. This is the day in which your child may dress as their favourite character. A parade will occur in the MPC. It would be great if your child could bring the book along with them if they have it (not essential though).

Term 2 Units of Work

Religious Education

In Religious Education, students will listen and respond to the Creation story from the Old Testament of the Bible to develop an understanding

of God as Creator and our role as caretakers of the earth. As part of this we will attempt to rejuvenate our class garden and add a worm farm to it. We are after donations of planters and pots at first and, later in the term, 1.25L bottles to collect 'worm tea'. In the second part of the term we will investigate different ways Catholics pray to develop an understanding that praying helps believers to follow the message of Jesus. We will be involved in a range of prayer experiences including through art, music and meditation. We will also participate in a class mass with our Year 5 buddies in week 8 which everyone is invited to attend.

English

English units follow a context-text approach that embraces the connections between reading, writing, viewing, speaking and listening and encourages authentic learning activities and assessment.

This term we will focus on recognising and generating rhyme, letter patterns and sounds through a variety of texts, including: *The Magic Hat*, *Giraffe's Can't Dance*, *Pig the Pug*, *Oi Frog*, *Oi Dog* and *Rodney Loses It*.

When writing we will focus on starting a sentence with a capital letter, ending with a full stop, using spaces between words and including conjunctions. Linked very closely to our writing, students will learn the correct formations of letters and how we write them using the head, body, tail approach.



body letters



head and body letters



body and tail letters



Mathematics

In Mathematics students will continue to develop their understanding of numbers by investigating numbers to 20 and beyond. Activities and games will focus on developing counting and ordering skills as well as matching the numerals to pictures to understand the value of teen numbers.

Students will connect events and the days of the week. They will learn to explain the order and duration of events as well as use appropriate language to describe location through position and movement.

Students will experience practical situations to model addition and sharing

Science and Design Technology

This term we are focussing on earth and space sciences. We will explore changes in the environment around us, including changes that impact us. Each morning the VIP will be asked to change our Weather Calendar, which also includes the days and months of the year.

Active Learning

In Term 3 we will be participating in our Active Learning a little differently than in the previous two terms. Active Learning is very popular with the kids and it gives them an opportunity to connect with the curriculum in real life, play based situations. It is in these learning activities and the conversations that they are having that allow them to make deep connections to the curriculum. This term we will be combining all early years classes (Prep, Year 1 and Year 2) in the same Active Learning activities. We will schedule our Active Learning at the same time. Each classroom will have six learning activities that are related to the curriculum of all three grades. For the first few weeks students will engage in all activities available in each classroom, they will then be able to choose which activity and which room they want to go to in the remaining active learning times for Term 3. This gives students the opportunity to interact with others of a variety of ages and differing opinions, ideas and experiences. This will provide some really rich learning experiences for everyone.

Station	Subject	Concept	What students do
Supermarket	Maths	Number, addition and sharing	Customer, shop assistant, grocery items set up with a shop front, cash register, money, price tags, shopping list, carry baskets, shopping trolley
City	Design Technology and Maths	Designing and creating	Students investigate and design a range of different city/town environments using lego, duplo and mega bloks
Garden Centre	Science	Needs of plants and animals	Creating and maintaining a garden, worm farm
Weather Station	Science	Identifying the daily and seasonal changes that affect everyday life	Weather chart, clip boards, Scientist dress up, magnifying glass, thermometer, rain gauge, weather reports
Museum	History	Past and Present/ Continuity and	Understanding how the past is different from the present,

		Change	dress ups and accessories from the past
Writing Office	English	Letter-sound knowledge, sight word recognition, reading and writing strategies	Using fun writing utensils (pens, textas, stamps, stickers, etc) to write notes, letters and stories on a variety of writing resources
Creation Station	Religion and The Arts	Imagination	Students draw, paint or use craft to design and create

Physical Education - Anthony Ebbage

- participating in games that require students to be aware of personal safety and game boundaries
- describing their feelings after participating in different physical activities
- introduction to fundamental Athletic techniques in readiness for the Athletics Carnival

PMP - Perceptual Motor Program

We will also be participating in PMP (perceptual motor program) as an early years team. This will happen once a week and the students will be broken up into three mixed aged groups. They will rotate through three activities designed to help with motor skills. One will be the actual PMP rotations that will occur in the MPC and they focus on gross motor skills such as balancing and climbing, using the major muscles. The second will be fine motor skills in the year 1 classroom this will be to develop fine motor such as cutting and pencil grip. The last activity is Yoga in the prep room. These will go for 20 minutes each.

LOTE - Melissa Kurosawa

Students participate in guided group activities such as games, songs and simple tasks, using movement, gestures and pictures to support understanding and to convey meaning. In this unit students will reflect on similarities and differences in verbal and non-verbal ways of greeting, introducing and describing themselves in English and Japanese.

Students will:

- Use language to introduce themselves and identify others
- Interact with the teacher and other students to identify body parts, sing songs and play games involving moving the body
- Present a children's song with actions and movement in Japanese and English

Homework

Students have been given a new sight word book. They are to return this book every Friday along with their library book. They will be tested twice before being given a new set. If your child reads the word correctly, the word will be highlighted. When the word has been read correctly for the second time, the word will be initialled. Your child will then progress to the next level of sight words.

Students will continue to receive a reader each day from Monday - Thursday. Please initial and mark that your child has read the book. It will ensure that the book is replaced with a new one. Reading assessments will be carried out as often as I possibly can. The reading assessment determines the reading level your child is currently at. Your child may stay on the same level for a while and at other times they may possibly jump a few levels.

Readers are to be **returned** to school on **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.**

Morning Routine

A reminder that the classroom door will be opened by myself or another teacher at 8:15am every morning. I would expect by Term 3 that all students should be unpacking their own bags. Each student may do this at their own pace, however it is important to develop independence. If your child has not unpacked their bag by the time morning assembly bell goes, please leave their bag. I will allocate time for them to unpack upon return to the classroom.

Weekly Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Japanese	Reader	Drama	Reader	Library Borrowing / Reading Eggs
		Art		Reader
		Physical Education		Reader

Ice Blocks

Students may still bring in money for ice blocks on Thursday. I suggest a small zip purse/wallet for the coins. This can be kept in the front pocket of their school bag. I no longer collect money from the children, this reinforces their independence and confidence.

Upcoming important dates:

- **Tuesday 14th August - Athletics Carnival**
- **Wednesday 15th August - EKKA Holiday**
- **Tuesday 21st August - Book Week Parade**
- **Friday 24th August - Early Years Excursion Lego, Library & Museum**
- **Friday 31st August - 2pm Prep Prayer Assembly (Father's Day)**
- **Tuesday 11th September - Celebration of Learning Student Interviews**
- **Saturday 15th September - Our Lady of Sorrows Parish Mass**

My best form of contact is by email rstigter@bne.catholic.edu.au. As my days are rather busy, I endeavour to return all received emails by the evening.

Thank you for your support as we continue our partnerships to give each student the best education opportunities possible.

Regards,

Rachel Stigter
Classroom Teacher

Brett Kitchener
Principal