

Class Newsletter

Term 1, 2021



Prep B

27 January 2021

Dear parents and caregivers,

Welcome to the 2021 school year! My name is Emma Banks and I will be your child's teacher in Prep B. Our teacher aide is Mrs Gail Free. It has been wonderful to meet so many of you already. We hope you are looking forward to the exciting year that your child will undertake in Prep.

Morning and Afternoon Routine

Each morning, we ask that you please help your child to line up at the lining up area before school starts. We will collect the class from here and take them to the classroom. You are welcome to say goodbye to your child at this point if convenient. At the classroom, your child will need to put their bag on the rack where their name tag is, put their water bottles on the outside sink. Their fruit snack is to go on the bench inside the classroom and clip their name tag to their shirt.

We have the children wear these tags so all school staff can support them during eating and playtimes. Next, please feel free to say goodbye if your child is ready. The kids will then come into the classroom to start on a table activity – we will have puzzles, books and games out at the desks. This will allow some time for your child to get to know their classroom. When it is time for our day to start, I will ring a bell for children to come to the mat for roll call and morning songs.

At this time, I will have the kids say goodbye and we will ask that you have a cuddle goodbye and then we will see you at home time. You are then welcome to go to the hall area where our chaplain will be offering tea and coffee. This is a great chance to meet other parents. If your child arrives late to school (after 8.50am) or you are picking your child up early (before 3pm), you will need to sign your child in/out at the office before you come to the classroom. The office staff will give you a late arrival or an early departure slip, which you then need to please bring to the classroom and give to the teacher.

REMINDERS

Brain Break

Students may bring a healthy snack every day for brain break at 10am. Fruit and vegetables are accepted.

NO HAT NO PLAY

Students are required to bring their named school hat every day.

Drink Bottles

Drink bottles are essential every day of the school year.

Bells

Children are to be lined up when the first bell goes at 8:45am. The school day ends at 3pm.

Homework

Homework will begin in Week 3. This will allow me time to get to know the students and introduce them to their new homework routine.



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Parent Information Afternoon

Our Parent Information Afternoon is on Tuesday the 9th of February 2021 in the Prep B classroom. Please feel free to attend either of the following sessions. The first session is from 3:30-4pm and the repeat session is from 4:00-4:30pm. Please note these sessions are the same and therefore you only need to attend one. I will be explaining daily routines, procedures for homework and answering any questions you may have. I hope to see you there.

Classroom Communication

Throughout the year, you will receive communication from the office as well as newsletters and emails from myself. A class communication newsletter will be emailed out in weeks 1 and 5 to give you an update on your child's learning journey at school. We would also like to know of any changes going on at home, which might affect your child's behaviour or learning at school. You are welcome to email me at ebank14@eq.edu.au. There will also be a communication folder which we will use to send any notes between school and home.

Classroom Support

We love having parents help in the classroom however, we have found that the children need time to settle in. At the beginning of Term 2, we will send information home seeking your valuable time to help our students. If you are happy to volunteer in class next term, please contact the office to book in for the volunteer induction. If you have expertise in a specific field, that you would like to share, please let us know. We are happy to meet with you about the possibility of you sharing with the class.

Weekly Routine

Tuesday	2.15pm Assembly Students are required to wear their formal uniform each Tuesday.
Wednesday	10.00-10:30am Gross Motor Program with Mrs Robb I would recommend your child wear sports uniform on this day to support this lesson. 10:30-11:00am Music with Mrs Gibson
Thursday	9.30 10.00am PE with Mrs Robb I would recommend your child wear sports uniform on this day to support this lesson. Homework and library due back each Thursday Please note this will begin in Week 3 and further information will go out closer to this time.
Friday	11.30-12:00pm Drama with Mrs Gibson



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Term 1 Curriculum

Please see the below information on our curriculum learning areas for this term. We will be able to discuss these further at our parent information afternoon in Week 3.

Literacy

Students will listen to and retell a familiar text with supporting images in the correct sequence. They will learn to read and make personal connections to events and characters. They will also participate in the Jolly Phonics program to build their letter sound knowledge and the Read it Again program to develop their oral language skills.

Numeracy

This term students have opportunities to develop understandings of numerals 0-20, representing quantities, comparing numbers and ordering them. They will also master the rules for sorting objects based on colour, size and shapes, create and continue patterns and compare the duration of events.

Science – Living Things

In this unit, students further build upon their understanding of the needs of living things, both animals and plants. Students learn that the survival of all living things is reliant on basic needs being met, and there are consequences when needs are not met. They investigate the impact of human activity and natural events on basic needs. They shared ideas about how they can support and protect living things in their local surroundings.

Humanities and Social Studies (HASS)

In HASS students will investigate their own family history and examine other family structures to appreciate the diverse family groups we have today that have commonalities as well as differences. The students will investigate familiar ways family and friends commemorate past events that are important to them.

Health

In this unit students will explore information about what makes them unique, identifying their strengths, emotions and achievements. Students will identify safe settings where they can move and play safely and identify actions that keep them and others safe in different settings.

Fine Motor and Gross Motor

Students will learn the correct pencil grip, letter formation and scissor skills through the finger gym program. They will participate in PE lessons and outdoor play each week to build their gross motor skills.

The Arts

Through visual starts, students will be encouraged to share their stories and feeling. They will draw stories and paint pictures using various drawing materials and techniques.



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Social and Personal Learning

Students will participate in the 'Play is the Way' program and 'Zones of Regulation' to develop their social skills and self-confidence. These programs are a practical methodology for teaching social and emotional skills using guided play, classroom activities and an empowering language. It teaches children to respond appropriately to the thrill of success and the disappointment of failure.

I look forward to working with you and your child this year. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely

Emma Banks
Class Teacher

Tracey Douglas
Principal



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