Dear Prep Parents,

Welcome to Newport Lakes Primary School. We have all enjoyed a very smooth beginning to the prep year! Congratulations to all parents and students.

_Here are a few reminders and things to keep in mind:_

**Blue Book Bags**
This bag will be used to safely store your child’s take home books, songs, rhymes and chants book, class stories, a hard copy of the school’s newsletter (if required), reading log and any other communication from home or school.
Please make sure your child has their take home books and reading logs at school each day.

**Prep Specialist Timetable**

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<td>Whole School</td>
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<td>Assembly</td>
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<td>SPORT Mr.A</td>
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<td>MUSIC Kathy</td>
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<td>Prep T</td>
<td>Prep S</td>
<td>Prep D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performing Art with Kathy</td>
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<td>Prep T</td>
<td>Prep S</td>
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<tr>
<td>BUDDIES PROGRAM</td>
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<td>All Prep children have been allocated a Grade 5/6 buddy. We have already had a meet and greet session.</td>
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<td>ART Laura</td>
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<td>LIBRARY/IT</td>
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All Preps to wear appropriate footwear during physical education – school shoes or runners are OK, not slip-on shoes or ballet flats.

- **Please note the specialist timetable may change throughout the year due to whole school timetable changes and updates.**

**Library**

Children will be able to borrow books from the library to take home as soon as the new library borrowing system is up and running (hopefully within the next 2 weeks).
The children will have a loan period of two weeks and can borrow up to 2 books at a time. The children are asked to bring the yellow bag given to them as a show bag to school and use it as a library bag (please empty the contents of the show bag and send the bag to school empty). This bag needs to be returned to school as soon as possible with your child’s name clearly marked on the front of the bag.

**Hats**

Newport Lakes Primary School is a sun smart school and hats must be worn outside during Terms 1 and 4. The children may choose to leave their hat in their locker at school. During Terms 1 and 4 children without a hat are required to sit under the tree in the playground during recess and lunch. (no hat, no play)

**Water Bottles**

The children are encouraged to bring a bottle of water to school and keep their drink in their classroom. The bottles will be stored in an allocated drink bottle tub. The children will be encouraged to drink, especially in warm weather. Many children also discover drinking from the drinking fountains and it is quite a novelty. If your child isn’t drinking as much as usual, they may be consuming water in their breaks at recess and lunchtime as well as scheduled toilet breaks. **No** drinks other than water can be consumed in the classroom.

**Assembly**

It is very important that your child arrives at school on time. All prep grades will line up in their designated areas at the back of the school. Music will be played from 8.57am and the school bell will ring at 9.00am. We recommend that you arrive at school 5-10 minutes early to allow the children to have a short play etc. before lining up to begin the school day. School assembly is held on Friday afternoon in the new multipurpose room beginning at 3.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Establishing routines**

Talk with your child about the things they will need to be ready for school. Encourage your child to pack his or her own school bag remembering to include the blue book bag and drink bottle each day. This will assist your child to develop a daily routine for school. Encourage your child to carry his or her school bag and be responsible for placing their bag in their bag locker each morning. The children are then asked to bring in their water bottles and blue book bags inside the classroom and put them in the designated area. Please do not escort your child into the corridor at the beginning of the day. The corridors are not wide enough to accommodate students, teachers, integration aides and parents as well.

**Curriculum Outline Term 1**

**Literacy**

All classes have a daily literacy block. This incorporates the areas of Reading, Speaking and Listening and Writing. At the beginning of the school year your child’s teacher will assess each child in Literacy and Numeracy to establish ‘starting points’ for instruction. Teachers then plan programs to enhance the development of each child. Reading and Writing sessions include a time
for the whole class to work together, a time for children to work in small groups with the teacher and a time for children to engage in independent reading and writing.

**Some of the areas of Literacy focus in Term 1 include:**

- Using appropriate speech to talk about personal experiences.
- Asking and answering questions and contributing ideas and information to discussion.
- Reading and responding to songs, rhymes and chants and class stories.
- Developing an awareness of the relationship between letters and sounds.
- Using letters, words and illustrations to write about personally significant events.

**Numeracy**

Numeracy classes begin with a discussion centered on counting how many days we have been at school so far this term. Children learn about numbers and counting and place value at this time. They will then have a warm up activity which is usually a game, allowing the children to get their math’s brain into gear.

We will have a shared focus on the mat followed by individual or small group time to explore concepts further. For the conclusion of the numeracy lesson, children will be provided with a reflection time to share their ideas and findings.

**Areas of focus for Term 1:**

- **Number**: counting, modeling, ordering and recording numbers.
- **Measurement, Chance and Data**: days of the week, months of the year, comparing height weight of everyday objects.
- **Space**: recognizing, naming and drawing, sorting and matching shapes, using everyday location language.
- **Working Mathematically**: identifying and describing patterns and problem solving.

**Shared Inquiry Unit**

**Term 1 Topic: ‘Unique Me’**

Throughout the Term the Preps will be investigating and learning about themselves, their families and the community they live in.

Preps will be venturing outside the school gates in class groups and walking within our local community. The Preps will be expected to walk safely on the footpath and adhere to safe and responsible behaviours. We will also be pointing out and discussing special landmarks. In particular we will be noticing signage, house numbers and any other interesting information.

**Mini Excursion/Incursion**

- Wednesday 26th March – Local walk to the Newport Lakes
- Thursday 20th March – Prep and Grade 1 Tabloid Sports Day

If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards,

Prep Team Diana, Sarah, Taegan
**Term one Overview Prep/Foundation**

**Physical Education**

In Physical Education, the lesson structure follows the whole-small-whole model which is the same model used when students are being taught literacy and numeracy. Basically, we will start each lesson with two or three warm-up games, proceed to the main focus of the lesson where the children will work individually, in pairs or in small groups practising a particular fundamental motor skill and then conclude with a game involving the whole grade that is designed to reinforce the chosen skill.

In term one, our youngest students will be focusing on developing their ability to listen closely to instructions, work together with partners and in small groups and move around safely in allocated spaces. This will often be done through a series of fun, non-threatening and all inclusive games.

Throughout the year, we will also aim to improve the fundamental motor skills of our students. These skills include catching, kicking, running, jumping vertically, throwing, bouncing, leaping, dodging, punting and forehand striking. In term one, our prep students will be focusing on dodging and general movement.

Together with our grade one students, all grade preps will have the opportunity to participate in a Tabloid sports day which will be run by an outside agency and held on Thursday, March 20.

**Indonesian**

During Term One students will become familiar with the concept of speaking a language other than English for communication. They will begin to become more aware of some similarities and differences between Indonesia and Australia such as language and dress. Students will learn to greet and farewell the teacher and use their manners in class. Through songs, games and other interactive materials, they will begin to learn colours, numbers and body parts in Indonesian. Students will also begin to compile an Indonesian workbook.

**Visual Art**

In Art during term one, students will become familiar with the routine of the Art room and develop a range of art-making skills. They will learn about the elements of Art (such as line, shape, and colour) by exploring each in their artwork. Students will explore the theme of individuality in their artwork.

**Music**

In their first term of Music, the Prep students will explore a variety of musical sounds through singing songs and accompanying their singing with tuned and untuned percussion instruments. They will also explore movement to music, both in improvised responses to music and memorised movements to accompany songs. Through music-making activities, they will begin learning about the elements of Music (e.g. beat, rhythm, pitch, form, dynamics, tempo) and begin to develop their singing, musicianship and ensemble skills. Participating in both solo and ensemble music-making will help develop self-confidence in a supportive and inclusive environment and contribute to their understanding of both their individuality and being part of a cohesive group.