

## **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**

This term we will introduce students to life in the first century in Palestine. They will discover that Jesus was a Jew and lived with a Jewish family and that Mary was his mother. We will learn about the birth of Jesus from Luke's Gospel and His resurrection from Mark's. Students will participate in prayer and understand that Jesus taught us to pray. Students will 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 Digital 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 will be set up around the classroom with the aim of providing students with real-life, hands-on active learning experiences. Each station will align with a particular subject area. During active learning sessions there are two or three teachers in the classroom whose role is to guide and encourage students 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<br>HASS | Needs of humans<br>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**

Preps will practise fundamental movement skills and movement sequences using different body parts as well as participate in games with and without equipment.

## **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 – Music**

In music, through songs and games, we are discerning between our speaking voices and singing voices. We will start to develop our memory and musicianship skills through echoing rhythmic patterns and creating our own rhythmic and melodic phrases using our voices and percussion instruments. Students will listen to and respond to a variety of music and will discern reasons for why people create music.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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:

- Introduction of Buddies 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 8:30am
- Class covenant presentation – 1<sup>st</sup> March at 2pm
- Whole School Mass – 1<sup>st</sup> March at 5pm
- Water Play Day - 4<sup>th</sup> March

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

Regards,

Rachel Stigter

Brett Kitchener

Classroom Teacher

Principal