

Prep Newsletter

Welcome to Term 1, 2019



We are so excited to be beginning the new year with a fantastic group of Preps. Term 1 is a big adjustment for your child and also for your family as everyone gets used to the changes that starting school brings.

The 2019 Prep teaching team are dedicated to ensuring your child has the best start to school possible and our doors are always open if you have any questions or concerns. The best time to see your child's teacher is before 8.50am and after 3.10pm, alternatively you can call the office to leave a message or email your teacher via Compass.

Term 1 is a huge term and often parents are disheartened by the lack of detail that their Prep gives to recount their day, they may tell you they did 'nothing' at school but we can assure you they have been busy all day! Being busy all day leads to tired brains and you might find that your child gets more tired and grumpy than usual, this is very normal.

Settling into a routine that includes plenty of sleep will really help your child make the most of their learning time at school.

Don't forget that Prep students do not attend school on Wednesdays for the first 5 weeks of school. This is so that teachers can conduct testing with students individually throughout each Wednesday. You will receive a note about this in the first few days of school.

We thank you for entrusting your child to us for Prep, here's to a fantastic term 1!

Important dates for term 1

- * Whole school assemblies will be on Fridays at 2.30pm.
- * Wednesday 6th February- Information Evening for 2019.
- * Friday 15th February- Pupil Free Day.
- * Monday 11th March- Labour Day Public Holiday- All preps attend full-time from this date onwards.
- * House sport?????
- * Friday 5th April- Last day of Term 1. Early dismissal time of 2.30pm.

COMPASS

Our school uses **Compass** to keep in contact with parents, please make sure the school has your correct details so that we can keep you regularly updated and that you log on **regularly**. We will send notes and important information home via compass.

If you are having any trouble logging on to Compass please see your classroom teacher or Flick.

Mornings and afternoon pick-up

Please remind your child when they enter the classroom in the morning to:

- * put their take home reader in the box near the classroom door.
- * To put their bags on their hook, and to move their face to "I am here today" on their classroom door.

We ask that all parents who are dropping off or picking up their child at the beginning and end of the day to wait outside the external doors to their child's classroom.

Students will always be dismissed from the external door at the end of the day as this helps to reduce congestion in the corridors. We ask that no parents come down the internal corridor once the teaching day has begun, until it finishes at 3.10pm.

PE Days

Prep A — Monday.

Prep B — Thursday.

Prep C — Tuesday.

Prep D — Tuesday

Please bring runners to change into on these days



Writing Workshops

Each week students participate in 5 hours of the Writer's Workshop. In Term 1 the Writer's Workshop is based around creating a safe environment for students to take risks and form a love of writing!

We will begin to explore different ways to find ideas for writing and introduce basic skills for beginning writers (drawing pictures, forming sentences made up of letters and words, using end marks, writing from left to right, top to bottom, etc.)



All students are conferenced with each week to discuss their writing goals and how to be extended as individual writers.

Reading Workshops

Students will participate in Reader's Workshops 4 hours each week. These workshops consist of a mini-lesson to teach new strategies, independent reading and reading groups (fun activities to reinforce/practise reading strategies).

When teaching reading, all students are given strategies to learn how to decode new words (accuracy) and also strategies to understand what they are reading (comprehension).

To be a successful reader both accuracy and comprehension skills are very important!



Teachers conference with students during independent reading to set goals and so that the teacher and student are always aware of the next step to improvement.

LUNCHBOXES

Throughout the year the Preps will be learning about sustainability and healthy eating. We encourage 'Nude food' at WYPS and love to see lunchboxes that feature reusable containers and bags rather than single-use plastic such as glad-wrap and packets.

Students will also have 'fruit time' each day in which they are given time to eat fruit. Please ensure your child has something to eat at hard fruit time every day and a snack at lunch that they are able to eat within the 10 minutes allocated eating time.

Hard fruit should be a piece of fresh fruit or vegetables, e.g. a banana or apple, cut up watermelon, carrot or celery sticks.



DRINK BOTTLES

Please provide your child with a labelled reusable drink bottle that they can keep in the classroom during the day.

UNIFORM

Please label every item of clothing especially jumpers. If students are out of uniform for any reason please provide a written note to their teacher.

Maths

Each week students will participate in 5 x 1 hour lessons of maths (2 x number, 3 x applied—including problem solving).

In number the students will develop a deep understanding of numbers (addition, subtraction, before/after numbers, careful counting, sequencing numbers, etc.).

Students will also learn different applied areas of maths, in Term 1 they will learn about geometry (patterning, shapes) and money (notes, coins, value, shopping).



Blitzmaster

Blitzmaster is our whole school number fact program designed to improve students' automaticity in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. All students will begin on Level 1 (addition facts to 10) and will move up levels as they answer the questions within 8 minutes with accuracy and speed. Students progress at their own pace.

They will begin Blitzmaster when they are able to record numbers to 10 with independence and accuracy.

Students will do Blitzmaster 3 times a week.