

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, March 4	Pupil Free Day
Monday, March 14	Labour Day (Public Holiday)
Tuesday March, 15 – Friday, March 18	World of Maths Incursion
Tues, March 29	School Photos Day 1
Wed, March 30	School Photos Day 2
Monday, April 4	Junior Cross Country
Friday, April 8	Last day of Term 1, 2:30 p.m. finish
Monday, April 25	ANZAC Day (Public Holiday)
Tuesday, April 26	First day of Term 2, 8:50am start

Welcome to all of our Prep families. 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 settling into our school routines.

The Prep teachers for 2022 are:

- Ms Courtney Bloder (OCB)**
- Mrs Tenille Cisternas (OTC)**
- Mrs Amy James (OAJ – Teacher Leader)**
- Ms Sharni Tromp (OST)**

Each term you will receive a 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 available on Compass on a fortnightly basis. Please read these newsletters carefully as they contain a lot of valuable information.

Compass

Compass is our main platform for communication and sharing information with parents and carers. All newsletters, notes, excursion forms, permission slips and updates are posted here. If you don't already have your Compass log in details, please call the school office on ☎ 9741 2803. Compass is also the main tool for explaining your child's absences from school. Iramoo Primary School has a strict attendance policy and all prolonged absences without explanation will be followed up by a member of our school. You can find the Iramoo Attendance Policy on the school website.

OUR PLAY EQUIPMENT IS OUT OF BOUNDS FROM 3:00PM – 3:15PM.

Please ensure that all children stay away from the equipment between these times. This allows us to ensure that all of our students are safely picked up at the end of each day.

SunSmart



Between mid-August and the end of April each year all students are required to wear a broad brimmed or legionnaire style hat while outdoors at playtimes or any other activity such as Physical Education. Please note that your child's hat can be any colour. The hat should be labelled with your child's name. Please ensure that your child has a suitable hat when beginning school. Students may also bring their own sunscreen and / or sunglasses. These are optional and should also be labelled with your child's name. It is your child's responsibility to look after these items.

Prep Times

Students will be dismissed Monday - Thursday at **2.50 p.m.** from the bricked area near the coloured footprints until **Thursday, February 24**. Children will begin attending school full time from Monday to Friday 8:50am. – 3:00pm. as of **Monday, February 28**. Please be punctual when bringing your child/ren to school in the mornings and collecting them at the end of the day. We ask that you social distance while waiting to collect your child and leave the school grounds immediately.



We encourage all parents / carers to leave once their children have entered the school grounds in the morning. This helps children to transition to school calmly and to foster independence. Staff are supervising from 8:30 each morning

All Prep children have been 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 8:50am.** Thank you very much for preparing the children for such a smooth transition with the morning routine.

As of **Monday, February 28**, our Prep children will start attending our whole school assemblies, which are held first thing each Monday morning at the front of the school near our flag poles.

REGULAR SCHOOL TIMES

- **School begins at 8:50am**
Children need to *arrive by 8:45am* each morning to assist in an orderly start to their day.
- **Recess: 10:50am to 11:10am**
Children have a short play outside.
- **Lunch eating time: 12:40pm to 12:50pm**
Children eat lunch in their classrooms. Prep children are always allowed a longer period to eat, usually **12:30pm to 12:50pm**
- **Lunch break: 12:50pm to 1:30pm**
Children have an extended play outside.
- **Dismissal: 3:00pm (from Monday, February 28)**

CURRICULUM

Literacy

This term children will be introduced to a range of different alphabet letters and the common sounds that they make through fun and engaging activities. Each week we will have new focus words where we will practise reading and identifying them in common nursery rhymes, chants and songs. Letters and words will be integrated throughout the curriculum so that students are exposed to the focus letters and words repeatedly in different settings and contexts. Students will learn about books and concepts about print, for example where we begin to read, to understand that the illustrations match the words on each page, which way we read, the difference between letters and words and how we read from left to right.

Home Reading



The Prep children commenced take home reading on **Wednesday, February 2**. 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 reading pouch **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 you to become actively involved in home reading. To assist your child you can:

- regularly read picture storybooks *to* your child to help them develop a positive attitude towards 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.
- practice reading the magic words in the manilla folder
- help your child to identify frequently used words such as **a, I, and the**, and find letters of the alphabet within the book
- 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.**

Please ensure that their blue reading pouch is returned to school every day with their yellow diaries and manilla folders.

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 them about the news or personal item that they plan 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 28**. You will be notified of your child's 'Show & Tell' day in the coming weeks.

Numeracy

This term the children will be learning about the numbers from 0 to at least 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.

Integrated Studies

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 school 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 28**). Children will visit the library every second week. Prep library sessions will be held on alternate Tuesdays. 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.

World of Maths Incursion

From **Tuesday, March 15 – Friday, March 18** the World of Maths (a travelling, interactive Maths Workshop) will visit our school. The World of Maths is an exciting opportunity for our students to see how maths is applied to everyday life and explore maths in a hands-on environment. Students will work together in small teams to explore and solve a variety of engaging and interactive real-life problems.

We are looking forward to this highly engaging and fun learning experience.

Parent Helpers

Throughout the year, we will require families to support many of our programs, including excursions and helping in the classroom. Only those helpers who hold a 'Working With Children Check' and are **fully vaccinated** are permitted on excursions and in the classroom. A classroom helpers training program is being run this term. The program runs for three sessions and takes place at school. The dates of the program are **Friday, March 18, Friday, March 25 and Friday, April 1** from **9:00 – 10:00am** in our conference room.

Year Prep Specialist Timetable

	Computers/ICT	Visual Art	Physical Education	Performing Arts	Library (odd weeks)
0CB	Wednesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Thursday	Tuesday
0AJ	Wednesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Thursday	Tuesday
0ST	Thursday	Thursday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Tuesday
0TC	Thursday	Thursday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Tuesday

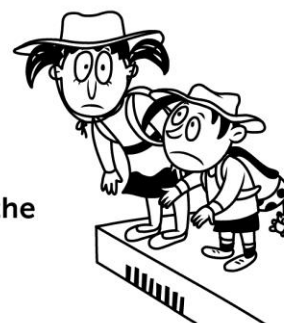
**COURTNEY BLODER, TENILLE CISTERNAS,
AMY JAMES (TEAM LEADER) & SHARNI TROMP
PREP TEACHERS**

Most children haven't developed the skills to be safe in traffic.

They may:

- not notice objects directly in front of them
- have trouble judging the speed of cars
- not behave safely.

If you drive or park near the school take extra care and keep on the lookout for children.



SPECIALIST CLASSES

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

Visual Arts

In Term 1 our Prep students will be introduced to the Fundamentals of Art by exploring the topic '**All About Me**'. The Victorian Curriculum states that students identify how design elements, such as line, shape, colour or texture, are used in their artworks and in the artworks of others. The students will focus on learning about primary and secondary colours, using lines to create drawings particularly focusing on self-portraiture and creating texture using different materials. We will begin the term with some short introductory lessons where students will practise using their fine motor skills and developing techniques to draw and colour. They will then follow steps to create a painted primary colours butterfly. The Preps will draw their own portrait and use tissue paper to create a watercolour piece and finally conclude the term by creating a special artwork that represents themselves using clay, paper and paint.

Performing Arts

During Term 1, Prep students will participate in musical activities that involve listening, singing, moving and then be invited to create music by playing a range of percussion instruments. Through these activities, students will develop skills in a range of musical elements including beat, pitch and dynamics (loud and soft). The students will explore ideas for characters and situations through dramatic play. To address these elements of the Victorian Curriculum, 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 lessons in a fun, positive and safe environment. In accordance with the Victorian Curriculum and with teacher guidance, students will respond to simple directions, including following simple rules and using their own equipment and personal space safely. 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 Term 1, students will be introduced to a range of basic movement skills including running, hopping, skipping, kicking, throwing and catching. They will play a variety of games that will incorporate the use of the skills learnt. Students will also be developing their running endurance as a lead up to our Iramoo Junior Cross Country. Our Junior Cross Country will be held on **Monday, April 4** and parents are encouraged to help prepare students by supporting training at home.

Digital Technologies

Term 1 will be an exciting time for the Prep students beginning their technological journey at Iramoo. We will be focusing on experiences that will help them on the road to becoming independent, productive and responsible users of technology. Our first tasks will be directed towards learning 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 familiarisation is the **Kid Pix** drawing program. The students will be introduced to the different Kid Pix drawing tools in order to create simple pictures using a computer mouse with a desktop computer.

