

Prep Term Letter, Term 1, 2018

Dear Prep Families,

Welcome to Term 1 of Prep at Our Lady of Dolours.

Term 1 Units of Work

Religious Education and Health Education

In Religious Education, students will listen to biblical stories aimed at developing an understanding of the 'Golden Commandment': treat others how you want to be treated. Students will unpack The Good Samaritan and Ten Lepers gospel stories and use the messages of positive choices and relationships to create a class covenant. Our learning is integrated with Health Education as students learn safe and peaceful ways to interact with others and their environment.

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 Prep will be sharing and discussing their favourite stories, events and characters by making links to their own lives. Students are being asked to bring in their favourite book to share with the class. Please ensure your book is labelled so it can be returned at the end of term. Students will have opportunities to learn the sounds that letters make and develop fine motor skills.

Mathematics

In Mathematics students will investigate numbers to 10 by modelling them, describing them (more and less) and ordering them. We will begin to learn counting strategies and link this to addition and subtraction. There will be a particular focus on developing and using mathematical language to explain our ideas and concepts.

Science

This term's big focus theme is around what living things need. We will be exploring the needs of humans, familiar animals and plants through a range of hands-on experiences including the making of an edible garden. Students will have opportunities to find similarities and differences between the needs of various living things.

HASS (Humanities and Social Sciences – History and Geography)

Students will explore the concept of belonging as they investigate the important people and places in their lives. They will identify and describe who is in their family, where they were born and how they are related to each other as well as the features and importance of the places they belong.

Technology

The Technology curriculum is divided into two subject areas: Digital Technology and Design and Technology. Students will work with Mr Terry Madden in Term 2 on Digit Technology. In term 1 Design and Technology will be incorporated into the Science curriculum as students create a 'house' or environment for a chosen living organism.

Active Learning

As a way to create authentic contexts for learning, various stations have been set up around the classroom with the aim of providing students with real-life, hands-on active learning experiences. Each station aligns with a particular subject area. During active learning sessions there are three teachers in the classroom whose role is to guide and encourage student to explain what they are learning/doing, how and why they are doing it and what they might investigate next. The stations for Term 1 are:

Station	Subject	Concept	What students do
My Family	HASS	People and places that are important to me	Use felt boards and iPads to illustrate and explain the people and places that are important to them
Home Corner	Science HASS	Needs of humans Important places	Role play
Garden Centre	Science	Needs of plants	Creating and maintaining a garden
Pet Shop	Science	Needs of animals	Create homes/environments for various animals (toys) using craft, blocks, nature items.
Number Bank	Maths	Numbers to 10 and beyond	Counting items, using number stamps, tracing, dominos, puzzles, matching activities, etc.
Book Nook	English	My favourite books and characters (craft)	Using craft, drawing, and painting items to illustrate their favourite books, characters or events.
Writing Office	English	Letter-sound knowledge and fine motor skills	Using fun writing utensils (pens, textas, stamps, stickers, etc) to write notes and letters on cool paper and in books.

Physical Education

- performing locomotor skills in any direction from one point to another
- sending, controlling and receiving objects at different levels and in different ways
- creating movement sequences without equipment
- responding with movement to rhythm, beat, music and words

The Arts – Drama

Though the use of nursery rhymes and fairy tales:

- Students will become aware of role and situation as they listen and respond as fictional characters.
- Students will explore voice and movement to create a role

The Arts – Visual Art

This term in Prep students will begin with some colour theory lessons, exploring the rainbow. We will then draw on art from Japan. Later in the term we will explore how the artworks of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples represent particular ideas and stories. Throughout the term students will make visual artworks, explore meaning, forms and styles through these social and cultural contexts.

LOTE

Students begin to engage with the Japanese language and culture. They explore the similarities and differences in greeting others in a variety of scenarios such as greetings in class and greeting friends and teachers.

Students:

- Develop an awareness of Japan and Japanese people
- Explore artefacts that originate from Japan
- Use simple greetings and participate in Japanese classroom routines
- Interact with others to notice similarities and differences in ways of greeting others.

You Can Do It

Last year, Our Lady of Dolours introduced the You Can Do It program where students are involved in activities that aim to help students develop positive attitudes that will help them be successful now and in the future. These 'keys' to success are; organisation, persistence, getting along, resilience and confidence. In Term 1, Prep will focus on developing an understanding of 'success' as the overarching concept and the first 'key', organisation.

Homework

Students will be involved in our Chatting Children program, which will be explained during the parent information evening. There is no Show and Tell for Term 1. Please encourage your child to keep all toys, trinkets, etc. at home to avoid them getting lost or damaged. More detailed information about these will be given at the parent information evening.

Other Relevant Information

Schedules have been sent home to assist you in knowing what is happening on various days. Please let me know if you need a replacement. You may like to place this on the fridge, on your child's door or even in their bag. We hope that this will enable the children to develop some independence and ownership.

Upcoming important dates:

- Opening school mass - 9th February at 5pm
- Class covenant presentation - 2nd March at 2pm
- Water Play Day - 6th March
- Ash Wednesday Liturgy 14th February

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

Regards,

Elizabeth Clarke
Classroom Teacher

Brett Kitchener
Principal