

GRADE PREP NEWSLETTER
TERM 1

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, February 26

Thursday, March 8

Monday, March 12

Monday, March 19

Thursday, March 29

Monday, April 16

Prep children commence full time (3.00p.m. finish)

School photos

Labour Day- Public Holiday

Prep children attend first whole school assembly

Last day of Term 1 (2.30 p.m. finish)

First Day of Term 2 (8.50 a.m. start)

Welcome to all of our families to Grade Prep at Iramoo in 2018. 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 2018 are Ms Kirby Beband (0KB), Mrs Tenille Cisternas (0TC), Ms Laura Meehan (0LM), Ms An Nguyen (0AN) and Ms Emma Saunders (0ES). Supporting classroom teachers will be Ms Alisha Jessop in her role as the Grade Prep, 1 & 2 Learning Improvement Co-ordinator.

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 continue to be dismissed at **12.45 p.m.** from their *own classroom door* until **Friday, February 23**. When the children commence school full time on **Monday, February 26** they will be dismissed at **3.00 p.m.** Children in Grades 0ES, 0AN, 0TC and 0LM will be dismissed from the Prep lining up area, which is located near the main entrance to the Prep classrooms. Children in Grade 0KB 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 19** 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 26**)

HOME READING

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

5. 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 your child's 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 26**. 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.

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 9, 16 and 23 from 9 -10am. 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 26**). Children will visit the library every second week. Prep library sessions will be held on every second Tuesday (for children in 0TC, 0LM, 0ES and 0AN) and every second Thursday (for children in 0KB).

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, TENILLE CISTERNAS,
LAURA MEEHAN (TEAM LEADER), AN NGUYEN & EMMA SAUNDERS
PREP TEACHERS**



To be returned to school by Friday, February 23, 2018



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.

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

In Visual Arts this term, the Grade Prep students will be exploring the theme of *'All About Me'*. The Victorian Curriculum stipulates that students make artworks using different materials and techniques that express their ideas, observations and imagination. Students will enhance these skills and create a bright collage rainbow with a focus on both primary and secondary colours. The students will then move onto learning painting skills with a focus on using and combining primary and secondary colours. There will be a strong focus on colours, collage and design for the Prep students this term. Please ensure that your child has an art smock at school to help protect his/her uniform during painting activities.

Performing Arts

During Term 1, 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. As stated in the Victorian Curriculum, the students will be provided with opportunities *to explore ideas for characters and situations through dramatic play*. 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 and use iPads to create their own music.

Physical Education (P.E.)

Prep students will begin Physical Education in a fun, positive and safe environment. As outlined in the Victorian Curriculum, *students will respond to simple directions, including following simple rules and using their own equipment and personal space safely with teacher guidance*. They will be encouraged to follow basic instructions that will consistently be used throughout the year such as starting and stopping, getting together with a partner and working in small groups. Throughout the duration of Term 1, Prep students will be introduced to a range of basic movement skills including running, hopping, skipping, kicking, throwing and catching. Students will play a variety of basic and modified games, which will incorporate the use of the skills learnt. Students will also be training for our Iramoo Junior Cross Country where they will be developing their running endurance. Our Junior Cross Country will be held on **Monday, March 26** and parents are encouraged to help prepare students by supporting some running training at home.

****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.**

Digital Technologies

Term 1 will be an exciting time for the Preps beginning their technological journey at Iramoo. We will be focusing on activities that will help them on the road to becoming independent, productive and safe users of technology. Our first tasks will be directed towards learning the rules and routines as well as becoming familiar with the computer hardware in accordance with the Victorian Curriculum. 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 in order to create simple pictures using a computer mouse or laptop computer trackpad.

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

