

GRADE PREP NEWSLETTER

~ Term 1, 2024 ~

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Prep for 2024. We are very excited to begin the year and be a part of your child's learning journey. Please do not hesitate to ask us any questions, you can email your child's teacher through Compass.

KEY DATES:

Wednesday 31/1, 7/2, 14/2 and 21/2 Prep Assessment* (Please check your individual time)

Tuesday 6/12 Safer Internet Day

Monday 19/2 and Tuesday 20/2 Parent-Teacher Conferences

Monday 4/3 to Friday 8/3 Buddies Week (wear purple on Monday 4/3)

Monday 11/3 Labour Day Public Holiday

Friday 22/3 National Ride Safely to School Day

Thursday 28/3 Term 1 ends (1:40pm dismissal)

***Wednesday testing time** - Please ensure you know your child's date and time for their one hour testing time slot. This testing time slot will also include your meet and greet with the class teacher. Prep students will not be required to come to school for each Wednesday in the first four weeks of school, apart from their one hour testing time.

****Keep up to date with key dates by looking at the front page of the fortnightly school newsletter and referring to our school website's calendar.**

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Students are required to be in full school uniform. We are a sun smart school. Please ensure your child has a **navy blue bucket or broad brim hat**. It is also important that **ALL CLOTHING IS LABELLED** with your child's name. **NO HAT NO PLAY** in Term 1 and 4.

FRUIT BREAKS

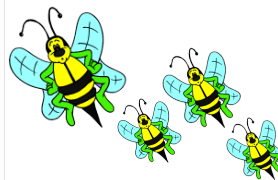
We have fruit breaks in the classroom at 12:00pm daily. It allows children to have a much needed healthy energy boost during their day. Please pack a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable for their lunch box each day.

SPECIALIST TEACHERS

Students attend the following specialists each week - Performing Arts, Physical Education, AUSLAN and Art. On the day that your child has PE, please ensure they wear runners.

ABSENCES - EVERY DAY COUNTS!

If your child is sick or unforeseen circumstances prevent them from coming to school, please record the absence on Compass or phone the school office in the morning, or provide a written note to the teacher on their return to school, to explain the absence.



ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

Assemblies will be held in the Courtyard (unless otherwise advised) at approx. 2:00pm on the following Fridays (apart from the last assembly for the term, which will start at 1:10pm on Thursday 28th March).

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9
2/2	9/2	16/2	23/2	1/3	8/3	15/3	22/3	28/3
No assembly	P-2	3-6	P-2	3-6	P-2	3-6	P-2	P-6 (1:10pm start)

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Respectful Relationships is an initiative to support schools and early childhood education settings promote and model respect and equality. It also supports educators to teach our children how to build healthy relationships, resilience and confidence.

There are 8 topics addressed every year from P-6. This term, the Grade Prep students will engage in lessons from the underlined topic/s below:

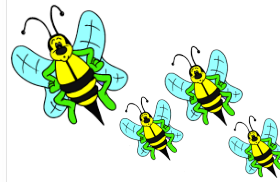
1. Emotional Literacy
2. Personal Strengths
3. Positive Coping
4. Problem-Solving
5. Stress Management
6. Help-seeking
7. Gender and Identity
8. Positive gender relations

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

The Resilience Project is a means of promoting positive mental health through practising gratitude, empathy, resilience and emotional literacy. P-6 classes engage in weekly lessons, which involve students completing an associated journal activity. The Resilience Project lessons align with the Victorian Curriculum and address aspects of: Personal and Social Capabilities and Health and Physical Education learning areas. If you'd like to see how to support this program at home, visit: <https://theresilienceproject.com.au/at-home/>.

INQUIRY in Term 1: My Happy Start to School

In Prep, students participate in sessions called Investigations. These are play based learning sessions that encourage children's natural desire to engage in experiences based on their interests, strengths and developing skills. When children initiate play, they are more motivated to learn and develop positive attitudes towards learning and then produce more valuable pieces of work. This term we will be focusing on introducing students to school life at Bellbridge.



ENGLISH in Term 1:

Our focus for Term 1 reading is learning to love reading, letter knowledge and concepts of print. In writing, we will be focusing on fine motor skills, letter sounds and word building. In both reading and writing, we will be incorporating our phonics program Little Learners Love Literacy. In speaking and listening, we will be focusing on oral language skills.

MATHEMATICS in Term 1:

Our focus in mathematics is position and location, shape, number and patterns/sorting.

We look forward to enjoying your child's first year of school together.

Regards,

Tayla Muscat, Estelle Nessim and Maddy Spry

Grade Prep Teachers