Prep Parent Information Booklet
Welcome

We would like to welcome you to our parent information night. We invite you to explore the classroom with your child asking them to show you some of the things that they have done so far this year.

As part of our Prep program we are learning to always tidy up after ourselves before we move on to the next activity and at the end of each session. We are also trying to develop independence by encouraging them to unpack their bags, check if they have any messages in their homework folder, keep their bags zipped up and keeping track of their belongings.

If you have any questions regarding the Prep program, please feel free to ask your child’s teacher. If you wish to discuss your child’s development contact us either in person, by phone, email or a written note in your child’s homework folder to arrange a suitable time before or after school.

At St Patrick’s we follow the curriculum as set out by Australian Curriculum. More information on the Australian Curriculum and what Prep will cover this year can be found at the Australian Curriculum website http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/

Religion

Term 1 - How do I know what is good or bad?

In this unit we will learn about some Old Testament and New Testament stories that tell of a God of love and God’s plan to help each other to live safely and happily together, for the good of all.

Student’s listen to, read and view stories of his teachings about love, compassion and forgiveness that challenged people about the way they were living; and of his suffering, death and resurrection. They learn that Christians believe God created people with the freedom to choose between good and bad,
right and wrong. They explore examples of times, from familiar texts and their personal experience, when people make these choices.

**English**

The English program in Prep is supported by Jolly Phonics, Caterpillar Handwriting, Study Ladder, Reading Eggs, Sunshine Online, Bug Club, Magic Words and First Steps.

In Prep children develop their English skills through hands on play based activities and structured table-top tasks.

This term we will be learning the short vowel sounds for the first few weeks followed by the long vowel sounds. This will assist the children when beginning to read in term 2.

The children will have their Sound Book in their Homework folder each day so they can practice what they have learnt in school at home.

Reading plays an important part in children’s development at this age. It is essential that children experience many opportunities to read both for enjoyment and requiring knowledge. Some of the opportunities offered in Prep include; guided reading lead by a teacher or a parent and online story reading; such as Bug Club. These are offered in an individual, small group and whole class context.

Children will be taking home Home Readers (from Term 2), Sound Books and Literacy Packs to develop their language skills. It is important for a regular time to be set aside each day for parents to assist children in these reading and literacy tasks.

**Show and Tell**

- **Formalised** - timetabled all children will get an opportunity to share once each week.
To start with our first topic is **Me**. Children will bring home and complete a “Me Shirt” poster. On it they will fill in special things about themselves.

- **No toys**: either for show and tell or for playing at breaks.
- **Special** show and tell if discussed with teacher e.g. birthdays.

Show and Tell Tasks

- T-shirt
- Mystery box
- Questionnaires (tied to our connected curriculum)

**Maths**

We will be aiming for all children to have a solid understanding of numbers in digit and written form to ten and be able to count to 20 and back. They will also explore 2D and 3D shapes, informal measurements, location and movement and data collection.

**Science**

Our term 1 unit for science is called **Our Living World**. This covers the biological sciences part of the prep curriculum. Children used their senses to investigate and gather information in order to explore and develop understanding about the basic needs of all living things.

**Geography**

Our Term 1 unit for geography is called ‘What makes a place special?’ This helps the students develop a sense of identity, belonging and understanding why and how they should look after places.

**History**

Through the unit ‘All about Me’, the students will explore their families and listen to the stories about others families from different cultures.
Technology is integrated into all curriculum areas and is an essential part of the curriculum. In Prep we will be using Ipads, computers and interactive whiteboards.

Health and Physical Education will be covered through our connected curriculum unit - All About Me.

**Specialists Lessons**

- **Social Skills [PALS and Program Achieve]**
  Prep W Thursday  Prep F Wednesday
- **PE**
  Prep W Wednesday  Prep F Thursday
- **Music**
  Prep W Wednesday  Prep F Thursday
- **Library - Friday**
  - Bring red library bag into school on Friday and put them in the tray.

**Mornings**

Classroom opens at 8.30am. This is depending on teacher availability.

Main Playground supervised from 8.25.

**No playing on school equipment before or after school** unless teacher on duty in that area.

**Afternoons** - if any changes to their usual routine please let one of us know.

**Late or leaving early** - please got office to sign in (receive a late slip) and out.

**Homework**

Prep’s homework tasks this year will consist of Magic Words, sound books, prepared show and tell tasks and reading.
Homework – Tuesday to Tuesday (to be assisted by a parent)

Reading: library books, levelled home readers

Literacy Packs; returned every Tuesday.

Magic Words; practiced every day and children are assessed once a week.

Sound practice; please keep these in their homework folder.

Show and Tell on their assigned day each week.

Star of the Week – only once a year and children will bring home guidelines and some instructions when it is their turn.

Parent Classroom Helpers

We welcome parents help in many ways in Prep. We will have formal times when parents help is required for rotations, individual or group activities.

This term we will be requiring parent help on Monday to Thursday afternoons from 2.15 pm. These will be small group activities using the Magic Words.

Food at school

Healthy Food Break – fruit, vegetables, cheese, yoghurt.

Please help us but having your fruit or vegetable cut up into bite sized pieces and spoons if they need one.

Lunch – Eating time. Sandwiches or similar. Save chips, cakes, muesli bars, breakfast bars etc. for afternoon tea.

Please no lollies or nuts!

➢ Tuckshop – Monday, Wednesday and Friday

The tuckshop boxes are in each classroom. It helps if having afternoon tea to use 2 bags; one for lunch and one for afternoon tea.
From Kathy

BEING IN A NUT-FREE ENVIRONMENT

This year, as in all recent previous years we have a small number of children enrolled in the school who have severe allergic reactions to some foods in particular peanuts, nuts and eggs. With some of these students their reaction is so severe that their life is endangered by contact with them. For this reason, we ask that families do not send food containing peanuts, nuts or nut-based products. Peanut paste, in particular, because it can stick to hands so easily is one product that we encourage all families not to send to school.

Parents can help minimize the possibility of an allergic reaction by reminding your child not to share their food and to wash their hands before and after eating. Please also assist by removing all traces of food from your child’s (and toddlers coming into the classroom) face, hands and clothes, if it is possible that they have eaten anything containing nuts. Please do not send any items to school for box constructions which have contained any nut products. We realize that this may not always be possible, but every effort you can make, will be certainly appreciated by these children, their parents and the staff at St Patrick’s.

Hand Washing

Students are asked to wash hands before entering classroom.

Any visiting siblings are also asked to wash hands before entering classroom.

Students are encouraged to wash hand after eating at each break.

Each student should have an individual washer hung outside the classroom to dry hands. The washers are sent home every Friday to be washed.
Handwriting and pencil grip

Handwriting and correct pencil grip is important to get right to enable confidence and fluency when in older grades.

If you wish to discuss any concerns you may have or your child’s development, please feel free to contact your child’s teacher to arrange a suitable out of school time to meet. You can phone the school, write a note or send an email.

Best contact is by email - checked once daily Monday to Friday.

- Charmaine - cfrancis@bne.catholic.edu.au
- Kim - kweier@bne.catholic.edu.au

Please make sure your email address is up to date with the school office.

From Kathy

USE OF EMAILS

As you can appreciate your children are our priority. Giving our students our full attention is paramount. For this reason it is not possible for our staff to be
constantly checking emails. The teaching staff have been asked to respond to emails within a 24 hour turn-around during the working week. Therefore if it is something that needs immediate action a message through the school office is a lot more practical. Using social media to ask staff questions about school issues is also not the best option. All teachers will communicate their work email address and will endeavour to respond to emails within 24 hours from Monday to Friday.