

# PREP AREA NEWSLETTER



TERM 1 2023  
COBURG WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Telephone 9386 1286 [www.cobw.vic.edu.au](http://www.cobw.vic.edu.au)



Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Congratulations to all on a smooth and successful start to the Foundation year for our wonderful 2023 Preps! Thank you for supporting us to ensure an easy transition from kindergarten to school. We enjoyed meeting and getting to know everyone during the interviews and appreciate you making the time to have a chat and help us find out a bit more about your family.

As you know, a positive home – school partnership is an important factor in your child's education. Asking what they liked about school that day or what they did at play time can be simple ways of letting your child know you are interested and involved in what's happening at school. Don't be alarmed if your questions are met with a shrug or an 'I don't know' most of the time, your interest will still be noted. Try again at bed time and you might get a more detailed response!

## PREP TEACHERS

**Sarah Lontos** (Prep Team Leader Prep S – Room 25)

**Sioborne Youla** (PLC Leader Prep Y – Room 27)

**Nicole Saville** (Transition Coordinator Prep L – Room 28, Monday and Tuesday)

**Amy Lebon** (Transition Coordinator Prep L - Room 28, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)

## DATES TO NOTE

- ☐ **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February** - Data Analysis Day for Prep Team (children are not required at school) last Wednesday off for Preps.
- ☐ **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February** - Chill and Grill
- ☐ **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March** - Labour Day holiday (no school)
- ☐ **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March** - Prep students first Wednesday at school
- ☐ **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April** – Last day of term 1.

## LITERACY & NUMERACY ONLINE TESTING

Your child has completed both an English and Numeracy online interview assessment. The data from these assessments will be used to inform teachers' planning for literacy and numeracy. It enables teachers to have a clear understanding of each individual student and their teaching and learning needs in these areas.

## CONTACTING CLASS TEACHERS

Teaching and learning commences at 9am each day (with students welcome in the classroom from 8.50am). Therefore, it is extremely difficult for teachers to have discussions with parents at this time. The Prep team are in their classrooms/office from 8.45am, so if the subject is pressing please come and speak to us then. Alternatively, you can email us through the school email address ([coburg.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:coburg.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au)) or message us directly on SeeSaw. As you can appreciate, our teaching time is very important so we will not be in a position to respond to emails straight away. We will endeavour to get back to you between the hours of 8am-4pm. If there is a need, you can contact the office on 93861286 and a message will be passed on to us.

If you require a meeting, this will need to be negotiated with individual teachers.

## REMINDERS

**Drop offs / pickups:** Parents are required to leave their children at the classroom door. We know how hard this can be for you and your children in the beginning. Our experience has shown us that children's

confidence soars when they think that you have faith in their ability to do things. Pick up will be from their classroom doors at 3:30pm.

**Assembly:** Assembly takes place on Friday afternoons. For now, Preps will not be attending. We will let parents know when they will be.

**Attendance:** Please log onto Compass if your child is absent from school. Parents are responsible for recording absences as well as the reason for an absence. If you have not received your login details or are having difficulties with accessing compass, please contact the office.

**Punctuality:** Children feel comfortable arriving on time in the morning (between 8.50-9.00am). It is important that they have the opportunity to say hello to friends and to line up with the class. Being on time is a good habit to commence school with, from day one. If you are unavoidably late please contact the office. Before and After Care facilities may also be available. Phone 9386 8587.

**Home Reading:** Our take home reading program will begin in week 6. Keep a lookout for your child's PM Reader login information. Information about this will be posted on SeeSaw. We strongly encourage you to read with your child daily and try to make it an enjoyable, positive experience. A yellow book will be sent home in your child's reading folder. This can be used to log your child's reading from home and is separate to their reading program at school.

**Classroom helpers:** This program will begin in the coming weeks. We will place a sign up sheet outside each classroom listing ways you can help out at school. We love having parent helpers in the Prep area and very much appreciate your support. You can also contact us via SeeSaw to express your interest if needed.

**Classroom supplies:** It would be appreciated if each family could send along a box of tissues to share with the class – we tend to go through them quite quickly!

**Label, label, label:** Please ensure that all belongings are clearly labelled with your child's full name.

**Sun smart:** Don't forget to pack a hat (and apply/send sunscreen) each day. We have a 'No hat, sit in the shade' policy in Terms 1 and 4, so if your child forgets their hat they are required to sit in a shaded area during break times.

**Art smocks:** If you haven't already done so, please send a clearly named Art Smock to school.

## FOOD AT SCHOOL

We have a number of children with food allergies and anaphylaxis in the Prep area. For this reason we do not allow children to share food. We appreciate your understanding and we thank you for helping us to provide students with a safe school environment.

**Birthday celebrations:** At Coburg West PS we ask that families do not bring in cupcakes/lolly bags to give out on birthdays. Children's birthdays will be celebrated with their classmates through singing and a birthday sticker.

**Brain food:** (fruit or vegetable only): Please send a small, manageable amount of 'brain food' that can be eaten in a short period of time (5-10 minutes).

## CANTEEN

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Canteen menus can be found on our school website. Lunch orders are available on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and are ordered the day prior using the Qkr app. Your child can also purchase a number of snack foods at the canteen during lunch time. Please remember to pack a snack and brain food for your child as lunch orders do not arrive until 1.30pm.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING:

### ENGLISH

#### Writing

The Preps have been involved in Language Experience activities during the writing block. The focus is on discussing an experience the students have had. The teacher then assists them to develop a story they can then re-read. This supports the development of pre and early reading – 'What I say can be written and what I write can be read'. Our focus for handwriting this term will be on the letters; s, t, a, p, i, m, f, b, c, h, o, r, j. We will concentrate on correct pencil grip, formation, starting points, size and posture while writing. This term we will focus on the following high frequency words; and, I, a, the, to, my, was, it, went. We will be using the high frequency words in both our reading and writing.

#### Reading

We will focus on reading a variety of texts, reading high frequency words and the letter / sound relationship of s, t, a, p, i, m, f, b, c, h, o, r, j. Exploring rhyming words through Nursery Rhymes is another focus for us. Concepts about print will be the focus of our whole class sessions and teaching groups. This will include reading left to right, identifying capital letters and full stops. There will also be an emphasis on using pictures to help support the reading of a text to gain meaning.

#### Oral Language

Our formal Oral Language program will begin in the coming weeks. This program will focus on vocabulary, concepts, grammar, question asking & answering, auditory memory and phonological awareness (syllables, rhyme, phonemes). We will require at least three parent helpers per grade for this program to run successfully. Please sign up on the parent help sheet when it is available if you are able to help out!

### MATHEMATICS

During Term 1 we will be providing opportunities for your child to participate in hands-on activities aimed at giving meaning to numbers. Our focus is on building a solid understanding of numeration through visualising numbers, finding patterns, counting, comparing, sequencing, and linking objects to the number names and symbols that represent them. We will also begin to develop the ability to subitise, or recognise the number of objects in a small group by sight, without counting. Throughout the term, we will explore patterns using a variety of materials. We will learn about time in relation to daily events such as breakfast, lunch and dinner. We will also be exploring common 2D shapes such as squares, triangles and circles. You can support your child at home by encouraging them to count small collections of objects and perhaps talk about how many you would have if you had one more or one less. You could also compare the size of 2 or 3 different collections. Find different patterns at home and talk about what makes them a pattern or what would come next in the pattern. Search for shapes in the environment and talk about their similarities and differences (straight edges, number of corners, curved shapes).

### INQUIRY

Our Inquiry unit for Term 1 is 'All about me'. Investigating and learning about ourselves, our families and our school will be our main focus

during this unit. The students will learn about their emotions and how to express them, aspects of friendship and our rights and responsibilities, particularly at school.

### LIBRARY

Students visit the library for one session per week. During this session they will learn about library procedures, enjoy some quiet 'free' reading time, listen to books being read and borrow a book to share with you at home. Library books are on loan for one week and must be borrowed and returned in a Library bag. You can use a bag brought from home or the department supplied 'starting school bag' (the red bag handed out at the start of this year).

### VALUES

Our school values are **We are Safe, We are Respectful, We Care about Each Other and We are Learners**. We will be introducing and explaining these core values in class and they will be reinforced in the playground and during school assemblies.

### SPORT

Prep students participate in a weekly Sport/PE session. It is a good idea to send your child to school in runners or comfortable footwear on Sport days.

### SEESAW

Seesaw is an app we are using to share snippets of your child's learning with you. Initially teachers will be taking the photos/videos and uploading them but we see it as a very independent task for our Preps in the not too distant future. We are very excited about the use of this app and hope that all families sign up to view their child's progress at school. We will also use this app, from time to time, to send reminders and messages. You should have received your family's QR code at your initial interview. Please let us know if you require another copy of this code.

### PLAY DATES

To support your child in increasing their circle of friends we encourage you to introduce yourself to other parents and organise a play date at a local park, the library or each other's homes. Ask your child who they played with and who they worked closely with that day. This social interaction is incredibly important for their development and understanding of social situations.

*Don't forget to regularly check the school website for general information, past and present newsletters and updates.*

*We will alert parents as to when newsletters are online through SeeSaw. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child at school please make an appointment with the teacher.*

Thank you for your ongoing support,  
The Prep Team