Welcome to Term 2. Now that the school year is well under way we are very busy. Here is an outline of what is planned for this term.

**Literacy**

We will continue to provide activities that will deepen and strengthen the children’s phonological awareness (the auditory understanding of the sounds of our language). Phonological awareness is a critical base for the building of literacy skills. This leads on to the recognition of basic sight words necessary for reading. The children have begun to bring home books to read each night and are very enthusiastic! We have also begun to learn the correct letter formation for each letter of the alphabet and how to hold a pencil. It is very important for children to know the letters of the alphabet. Please support your child at home if they are still learning these.

**Maths**

This term we will be exploring numbers and counting, making and continuing patterns, time and investigating shapes. Involving your child as much as you can when cooking, shopping, hanging out the washing, setting the table and other everyday tasks will help them to improve their skills and realize how we use Maths all of the time. Continue to reinforce the work we do at school by using the activities provided in the blue homework folder. Please ensure this folder is returned to school each Friday.

**Integrated Studies**

We are currently learning about Safety at school, at home and on the roads. As well as lots of discussions in the classroom we will be having incursions from the RACV, the CFA, Kings Water Safety and Responsible Pet Ownership. These visits give us the chance to see and hear from people who are involved directly in their fields. We are also going to meet our crossing supervisor who will help us practise the correct way to cross the road on a school crossing. We hope to practise these skills and visit 2 local Pre-Schools later in the term.
PMP

PMP has begun on Monday afternoons. The students rotate around 4 activities designed to improve their perceptual awareness through motor skills. The children thoroughly enjoy the various activities and participate enthusiastically. Thank you to the parents who have offered to be helpers. Your time is greatly appreciated. It is a good idea for girls not to wear tights on Mondays as PMP is done with bare feet.

You Can Do It

Since the beginning of the year the children have been introduced to the five You Can Do It key areas. These are Getting Along, Confidence, Organization, Persistence and Resilience. Each week in class we participate in activities that reinforce these behaviours. We try to practise them when outside in the playground.

Information and Communications Technology

This term in Information and Communications Technology the children will continue to familiarise themselves with the basic features of the computer and common computer icons. They will develop some basic formatting skills and improve their hand-eye co-ordination when using the mouse. The children have been using the iPads regularly. They use apps which support their learning in the classroom around counting, letter formation and hand-eye co-ordination.

Art

In Art sessions the focus this term will be on colour and texture. The children will use a variety of materials such as paint, crayon, pastels, paper and fabric. Links will be made through literature with some lessons based on picture story books. The students will continue to express their creativity and develop as an artist.
Science

This term in Science we will have experiments based on the integrated topics Safety and Shake Rattle & Roll. We will be looking at the properties of objects and how they behave and discussing the way an object moves depending upon a variety of factors, including their size and shape.

I am excited that our Soft Plastics program was a success last term as we began to bin our soft plastics in our new big Red Bin in Shadowlands. Small red buckets have been distributed in the classrooms. I am happy to see that students are learning to make the correct choice for their rubbish, either choosing the Yellow Recycle bin, the Compost bin, Red Soft plastics bin or the Blue Rubbish bin. We have saved so much recyclable rubbish that would have been put into landfill and now will be recycled into something useful and saving our beautiful planet! Please remember to bring in your unwanted plastic bags and put it in our Red Bin and encouraging recycling in your own home!

Physical Education

During term 2 the prep students will continue to develop the Fundamental Motor Skills of throwing, catching and rolling a ball, co-ordination skills to develop locomotor movement, including running, weaving in and out of cones, dodging and changing direction. We will practise these skills through a variety of activities and games that encourage the students to have fun whilst developing their skills and fitness. Many of the games that we play in Prep Physical Education assist the students to gain a better understanding and awareness of personal space, listening to and following instructions and co-operative play. The preps will also have the opportunity to participate in their first Tabloid Sports day and a soccer clinic from the Football Federation.

Don’t forget that it is ‘ACTIVE APRIL’. Students are encouraged to participate in 30 minutes of physical activity every day during the month of April and log it on the Active April website. Students who returned the completed Active April permission slip last term were given a special card with their unique username and code which gives them personal access to the website. Please go to www.activeapril.vic.gov.au for more details. If your child wasn’t registered you can do this yourself on the website.
Music

The Prep students have just commenced Quaver Music program. The interactive whiteboard is used to present the program and it is an exciting and engaging way for our students to learn a range of musical skills. The student response so far has been wonderful. We will continue to explore sound, instruments, maintaining a steady beat and body percussion. Students will be encouraged to engage with singing, music and dance activities with a focus on having fun. They will learn songs from different genres and perform a concert that showcases the skills they have learned for family members and friends later in the term. A date will be announced shortly for this exciting performance.

Term 2 Events:
ANZAC Day : Monday 25th April
Education Week : 16th – 20th May
Open Night : Wednesday 18th May - 5:30-6:30pm
RACV Incursion : Monday 23rd May
Reporting Day : Friday 27th May
Responsible Pet Ownership Incursion : Monday 30th May
Queen’s Birthday Holiday : Monday 13th June
Walks to Seaford Heights and Belvedere Park Pre-Schools : TBC
Brigades in Schools: CFA Incursion : TBC
Parent Teacher Interviews : 22nd & 23rd June
End of Term 2 : 24th June

PREP NEWS

Don’t forget to read our weekly newsletter so you can complete regular homework tasks with your child and keep up with all the new words we are learning!