

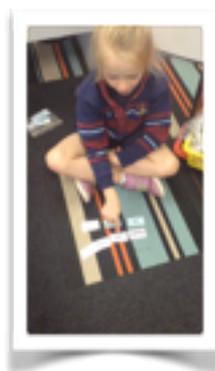
# Prep Newsletter

What have we been up to?

## Literacy Time

Prep students have been busy learning new sight words, practising letter formation and developing their letter and sound knowledge.

During Literacy, Prep students have been increasing their sight word knowledge by using new words to make sentences and reading them to the class. The students are all becoming more confident in creating sentences. They practise pointing to each of the words as they read.



During 'Letters and Sounds', which is our spelling focus, students are learning the letters m, n, i and d. We have been playing sound games, learning about 'sound buttons', practising writing letters with the correct formation and identifying sounds in the beginning, middle and end of words.

The students have been practising their reading skills, with teacher support, and have been working hard to sound out unfamiliar words and to 'have a go' when unsure. This practice to embed strategies and skills of a good reader, at a young age, is imperative. With consistent practice and praise, students are able to develop these skills as part of their natural reading ability.

We have been reading from the book 'A Story Everyday' in Prep. The Prep students decided that by the end of the year, they wanted to listen to all the stories, so we have a big job ahead of us! Prior to reading a story, we predict, by using thinking time and the story title, what the story might be about. It is interesting to then listen to the story and determine if our predictions were correct. Sometimes we don't like the stories and discuss better endings or plots. Other stories we really like and want to read again.

## INTEGRATED UNIT - 'OUR PEOPLE, PLACES AND LIVING THINGS'

During this unit, we have been focussing on Science and discussing how living things grow. We have been growing chives in Prep and look after the plants basic needs by ensuring they have water, air, sunlight and nutritious soil.

We also have a family tree in Prep and the students are beginning to look at what their families have in common and what elements are different.

## PLAY BASED LEARNING - VET CLINIC

During play-based learning times, Prep students have been exploring the different roles within a Vet Clinic. They have discovered that organisation is needed within the clinic to ensure that things are not lost and put away properly. In order to do this we have made some signs and have labelled items.

Prep students are really enjoying playing in a real life play environment.

## Australian Curriculum Guided Reading

Read decodable and predictable texts, practising phrasing and fluency, and monitor meaning using concepts about print and emerging contextual, semantic, grammatical and phonic knowledge.

## Alphabet Practise

Produce some lower case and upper case letters using learnt letter formations.

## Sharing Books

Recognise that texts are created by authors who tell stories and share experiences that may be similar or different to students' own experiences.

## Australian Curriculum

### Science as a Human Endeavour

• Science involves exploring and observing the world using the senses.

### Science Understanding

• Living things have basic needs, including food and water.

### Historical Knowledge and Understanding

• The different structures of families and family groups today and what they have in common.  
• Who the people in their family are, where they were born and raised and how they are related to each other.

## Numeracy Time

Prep students have been learning about sequencing numbers from biggest to smallest, addition and counting on.

During Numeracy, Prep students have been ordering numbers from 1 to 20. They have had to recognise the smallest number and order them to the largest. This involves the students having a knowledge of counting strategies and the ability to recognise small and large numbers.

In Prep, we are learning that there are a lot of different terms when using addition.

These include: plus, counting on, counting forward, adding on and addition.

We are learning to recognise and use the plus sign and count amounts that equal 20 or less. We are using counters, our fingers and other concrete materials to develop skills.

We are continuing to practise writing and recognising numbers up to and beyond twenty. Each student has been practising writing and solving simple addition sums using concrete materials and mental strategies.

## Australian Curriculum

**What should the students be learning?**

- Establish understanding of the language and processes of counting by naming numbers in sequences, initially to and from 20 and then from any starting point.
- Connect number names, numerals and quantities, including zero, initially up to 10 and then beyond.
- Subitise small collections of objects.
- Compare, order and make correspondences between collections, initially to 20 and explain reasoning.
- Represent practical situations to model addition and sharing.

## RELIGION

During Religion, Prep students have been learning about Holy Week. We have made a class calendar and have been discussing the events leading up to Jesus's death and resurrection.

The students attended a Holy Week Mass in the church, many for the first time. They had lots of questions and were very excited to see the inside of a Catholic place of worship.

We had discussions about the signs and symbols that are inside a church and the relevance these have in their learnings about God. It was a lovely experience and it gave students insight. We have been learning that Easter is not just about chocolates and Easter bunnies; Easter has a greater meaning.



We celebrated St Patrick's Day on the 17th March and the students had a wonderful time at our St Brigid's Sports Afternoon.

Prep students competed in 'Rob the Pot of Gold' activity where they had to dash to collect a shamrock and a giant gold coin. The students showed great sportsmanship throughout the day and cheered both their classmates and house teams.

The students have been continuing to practise 'Godly Play' and are looking forward to next term's new story.