Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term 3. Thank you for your continued support over the first semester. We are all looking forward to the excitement that the second semester brings.

Our Prep Camp Day late last term was a huge success and the students are to be commended on their excellent behaviour and participation in the day’s activities. The excitement that greeted us as we opened our doors in the morning carried through the entire day. The camp fire at the conclusion of the day was a fitting way to end our first Camp Day. We thank Mr Frederiksen for his help on the day, especially with the camp fire and songs.

We will have a number of events held in our level this term, so please be sure to note the following dates in your diary:

**Grandparents Day – Friday 22nd July**

We are looking forward to welcoming grandparents to our Church for a whole School Liturgy on Friday 22nd July. Following the Liturgy, grandparents will be invited to stay for morning tea and a visit to their grandchild’s classroom.

**Prep 100th Day Celebration- Friday 29th July**

As part of Mathematics this year the Preps have been counting each day of school. We are nearly at our 100th day and we will be celebrating this achievement in style. A further letter outlining details will arrive next week.

**School Closure Day**

We will be having a whole school Staff Professional Development Day on Monday 22nd August. There will be no school for students on this day.

**Curriculum Night – Tuesday 13th September**

This is an opportunity for families to attend what promises to be a reflective and fun evening showcasing the work completed by students and giving some insight into how Religion is taught in Grades Prep through to Grade Six. Each class will be presenting their own selection of work and families will be encouraged to view work and activities in other classes around the school. More details will follow at a later date.
Specialist Changes

This term the specialist timetable changes again. Please refer to the following table to see what day your child will be required to wear sports uniform and bring their library bag to school.

**Thursdays:**

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Prep Yellow will need to bring their library bag on a **Monday** and they will have their Library lesson with Miss La Fontaine.

Prep Blue will need to wear their sport uniform on a **Thursday** and will have their lesson with Mrs Lutgens.

**Liturgies**

This term **Prep Red** will be leading the Prep 100 Days Liturgy. This will take place on Friday **29th July at 2.30.**

**Prep Blue** will be presenting at the **2.30** assembly on **Monday 1st August.**

This term we will be covering the following topics in these subject areas:

**Religion**

Our two units are titled: Belonging to God’s People (Parts of the Mass) and Following Jesus – Loving and Serving (The Eucharist). As we begin to look at the parts of the Mass we will identify the similarities between celebrations such as a birthday and the events that take place at Mass. Later in the term the Preps will have an opportunity to visit the Church and take a closer look at the items used in the Mass. Fr. Jim will conduct this visit that is solely for the Prep students and teachers. We will also have a minor focus on Confirmation and the Holy Spirit, as we support our Grade 6 buddies in their preparation for Confirmation.

**Maths**

Our units will cover the following topics: Pattern, Making Ten, Doubles and Simple Addition
**Literacy**

Reading skills will continue to include the practise of decoding words; guided reading; sound work; sight word recognition and comprehension tasks. Students will learn about vowels and consonants and further develop their knowledge of blends. In writing activities, we will be guiding the students through a variety of tasks which will continue to give them the opportunity to write simple as well as compound sentences and develop their use of appropriate punctuation. Students will continue to develop important skills such as making eye contact when speaking and listening, and using a clear and loud voice when presenting orally to the class.

**The Importance of Home Reading**

Being read to, reading with a more skilled reader and having regular independent reading time, greatly improves your child’s reading skills. There can also be great benefit to comprehension and spelling skills. It is important that your child reads regularly with you at home. Reading material could include home readers, re-reading favourite stories, newspapers, magazines, eBooks and information on the internet.

Set a time each day for reading, that is free of interruptions. Talk to your child about what you read, helping them to make sense of the text. Most importantly, enjoy the special time that you spend reading together.

**Inquiry**

Our **Inquiry** topic for this term is titled “Where in the World?” and we will explore how people living in Australia all come from different parts of the world. We will look at how the different cultures represented in Australia celebrate important events and how they add richness and diversity to our country.

**Discovery Centres**

During this term we will continue **Discovery Centres**. These centres are continually revised and planned to suit the needs and interests of the children and we hope that they will continue to investigate and further their thinking through play. The centres assist in developing the students’ oral language and social skills as they will continue to be encouraged to work between two rooms.

**Mathletics/Wushka**

It has been great to see students accessing the Mathletics and Wushka programs from home. These programs both provide the opportunity to revise and build on skills taught at school. Please continue to encourage your child to use these programs.
CONTACT

The school newsletter is available to read online and we urge you to take the time each week to read about what is happening in our school community. The newsletter acknowledges students’ achievements and contains information about upcoming events.

School Nurse

Our school nurse, Kelly, will begin visiting the Prep students individually from Tuesday 23\textsuperscript{rd} August. Her visits will conclude on Tuesday 13\textsuperscript{th} September. Please note, unless prior consent has been given by parents, the class teacher will be unaware of the nurse’s findings.

Wet Days

Puddles and muddy areas are often a magnet for Prep students and the cold weather can sometimes cause little accidents. For this reason we urge all students to have a spare change of underwear, socks and clothes in their school bag this term.

Library/ Take Home Books

Please continue to read to and listen to your child read each day, allowing them the chance to practise decoding skills \textbf{before} you tell them the correct word. Also, don’t forget to share the library book that comes home each week. A reminder too that library books should be returned each week in order for your child to borrow a new one. This term there will be a greater focus on comprehension, so keep on talking and asking your child questions about the text.

Absentees

If your child is ill and/or away from school, they must have a written note explaining the reason for their absence, when they return. It is important that if your child is unwell they are kept home to recover, for their own benefit and also so as not to spread the illness to others.

Finally, thank you to everyone for your continued support. We look forward to another busy and enjoyable term working together.

Elizabeth Rodrigo  Samantha Lutgens  Natalie la Fontaine  Megan Hiscox