



Prep

Term One 2021

St Joseph's Primary School

Respect for Self, Respect for Others, Respect for Environment

WELCOME

Welcome to a busy and exciting Prep Year at St Joseph's. The children are having a wonderful time in their new surroundings and are settling well into their new routines. We are here to support you in helping provide your child with the best possible education, so please feel free to speak with us, drop into the classroom or email if you have any concerns, queries or feedback.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year together,

Nat Bierman & Plaxy Nardella

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ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL PRAYER

Dear God,

We thank you for our wonderful school. We are glad we belong to St Joseph's community. We pray that we will be safe and happy at school, and that we will learn much about You, ourselves and the world. Help us to treat each other with respect and generosity.

We hope to be like St Joseph, a person who cared for others.

Amen

Morning & Afternoon Routines

In the **mornings**, children need to be at school before 8.50am, ready to start the day. Simon, Tom and Rebekah are on yard duty from 8.30am and classrooms will be open at this time. When you arrive, children place their bags in their designated space and bring their pouch, drink bottle and brain food into the classroom. We continue to encourage the children to complete these tasks on their own to build their independence in the school environment.

If you arrive after this time, please sign in at the office and bring children to the classroom as quickly and quietly as possible, to ensure a smooth and quiet start to the day for all students.

Each **afternoon** students will be dismissed from under the tree on the front playground.

Students must remain with their teacher until the teacher is able to see the parent. Please

encourage your children not to run towards you at the end of the day. This enables us to ensure that all students are safe.

If, for any reason, children need to be picked up before 3:30pm, they must be signed out at the office and collected from the classroom.

General Information

School Rules: At St. Joseph's School we have three school rules - respect for self, respect for others and respect for the environment. These school rules will be unpacked during the term.

Uniform Policy: All students must be in correct Summer school uniform for Term 1. This includes wearing black shoes (No runners) and ensuring they have a school hat (clearly labelled) to wear during playtimes. Students without a hat will have to sit under a specific tree to ensure they're staying sun-safe. The full school uniform list is available on our School Website.

Brain Food & Drink Bottle: In each Prep room there is a designated space for drink bottles, please encourage your child to place the bottle here in the mornings, when unpacking their bags. Students are also encouraged to bring a **small** container of fruit or vegetables to eat during designated 'brain food' time (10am). It is helpful if this is packed separately to the lunchbox, as we allow students to place their brainfood on their table in the morning to minimise interruptions during learning time.

Communication Pouch: All students are provided with a communication pouch (a clear pouch labelled with their name). This needs to be bought to school daily and placed into the designated container before the day begins. Any parent correspondence is placed in the pouch to be taken home. This pouch is used to house take home reading books and diaries from Prep through to Year 2.

Classroom Helpers: We will begin to ask parents to help in the classroom from Term 2 onwards. This gives the students an opportunity to settle into the classroom routine for the first term. We are looking forward to involving as many parents, aunties, uncles and grandparents as possible, as we rely on your assistance to ensure the success of our teaching programs. All parent helpers are required to obtain a ***Working With Children Check*** and must sign in.

Prep Testing: Most children will attend school for 45 minutes on a Wednesday in the coming weeks for a 1-1 session with their teacher. This is a fantastic opportunity for us to get to know your child on a personal level as well as academically. If you are unsure of your allocated time, please contact your child's teacher. Thank you for your support with this process. We are aware not all parents were able to book a time online, these children will be tested during school hours.

Library: Prep B and Prep N will attend the library on a Wednesday (once the children are attending school full time). Students are able to borrow **one book** that needs to be returned the

following week. Please be aware that lost or damaged books will incur a replacement fee. Students must have their **library bag** in order to borrow.

Tuck Shop: All families are able to order from the tuck shop when Preps begin to attend school on Wednesdays. Families are able to order online, accessible via the school website.

School Newsletter: The School Newsletter is published every Friday afternoon. It contains important information about school life, including dates for upcoming events or activities. You can subscribe through the Website.

Victorian Curriculum

ENGLISH

The first two hours of our day begins with Literacy, this incorporates Reading, Writing, Spelling and Handwriting. The beginning of Prep places emphasis on understanding sounds (phonics) and how sounds can be grouped together to create words (phonemic awareness). This allows students to gain a thorough understanding of the sounds in the English language and the letters we use to represent them.

We will read lots of books with the children. During this exploration the children will be encouraged to listen with enthusiasm and respond through a variety of practical activities including book orientation, sequencing events, story structures and irregular words, all of which create the foundation for future learning.

Take Home Reading

Students are encouraged to read at home, or listen to you read to them, each day. Readers and a student workbook will be sent home later in the term. **See the PDF attached with the email** with information from the Parent English & Mathematics Information Night.

MATHEMATICS

Through a range of hands-on teaching, open ended tasks and learning experiences, children will be exploring the following concepts over Term One:

- Number patterns
- Number identification and formation
- 2D shapes
- Time (days of the week, months, seasons, calendar)

Please encourage your child to discuss their mathematical learning. We also encourage you to continue to enhance their learning at home through practising simple counting songs and games, as well as real life experiences such as cooking and experimenting with money.

TOPIC

This Term our topic is 'Let's Build a Community'. Through this unit, the students will be focusing on the essential question of "What makes a good community?" and the key idea: "We are all part of our St Joseph's community, and how we can help to build a strong community in our local area, our Parish, our school and our classroom." Students will explore the community elements of our school and how they help us feel like we belong.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The students will explore the unit, 'Our Faith Community', by considering Jesus as a model for friendship and discussing inclusive behaviours. The students will explore the church and school community. They will also reflect on their place in God's family. Alongside this unit opportunities will be provided to engage in daily classroom prayer and attend whole school Masses. Towards the end of term, the students will learn about Ash Wednesday, Lent and engage with the Easter story.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)

At St. Joseph's we explicitly teach our students social and emotional skills and strategies, within our SEL curriculum. The program is designed to address the Personal and Social Capability from the Victorian Curriculum, as well as the 5 SEL competencies of:

- Self-management
- Self-awareness
- Responsible decision making
- Relationship skills
- Social awareness

St Joseph's will be using the curriculum framework from the Berry Street Education Model. This curriculum is purposefully designed to support the sequential development of students' physical, psychological, social and emotional capacities.

Our Term 1 domain, 'Body', focuses on 4 areas:

- De-escalation
- Present, Centred and grounded
- Mindfulness
- Self-regulation

Buddies

The Buddy program is designed to give the younger children a school support person and to allow the older children to experience the opportunity to take on added responsibility and leadership. The children have been allocated a special Year 5 buddy. During the year, the children will be participating in weekly activities with their buddies.

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

As part of our specialist program the children have Physical Education, Italian, Music and Visual Arts each week.

Tuesday- Italian & Music

Thursday- Sport & Art (wear sports uniform)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Louise Howell

This term, the Prep children will be focusing on athletics activities in anticipation for our school Athletics Carnival on Friday 19th March. We will focus on activities such as sprints, hurdles, shot put and long jump. These will be modified to best suit their needs and abilities. Families are encouraged to attend and support their children at this event. Parental assistance is highly welcomed and appreciated. Please speak to your classroom teacher if you are able to assist in any way at the Athletics Carnival. This will be subject to Covid rules & regulations. We look forward to an exciting and rewarding term in Physical Education.

ITALIAN - Franca Butera-Crea

During Term One children in Prep will learn the greetings; *buongiorno, buonasera, buonanotte* and *ciao*. They will learn to count to 10, as well as recognise and correctly pronounce the colours; *rosso, bianco, verde, blu* and *giallo*. Students will learn to recognise and correctly pronounce the body parts, and state an activity/sport they do.

VISUAL ARTS - Lidia Chris

First term is about using a variety of materials and making different collage pieces. The emphasis is on cutting, pasting and putting different parts together to create artworks that reflect the topic, Healthy Me, Healthy We. The children will also create a Harmony Day piece and an Easter activity.

MUSIC - Erin Absalom

Students will be taught to sing and dance, as well as being introduced to some basic body percussion and percussive instruments. In music this term, students will be taught music through the lenses of movement and dancing. They will also be taught how to sing in unison, and from memory, using movement to enhance their understanding of rhythm, pitch and expression.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are a special celebration in every child's life and we are happy for you to send along a small treat, e.g. icy poles or a freddo frog to share in the class. Individual treats are preferred. When bringing items into school, all ingredients must be clearly labelled.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Welcome Picnic** 12th of February 3:30pm - 7pm
- **Parent/Teacher Interviews** 10th and 11th of February (more details to follow)
- **School Photo Day** 19th of February
- **Student Free Days** - 4th and 5th of March
- **School Athletics Carnival** 19th of March - Sandringham Athletics Track
- **End of Term** 1st April 1pm

We are looking forward to a wonderful year together in Prep, where your child grows academically, emotionally, socially and spiritually.

Nat Bierman & Plaxy Nardella