

GRADE PREP NEWSLETTER
TERM 1

**PUPIL FREE DAY
FRIDAY, MARCH 10**

Welcome to all of our families to Grade Prep at Iramoo in 2017. We are looking forward to sharing a wonderful year together with you and your child and are very happy with how quickly the Prep children are beginning to settle into our school routines. The Prep teachers for 2017 are Ms Kirby Beband, Mr Mark Downie, Mrs Morgan Lewis, Ms Laura Meehan and Ms An Nguyen.

Each term you will receive a Grade Prep newsletter to keep you informed about special events and activities within the Prep area and how you can help your child at home. The whole school newsletter will be sent home on Wednesdays, on a fortnightly basis, with the eldest child in the family. Please read these newsletters carefully as they contain a lot of valuable information.

PREP TIMES

Students will be dismissed at **12.45 p.m.** from their *own classroom door* until **Friday, February 24.**



When the children commence school full time on **Monday, February 27** they will be dismissed at **3.00 p.m.** Children in Grades OMD, OAN, OKB and OLM will be dismissed from the Prep lining up area, which is located near the main entrance to the Prep classrooms. Children in Grade OML will be dismissed from their portable classroom. Please be punctual when dropping children off in the mornings and collecting them at the end of the day.

All Prep children have begun lining up in the morning before school in their grades on the coloured footprints outside the main building. *Children are not to enter the classrooms before 8.50 a.m.* Thank you very much to parents for preparing the children for such a smooth transition with the morning routine.

As of **Monday, March 20** the Prep children will start attending our whole school assemblies, which are held first thing each Monday morning in the courtyard area at the front of the school.

LITERACY AND NUMERACY ASSESSMENT TASKS

As a part of your child's entry into school he/she is required to participate in Literacy and Numeracy assessment tasks so that the teacher can assess skill levels and understandings. In order for these assessments to take place, your child will be required to remain at school until **3.00 p.m. on one afternoon** rather than be dismissed at **12.45 p.m.** All families have received individual information regarding these assessments. If you have any further questions please see your child's teacher.

REGULAR SCHOOL TIMES

- **School begins at 8.50 a.m.**
Students need to *arrive by 8.45 a.m.* each morning to assist in an orderly start to their day.
- **Recess:** 10.50 a.m. to 11.10 a.m.
Children have a short play outside.
- **Lunch eating time:** 12.40 p.m. to 12.50 p.m.
Children eat lunch in their rooms. Prep children are always allowed a longer period to eat, usually 12.30 p.m. to 12.50 p.m.
- **Lunch break:** 12.50 p.m. to 1.30 p.m.
Children have an extended play outside.
- **Dismissal:** 3.00 p.m. **(from Monday, February 27)**

HOME READING

The Prep children commenced take home reading on **Monday, February**

6. We ask you to share and help your child to 'read' their book each day and complete the diary entries. The take home books need to be read and returned in the blue bag every day. Home reading allows students to practise and apply the strategies learnt in class. As well as using the diary as a reading record, there are also many pages within the diary that have useful ways for parents to become actively involved in home reading. To assist your child you can:



- Regularly read picture story books to your child to help him/her develop a positive attitude about reading and a love of books.
- Discuss the book with your child *before it is read*. For example, if the book is about going to the beach, talk about the things you might find or do there. These discussions will help make reading the book a more enjoyable and meaningful experience.
- Help your child to identify frequently used words such as **a**, **I**, and **the**, and find letters of the alphabet within the book. *All children will receive a manilla folder containing an alphabet and word chart. The letters and words that we are studying in class will be highlighted by the teacher each week. This manilla folder is to be kept inside your child's take home reading bag, along with the take home book and reading diary.*
- Make reading a positive experience for both you and your child by finding a quiet place to enjoy the story together, away from any distractions. *Turn the television off whilst you and your child are sharing a book.*

SHOW & TELL

'Show & Tell' is an important part of our Literacy program which helps children develop and enhance their speaking and listening skills. During 'Show & Tell' children are required to share *special news* or *an item of personal interest* with the rest of the class and respond to questions asked by their peers. *All children* are expected to share *every week* on their designated 'Show & Tell' day. You can help your child prepare for 'Show & Tell' each week by talking with him/her about the news or personal item that he/she plans to share. You can also help prepare your child by discussing and brainstorming 'good questions' to ask classmates about their 'Show & Tell' news/item. 'Show & Tell' will commence the week beginning **Monday, February 27**. You will be notified of your child's 'Show & Tell' day in the coming weeks.

NUMERACY

In Term 1 the children will be learning about the numbers from 0 to 10. This will include recognising digits, matching collections of materials with digits, counting forwards & backwards and ordering numbers. We will support the children in developing their understandings by singing number songs and rhymes and using a variety of hands-on materials, such as counters, teddies and blocks.

To assist your child in learning about numbers you can:

- count objects around your house
- identify numbers in your community such as those on letter boxes
- use playing cards to order numbers from smallest to largest and vice versa.

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

In each Prep classroom we promote 'learning through play' and use a wide range of toys and materials to engage children in their learning in 'hands on' and fun ways. Findings from recent educational studies support the idea that play provides an effective learning experience for children. To assist us in helping our Prep students develop and learn through play, we would greatly appreciate the donation of any tea sets, doll clothing or dress ups (no hats), that you no longer require at home. These will be greatly appreciated and used by all of the children. Please give your donations directly to your child's teacher.

TOP 10 NOT NEGOTIABLE SKILLS

Over the course of the year there will be an ongoing emphasis on values education, especially related to the school values of *Respect, Responsibility and Relationships*, the Iramoo 'Top 10 Not Negotiable Social Skills' and the 'You Can Do It' program.

PARENT HELPERS

Throughout the year we will require families to support many of our programs, including excursions and classroom helpers. Only those helpers who hold a 'Working With Children Check' are permitted on excursions. A classroom helpers training program will be run this term. The program will run for three sessions and will take place at school. The dates of the program are February 17, February 24 and March 4. If you are interested in attending this training program please fill in the attached form and return it to school as soon as possible. *We are very keen to have you involved in your child's education.*

THEMES

In Term 1 students will be studying the theme '*All About Me*'. Children will be involved in a range of learning activities where they will explore what makes them special and unique. Children will also explore how families are an important part of their lives.

LIBRARY

Our library is a very valuable resource in our school and we expect all children to borrow a book each fortnight. The children will need to remember to bring along a library bag so that they can borrow. The Prep children will begin to borrow books from the library when they commence full time (the week beginning *Monday February 27*). Children will visit the library every second week. Prep library sessions will be held on every second Tuesday (for children in 0KB, 0LM, 0MD and 0AN) and every second Friday (for children in 0ML).

During the library sessions children are introduced to new books and learn to recognise some popular authors and illustrators. By listening to new stories and borrowing books to take home we aim to foster a love of literature and encourage reading for enjoyment.

UNIFORMS

In this warmer weather children frequently take off their windcheaters and bomber jackets during the day and can sometimes misplace them. Please clearly label all clothing with your child's name so that it can be returned promptly if it is taken off and left somewhere around the room or school grounds.

SUNSMART

During Term 1 and Term 4 every child is required to wear a broad brimmed or legionnaires hat when outside. Children will require a hat every day during this term for all play times and Physical Education sessions. Please also ensure that your child's name is written clearly inside his/her hat.



DRINKS

We encourage children to bring **plain water** in a pop-top drink bottle, which they can leave on their work table and drink throughout the day. Plain water has the added benefit of being a healthy way of hydrating the children and prevents ants in the classroom.



**KIRBY BEBEND, MARK DOWNIE (ASSISTANT CO-ORDINATOR),
MORGAN LEWIS, LAURA MEEHAN (CO-ORDINATOR) & AN NGUYEN
PREP TEACHERS**

If you need to drive to school, get your child into the habit of using the kerbside doors, away from traffic.



SPECIALIST CLASSES

Below is a brief outline of what all Grade Prep students will be learning about this term in our specialist areas.

Visual Arts

Grade Prep students will have an introduction to Art that includes, drawing, cutting and mark making. They will then move onto colour theory activities where they will learn about the primary and secondary colours as well as experiment with different materials like paint and pastels. Students will finish off the term by creating a bright and colourful rainbow collage. The skill focus will be on foundation drawing, painting and cutting as well as shape and mark making.

Performing Arts

During this term students in Grade Prep will participate in musical activities that involve listening, singing, moving, playing and creating music. Through these activities students will develop skills in a range of musical elements, including beat, pitch and dynamics (loud and soft). They will be provided with opportunities to play a range of percussion instruments. Later in the term students will be involved in performing a musical drama of *'The Three Pigs'* and have the opportunity to play both lead and supporting roles. The students will use the interactive whiteboard to participate in activities from the 'Music Room' program. This year's touring performance will take place in Term 1. The performers are a Spanish group and students will prepare for the performance by singing and playing accompaniment to songs that will be included in the show.

Physical Education (P.E.)

Prep students will begin Physical Education in a fun, positive and safe environment where the main motto is *'Give it a go'*. They will be encouraged to follow basic instructions that will consistently be used throughout the year such as stopping and starting, getting together with a partner and working in small groups. Throughout Term 1, Prep students will be introduced to a range of basic movement skills including running, hopping, skipping and jumping. Students will play a variety of basic and modified class games with the focus being on knowing, understanding and following the rules. Throughout the term students will be training for our Iramoo Junior Cross Country where they will be developing their running endurance. Parents are encouraged to help prepare students by supporting training at home. Our Junior Cross Country will be held on our school oval on **Monday, March 27** and students are encouraged to do their best.

****Spectators are welcome to take photographs at our school events but must of course be respectful of their use on social or other media, not posting a photo of any child without permission from the child's parent.**

Information & Communication Technology (I.C.T.)

Term 1 will be an exciting time for Preps in ICT. We will be focusing on activities that will help them on the road to becoming independent and productive users of technology. Our first tasks will be directed towards learning the rules and routines as well as becoming familiar with the hardware. We will then start working on logging into the computers and learning how to manage network accounts and passwords. The main software program we will be using to help with this familiarization is the Kid Pix drawing program. The children will be introduced to the different tools for drawing in Kid Pix before creating some very interesting self-portraits.

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To be returned to school by Friday, February 24, 2017



IRAMOO PRIMARY SCHOOL No. 5152

GRADE PREP PARENT HELPER

CHILD'S NAME: _____ GRADE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME _____ (PLEASE PRINT)

I am interested in helping in the Prep classroom. I can help on:

Please tick the box of your preferred day:

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

Your child's classroom teacher will notify you shortly to inform when this will commence.