Welcome to Prep, 2016!

Unit 1
‘Who We Are’

We have relationships at school

Learner Profiles: Caring, Thinker and Communicator
Concepts: Form and Reflection

To begin the year, the Preps will explore the central idea ‘We have relationships at school’. This theme will be integrated throughout our curriculum. Students will make a ‘Helper Hand’ displaying all the people who can help them at school. They will also explore different emotions with help from the movie characters from ‘Inside Out’.

At Kingston Heath Primary School, we have a very strong ‘No Put Down’ policy. Students will develop their social skills and focus on appropriate classroom and playground behaviour.

During our Literacy focus, we will be developing our reading and writing skills. Initially we will be exploring the alphabet with the aid of the Letterland program; focusing on the letter/sound relationships, letter formation using Victorian Cursive Script and correct handwriting posture and pencil grip. Students will learn Cued Articulation hand gestures to assist when learning the sounds. We will be working on our speaking and listening skills through ‘Show & Share’ sessions, and asking and answering questions appropriately.

During our Mathematics focus, we will be exploring the numbers 1-10, particularly focusing on the meaning of the numbers. For example: 1, one, 1st, first, and a pictorial representation. The Preps will participate in a great deal of ‘hands-on’ learning. For example, students will consolidate their counting skills through a counting game with their friends using dice and counters. This allows a more thorough understanding of the concept to develop, such as students being able to count forwards from 0 to 10, backwards from 10 to 0, and automatically know what is before and after a particular number. The Preps will then continue to explore beyond 10.

Mrs Rosenberg, Mr Starling & Miss England’s Communication Corner

We hope everyone has had a happy and relaxing holiday. The Preps have quickly settled into school and are learning their routines as they have participated in a wonderful transition program during 2015.

You will receive a newsletter at the beginning of each Inquiry unit. It will have details of what the up-coming unit will entail, as well as key events such as interviews, excursions or special diary dates.

If you have any questions, queries, or just want a chat, feel free to come see your child’s teacher before 8.50am or after 3.30pm.

We are looking forward to the exciting year ahead!

Information and Communication Technology

Within our Unit of Inquiry, there will be a strong focus on developing the Preps ICT skills. Students will learn how to operate the equipment correctly and appropriately, and develop basic skills such as using the mouse, learning to type, how to open and close programs and turning the computers on and off.

We have relationships at school
English Online Interview
The English Online Interview is a compulsory assessment tool used across the state. This will enable us to cater our planning and teaching towards your child’s individual learning needs. Please check the roster with the date and time on the window as you enter the Prep Learning Centre.

Prep Information Evening
Tuesday 16th February at 6:00pm
You are all invited to come and visit the Prep classroom to learn more about what your child will be doing this year. We will be discussing curriculum, daily routines and our expectations.

Parent / Student / Teacher Interviews
Wednesday 2nd March
You will be able to nominate a preferred time to meet with your child’s teacher by logging onto COMPASS. Your child is welcome to join us for this 30 minute interview. This will give you a chance to meet and discuss any issues and gain feedback regarding your child’s progress. We also maintain an ‘open door’ policy to keep a constant communication channel open.

Prep Homework
At KHPS, our homework policy begins in Prep. Your child is required to read with you each night. After reading the story, you need to fill out the diary and your child can draw a picture and maybe ‘write’ a few words. Your child will love reading with you and showing off their developing reading skills. They will also be given some basic words to learn to read. We call these ‘Apple Words’. A note is glued inside your child’s reader cover explaining how this works. To support your child’s learning at school you can focus on the letter/sound relationships. For example, A is for ‘Annie Apple’ and she says ‘a’.

Labor Day – Public Holiday
Monday 14th March

Preps Start Full-Time
Tuesday 15th March
Although we have the Monday off, this is the first week the Preps come on Wednesdays.

Excursions / Incursions
Each term we will participate in either an excursion or incursion related to our Inquiry topic. This term, the students will be visiting the Melbourne Museum on Wednesday 16th March. Information is available on COMPASS.

Parent Helpers
We look forward to inviting you into our classroom to share in our wonderful learning experiences in Term 2.

Snack Attack – Nude Food
Each day at 10:00am our students will eat their ‘snack attack’ brain food. Please pack a small fruit or vegetable snack and explain to your child what it is. This needs to be fresh fruit or vegetables prepared for your child so they can eat while working. For example, 6 apple slices or 6 carrot sticks.

Why Nude Food?
KHPS has a large focus on Sustainability and healthy eating. We promote ‘nude food’ to all students to reduce litter in the playground and to ensure all students have healthy food for productive learning.

Library Bags
Every Monday students will have an opportunity to borrow from the Library. Please ensure your child has a library bag if they would like to borrow a book. Your ‘Prep Pack’ makes a great Library bag!

Last Day of Term 1
Thursday 24th March - Early finish at 2.30pm

First Day of Term 2
Monday 11th April

Summer Terms 1 & 4
No hat, no play!