

Prep Term Letter, Term 2, 2018

Dear Prep Families,

Welcome to Term 2 of Prep at Our Lady of Dolours. This term promises a big one of 11 weeks with many exciting units and activities being organised. As it is such a long term, I have arranged for multiple topics to be covered in each subject area. This way units are short and sharp and students will stay engaged throughout the term.

Term 1 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, with the help of *The Cat in the Hat* by Dr Seuss, other Dr Seuss books and also books by Andy Griffiths Prep will truly become readers and writers as we begin to explore strategies to help us read and write such as *Stretchy Snake Sounding Out*. Please visit the class blog for posters of the different strategies. We will use the books to provide a context for the learning of reading and writing strategies including recognising sight words and also reviewing phonics (the sounds letters make). Students will also learn to retell stories by identifying the main events as well as participating in experiences and activities about these events with a focus on using their imagination.

Mathematics

In Mathematics students will continue to develop their understanding of numbers by investigating numbers to 20. 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 have opportunities to investigate the features of familiar 2D shapes and 3D objects and will begin to learn their names. We will also investigate patterns with objects, shapes and colours.

Science and Design Technology

With the focus text of *The Cat in The Hat* by Dr Seuss, students have considered the things that cats love doing. Namely, pushing things off tables and pulling things with their claws. So we have decided to become cat toy designers. Through a range of fun experiments and experiences, we will investigate push and pull forces, then use this

knowledge to plan, design, make and reflect on a cat toy. We have also developed a zoo area where students are encouraged to continue their learning from Term 1 about the features and needs of living things, particularly wild cats. Early this term we will be having an excursion to Trevena Glen Farm in Samford to consolidate our learning from Term 1 about the needs of living things.

The Arts – Media

This term, students will have opportunities to use iPads to record their ideas about and responses to different events in *The Cat in The Hat*. We will use the 'Book Creator' application to create media artworks involving drawing images, recording their voices and maybe even adding text to different 'I wonder' questions that the class generates from events in the story. For example, I wonder what might come through the door?

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. The stations for Term 2 are:

Station	Subject	Concept	What students do
O.L.D Zoo	English and Science	Exploring different cats	Read information books about cats, write cat facts, create cat masks, create enclosures for cats, Missing Posters for escaped zoo animals
Toy Shop	Science, Design Technology and Maths	Push and Pull forces Selling items in a shop Designing and creating	Students investigate a range of cat toys, plan and make their own cat toy, sell cat toys to customers
Garden Centre	Science	Needs of plants and animals	Creating and maintaining a garden, worm farm
Numbers Bank	Maths	Numbers to 20 and beyond	Counting items, making patterns, classifying objects, making 2D shapes and 3D objects with craft
Imagination Station	Media and English	Using iPads to create media art	Respond to 'I wonder' questions through the creation of artwork using the 'Book Creator' application on iPads
Writing Office	English	Letter-sound knowledge, reading and writing strategies	Using fun writing utensils (pens, textas, stamps, stickers, etc) to write notes and letters on cool paper, in books and on windows!
Creation Station	Religion	Creation	Students draw, paint or use craft to illustrate a piece of creation that God made.

Digital Technology – Terry Madden

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.

Prep children will learn to use our computer network. They will participate in hands-on activities that will help them develop basic computer skills. The students will discover that robots work because humans give instructions to tell them what to do. They will program our Bee-Bots to move in specific patterns. While having fun, the students will design solutions to simple problems using a sequence of steps and decisions.

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

The Arts – Music – Kirstie Buckley

This term in Prep the students will explore the rhythm and beat in music they listen to and perform. We will learn how to communicate our musical ideas to others and our audience through dynamics and experimenting with musical notation.

The Arts - Dance

This term we have guest dance teachers from Dance Fever coming in to teach all classes a variety of dances and some elements of dance. There may be a showcase performance towards the end of term so keep an eye out for more information about this.

LOTE – Elena Stone

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

Last term students were given a 'Sounds and Sight Words' book. Please continue to revise new and old letter sounds. After learning the single letter sounds, students will be given sight words and new phonemes where two letters make one sound e.g. oy. Students are invited to return their books on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays after they have ten ticks for each new sound or sight word. They will be tested before being given a new set.

Students will continue to receive a Chatting Children pack once per week. Chatting Children will end when students begin taking home readers. Students are tested and observed regularly for reading readiness. This term we are trying to streamline the

process involved with changing the Chatting Children packs so we ask for ALL students to return their Chatting Children packs on **THURSDAYS** please.

Morning Routine

A reminder that the classroom door will be opened by myself or another teacher at 8:15am every morning. Students are doing an amazing job unpacking independently so please refrain from coming in to unpack for your child before the classroom is opened.

Upcoming important dates:

- Friday 4th May 9am – Cross Country Races for junior students Fenwick Park
- Tuesday 8th May – Prep and Year 1 Excursion to Farm
- Friday 11th May – Mother's Day Stall 8am; Mother's Day Assembly 2pm
- Friday 18th May – Lunch Day
- 21-25th May – Under 8s Week (keep an eye out for an email about special events this week)
- Friday 1st June – Mrs Clarke's last day ☹️
- Friday 8th June 9am – Prep and Year 5 class mass – all welcome
- Friday 22nd June – Lunch Day
- Saturday 23rd June – Children's Mass 4:30pm
- Monday 25th June – Japanese Cultural Day at OLD
- Thursday 28th June – Reports available online, Student Portfolios go home to families (please return these to school at the beginning of Term 3)
- Friday 29th June – Last day of term

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

Regards,

Elizabeth Clarke
Classroom Teacher

Brett Kitchener
Principal