

PREP AREA NEWSLETTER



TERM 2 2021
COBURG WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL
Telephone 9386 1286 www.cobw.vic.edu.au



Dear Parents / Caregivers,

What a start to Term 2 we have had! We are well and truly in the swing of things now and there has been some fantastic learning happening in classrooms.

Term 2 is a busy term. Students begin to consolidate their learning now that routines are established and everyone has settled into school. Teachers are in the process of compiling information for student reports, which will be given out prior to parent/teacher interviews in Week 10.

A big thank you to the parents who have shown interest in the parent support program. Your assistance is greatly appreciated by both the teachers and the students. Children are showing greater independence in completing their morning jobs and a vast majority are happy and ready to learn at the start of every school day. Thank you to all who have contributed to fostering their child's positive outlook towards school and their learning.

It is lovely to see many children beginning to play together in the yard. As children become more aware of others around them, they begin to develop social skills and learn about how to get along with others. We are referring to our whole school values to reinforce positive relationships and play in the yard. These school values are: We care above each other, We are safe, We are respectful, We are learners.

PREP TEACHERS

Rebecca Corn (Prep co-ordinator - Prep L – Room 28, Thursday and Friday)

Amy Lebon (Prep co-ordinator – Prep L - Room 28, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)

Tye Pennington (Prep P – Room 25)

Sioborne Youla (Prep Y – Room 27)

DATES TO NOTE

Wednesday 19th May – National Simultaneous Story Reading

Friday 28th May – School Disco P-2 6-7pm

Thursday 27th May – Mr. Huff Drama Performance P-2

Monday 24th May- Friday 28th May– Education Week (Open session for parents TBC)

Friday 4th June – Essendon Traffic School

Monday 14th June – Queen's Birthday – No School

Week of Monday 21st June – Semester 1 Reports home

Wednesday 23rd June – Parent Teacher Interviews 1-7pm (School from 9-11.30am on this day)

Friday 25th June – End Term 2 (2.30 finish)

LITERACY:

Writing

The Preps will continue to be involved in Language Experience activities during the writing block this term. Children will be encouraged to discuss an experience they have had and then record it in sentences to develop a story they can then reread. This supports the development of pre-reading and early reading. It has been wonderful to see the children's confidence with writing continue to grow.

Prep students will be focussing on correctly forming the following letters this term: j, s, h, d, n, e, g, l, v, w, u, c, x, y, k, q, z, t

They will also be focussing on learning to write the following high frequency words: went, we, me, on, is, in, here, come, can, see, they, then, had, she, he

We will be using the high frequency words in both our reading and writing. Please take as many opportunities as you can to write these words at home. This can be in the form of lists, greeting cards, stories or posters. Make it as fun as you can!

Students will also spend one writing session a week learning about words and their meaning through the Structured Word Inquiry model. Understanding what a base element is, what prefixes and suffixes are and figuring out if a word belongs in a specific word family are at the core of this program. If you have any further questions about this, do not hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher.

Reading

Over the past few weeks the Prep classes have been exploring the reading prompts: 'does it make sense', 'does it look right' and 'does it sound right'.

This has allowed the students to really think about the words they are reading in correspondence to the story and the picture. We are also using the strategies of cross checking the picture with the initial letter of a word, predicting, reading on and re-reading to figure out more difficult words.

All children continue to be engaged in a range of reading activities that help build their understanding and connection of letters and sounds, high frequency words and decoding skills. We will introduce a range of reading problem solving strategies over the remainder of this term. During the term we will also be working on reading comprehension strategies such as retell (the beginning, middle and end of a story), visualisation and making connections. During daily reading sessions teachers model 'reading with fluency' (reading smoothly – the way we talk).

Children are strongly encouraged to read fluently from the moment they start independently reading. Reading with fluency and phrasing (correctly pausing at full stops and commas) greatly assists in children's comprehension of stories. You can help your child practise this at home by encouraging them to reread their home reader, or even just a page, with fluency – not like a robot ☺

Oral Language

Oral Language underpins development in all areas of learning, particularly reading and writing. This semester we will be focussing on a variety of different areas including; syllables, rhyme, auditory memory, phonological awareness, giving and following instructions, prepositions and building our vocabulary.

Tell and show is a major component of our oral language program and all children are encouraged to bring a 'hidden' object every Thursday. Our focus is more on the 'talk' about the object rather than the object itself. Objects such as photos, ticket stubs, books and maps often illicit more discussion than a newly bought toy for example. It might be helpful if you discuss your child's 'show' choice with them and prepare them with answers to 'who', 'what', 'when' 'where' and 'why' questions.

MATHEMATICS

The students are continuing to develop their understanding of numbers to 10 and beyond. We have been comparing numbers, counting and ordering small collections and representing

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numbers in different ways. Recently, we have been investigating the number 'before and after' particular numbers, a concept which is not as easy as it may seem to us! This work lays the foundation for mathematical understanding in later years and hands on activities are vital to allow children to manipulate materials and 'see' what numbers look like.

Children will also be exploring the different ways we can make numbers to ten. This includes the automatic recall of numbers facts, for example: the number 6 is 3 and 3, it is also the number before 7 and the number after 5, it is 4 more than 2, etc. Our current measurement focus is length. We have been using language, such as: more/less, longer/shorter, larger/smaller, taller/shorter and 'the same as' to describe the relative length of objects. We have been using informal units of measurement (string, hands, counters, blocks, etc.) to make these comparisons. Learning in this area has focussed on explicitly teaching effective and ineffective measurement strategies. You could extend your child's thinking at home by practicing measuring the length of objects around your home. Exploring and identifying money and 2D/3D shapes is another focus of ours later this term.

INQUIRY

YOU CAN DO IT!

Through our program 'You Can Do It!' we will be exploring social skills to use at school. 'You Can Do It!' is a school-home-community approach which aims to help young children manage and experience positive social-emotional well-being. Through the use of characters and puppets, the children will explore and practice the 5 Foundation skills that young children need to develop. These are: confidence, persistence, organisation, resilience and getting along. Referring to these terms at home is a great way for students to develop these skills outside of school. You could praise your child when they show these qualities when interacting with siblings, other family and/or friends! Children will also learn strategies to identify and take control of their emotions through our ongoing focus on The Zones of Regulation. This program was introduced to our Prep students through our Inquiry unit in Term 1.

PMP

During Tuesday afternoons this term (and into Term 3), students will be involved in a PMP (Perceptual Motor Program) aimed at developing gross motor skills and coordination. Students work through 5 activities that encourage cooperation, team work and being active. This takes place in the small hall.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

During ICT classes, the children are learning how to use computers with a particular focus on how to log on independently and how to use programs such as Microsoft Word and the many different features this program has to offer. Once these skills are established we will move onto more complex programs such as Microsoft PowerPoint. We are focusing on typing, shape and font manipulation, saving, importing and editing. We encourage children to use these skills at home to increase their knowledge and confidence.

SEESAW

This term we will be focusing on encouraging children to learn how to use aspects of SeeSaw independently. This will include them taking photos of work and videoing other children. Your children LOVE sharing their learning with you and are overjoyed when you send them a 'heart' or comment in return. We try to find time to share these with them but please understand that this is not always possible. If you see something posted to SeeSaw, you could talk to your child about that at home as a prompt to start a conversation about their school day.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child at school, please make sure to contact your class teacher by SeeSaw or by meeting them in person after school. Don't forget to regularly check Compass and SeeSaw for general information, past and present newsletters and updates.

*Kind regards,
Prep/Foundation Teachers*