

# Prep Unit Newsletter

## Term 1, 2020

### INQUIRY: Life IS LOVELY

This term we are focusing on establishing the right kind of environment in our classrooms to enable great learning and positive relationships. We have 3 school rules to help us; be safe, be friendly, be a learner. We will be exploring the importance of identifying and recognising our emotions and how these can impact our day and choices. We aim for students to understand that to be healthy we need to exercise daily, make healthy food choices and enrich our bodies and brains with adequate rest and relaxation. There are things we can do and choices we can make to be happy, healthy kids at school and in life.

### READING

In reading this term, one of the foci will be around children familiarizing themselves with our reading program.

This involves

- Choosing a book each day and reading it to an adult at school
- Reading the same book at home each night
- Talking about the pictures before they read
- Pointing under each word as they read
- Recognise commonly used words within texts from their given list
- Discussing the text (retell, characters, words/letters, connections)
- Identifying sounds within words, capital and lowercase letters

### MATHS

The children will practise counting forwards and backwards by 1's. We will develop our understanding of the value of numbers by recognising, making, ordering and writing numbers to 10/20 using concrete materials to support this development. We will also explore the concepts of time, pattern and data through authentic contexts.

### WRITING

We will be learning how to hold our pencil correctly in tripod grip and correctly form all letters of the alphabet. We will also be learning how we can use the sounds letters make to form words and sentences. We will learn how to correctly write our names and other commonly used words. We will be having a go at writing about things we have experienced, stories we have heard and things we have viewed.

### RELIGION

In addition to our daily prayers, paraliturgies, and School Masses we will work through two Religion Education units:

I am special, so are you:

Children will explore and express their unique identity. They will be asked to identify their talents and gifts, to rejoice in their individuality, and to thank God for the life given to each of them. Students will develop a sense of respect, wonder and an appreciation of diversity.

Lent and Easter:

In this unit students will be introduced to Lent and Easter as part of the liturgical year. They will explore the significance of Lent and Easter for Christians and will develop an awareness of the signs and symbols associated with Lent and Easter.

### Ways to assist your child at home:

The children's homework for the Term will be to read every night and to practise their word lists in a variety of ways. Preparing for show and tell is also a requisite and we do expect that every child comes ready to present their weekly show and tell independently (please see us if you have any questions around this).

Please involve your child in writing their name, letters and words, colouring to develop correct pencil grip and fine motor skills and counting and recognising numbers and patterns in their environment (shopping, cooking, taking a walk, games or reading a story)

There may be other small tasks that we need you help with over the term and we will provide you with the details of these via dojo, email or letters home.

### Speaking and Listening:

To develop students' oral language skills and confidence when speaking in front of others, we have a daily show and tell session. There are set topics that align with what we are learning. It is important for your child's confidence to **prepare** and **practise** for this at home so they can independently present this to the class. Show and Tell assists to develop your child's pride, friendships and self esteem as well as being an important step towards reading and writing development.

