



Dear Parents and Carers,

We thank you so much for your support by attending the information evening. We appreciate you taking the time out of your busy schedules to spend an hour finding out how you can help your child's first year at school. Here are some helpful websites that we talked about at the meeting:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/documents/school/principals/community/201mathsliteracy3.pdf>

**For those who couldn't make it to the information evening here is some of the information covered:**

- Everyone will be seeing the navy blue take home reader bags come home this week. We will be using them EVERY DAY at school so please return them with the yellow reader book and word cards inside. Students will have new books every week which they will be practising both at school and home.
- The YELLOW library bags are for students to borrow books from the library. Your classroom teacher will give the students an opportunity to visit the school library on a weekly or fortnightly visit. This gives the students a chance to take home a book of choice and interest. This is exciting; however, books will not be allowed to be taken home without these bags. Although the plastic does not seem very environmentally friendly, it assists with minimising damage to books due to food and drink spills in school bags. These bags then follow students from one year to the next, and with care will last them the seven years of primary schooling.
- We have been encouraging the preps to develop their independence and sense of responsibility. Small things such as carrying, packing, unpacking and zipping up their bags at every opportunity will help them develop these skills. Please encourage your child to be aware of their own belongings.
- Classrooms are open from 8:30 and this is an appropriate time to be at school. Students are welcome to spend time on the Prep playground, however, no teachers are on yard duty until 8:30am, so please ensure they are supervised until this time.
- We want to stress the importance of your child being comfortable and confident with their book. We are looking for them to tell a story and understand the context of the book from the pictures. So please don't cover the pictures up as your child will rely on them to be successful. We will be asking your child to point to each word and to look at the first sounds of words so they learn to predict the text. If they do get stuck, and they will, we would ask you to point to the word and say it. Then ask your child to repeat it and have another go.

- The process of nightly reading is meant to be an enjoyable one for both you and your child. If they bring a book home more than once, this is ok. Repetition and confidence in reading is what we are striving for in the early weeks.
- We will hear your child on a regular fortnightly basis. This is when we will make achievable reading goals for your child which they should be able to articulate to you. We will endeavour to record these goals in their reading diary. It is important that the reading diary gets filled in on a regular basis and is brought back to school so we can record the progress your child is making.
- Children will be learning a program called Letters and Sounds. This program focuses on teaching the common sounds for letters and learning to blend them to help with reading. We will also be segmenting words, that is breaking words up into their sounds, to help with the spelling of words.

**Some dates to remember:**

<p><b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> of March for PC, PL, PCG, PS</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday 21st March for PW, PPJ</b></p>	<p>We are having a Teddy Bear's Picnic - Children can bring their favourite teddy to school.</p>
<p><b>Thursday 15th of March</b></p>	<p>Community Maths and Literacy Information Evening. P-2 session will run from 6-7pm in the Grade 5/6 gallery.</p>
<p><b>Friday 16th of March</b></p>	<p>Say No to Bullying Day. Children can wear red to school.</p>
<p><b>Friday 23rd March</b></p>	<p>PUPIL FREE DAY Wellbeing Focused Professional Learning for teachers.</p>
<p><b>Thursday 29th March</b></p>	<p>Easter Hat Parade - 8.50 am Last Day of Term 1 <b><u>2.30pm Dismissal for children</u></b></p>

## **School Uniform**

It is important that children wear correct school uniform. This includes **not wearing jewellery** to school, unless it is stud/sleeper earrings.

Please ensure that shoulder length (or longer) **hair is tied up**. This is for safety as well as management of nits. A reminder that decorative headbands are not school uniform and our colours are light or dark blue.

**Thank you for your support.**

Remember you can make an appointment to talk with us anytime.

The Prep Team

Bec Conroy, Bec Pike, Bethan White, Jonelle Seidel-Davies, Lilli Campbell,

Kelly Connell and Alli Grant.