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

The Preps have enjoyed building positive relationships with their friends, teachers and buddies during our first Unit of Inquiry. They have reflected on why it is important to have these relationships and discussed how each person can help them at school.

A teacher is on duty from 8:45am, providing a great opportunity for a quick play before school starts. Research shows that students will be better engaged if they have participated in some active play/physical activity before class. It is not acceptable when children continually arrive at school 5-10 minutes late as it disadvantages their learning.

Please remind your child if they have a notice in their communication bag to place it in the ‘teachers notes’ tub.

If you have any questions, queries, or just want a chat, feel free to knock on our door before 8.50am or after 3.30pm.

Prep 2016!

Unit 2
‘Where We Are In Place and Time’

All families are different.

Learner Profiles: Open Minded, Principled and Courageous

Concepts: Change

Everyone is part of a unique family. The Preps will explore and reflect on the similarities and differences between their families, their friend’s families, and families of different cultures. We have started looking at the structures of our own families by creating a ‘Family Graph’.

During our Mathematics focus, the Preps will be able to use the ‘Family Graph’ to interpret the data and answer yes and no questions. We will build on our counting skills and begin to develop our understanding of place value. For example, in 25, the 2 is in the tens column and the 5 is in the ones column. Once the students understand two-digit place value, they will begin to look at three-digit place value. We will begin to add and subtract single digit numbers up to 10. For example, 2 and 2 is 4, and 4 take away 2 is 2.

During our Literacy focus, the Preps will participate in Literacy Rotations, which will continue to develop their reading and writing skills at their individual point of need. ICT programs such as Reading Eggs, ‘Keyboard Climber 2’ and the Interactive Whiteboard, as well as hands-on teacher-led games and independent activities, will help to support and build letter/sound relationships and reading knowledge. Students will take part in ‘Rainbow Writing’ where they practice correct letter formation using Victorian Cursive Script.

We will continue to build speaking and listening skills through group discussions and ‘Show & Share’ sessions. The Preps will focus on using a big voice that can carry to the back of the room when presenting and maintaining eye contact with their audience. They will also focus on using a whisper voice when sharing ideas with partners. During this unit, students need to bring in items that have relevance to their family’s interests and background.

The Preps enjoy having their buddies over fortnightly. We will be doing more fun activities together to support our Unit of Inquiry. They enjoy practicing their reading and having lunch together, too.
Parent Helpers
We will start welcoming our lovely parent helpers into our classroom at the start of Term 2. The roster will be distributed first week back. Please talk to your teacher if you want to volunteer and are not on the roster!

Specialist Classes
* Monday – Library & PE  
* Wednesday & Thursday – Music, Italian & Art  
* Friday – PMP  
Every Monday students will have an opportunity to borrow from the Library. Please ensure your child brings their library bag if they would like to borrow a book.

Premiers’ Reading Challenge
A notice has gone home with your child’s username and password. Prep children need to read 30 books from the Prep - Year 2 book list. We are aiming for all the Preps to exceed this goal so please keep entering any books you read at home onto the website. Perhaps you could set a goal, such as 50 books. A reminder that the list of stories included in the challenge is on the education website and at your local library. Children will also be allowed to borrow books from our school library.

Prep Homework
Your child will get a new book each night to read with you. After reading the story, you need to fill out the diary and your child can draw a picture and write about the story. Your child will love reading with you and showing off their developing reading skills. They also need to practice their ‘Apple Words’. To support your child’s learning at school you can focus on the letter/sound relationships.

During Term 2, there will be a Writing Bag that will come home once with your child. Inside the writing bag are some photos of our Learner Profile teddy bears. Your child needs to pick their favourite teddy. They can then draw a picture and write about why it’s their favourite.

Reading Eggs & Mathletics
A notice went home during Term 1 with your child’s Reading Eggs username and password. Mathletics details will go home during Term 2. Both are excellent online resources that allows your child to build, consolidate and extend their reading skills and mathematical knowledge at home.

Perceptual Motor Skills (PMP)
This program is designed to develop fine and gross motor skills. It will take place every Friday, starting 15th April. If possible, it would be more comfortable for girls to wear pants or shorts during PMP.

Brain Gym
The Preps will be participating in Brain Gym every morning. Brain Gym exercises are fun movements that are designed to engage the left and right hemispheres of the brain. It is a great way to start the day!

Kilometre (KM) Club
Every Wednesday we will participate in KM Club. The Preps will then graph their results in their Maths book.

Letterland Day – Monday 18th April
Come to school dressed as your favourite Letterland character! Parents are welcome to join us for the Letterland Parade at 9:10am in the Hall.

Mother’s Day Afternoon Tea – Friday 6th May at 2:30pm
Get ready to be spoilt! The children will make their family feel extra special with an afternoon tea and exclusive performance. We look forward to you joining us!

Education Week – Monday 16th - Friday 20th May
Education week is an excellent opportunity to come and have a look around the Prep room to see what your child has been learning. Also make sure you save the date, Wednesday 18th May, for the Preps first concert performance at 6.00pm!

School Photo Day – Monday 19th May
Full school uniform – black shoes, no makeup/jewellery and girls hair tied back. Bring a big smile! More information will be available soon.

Reminders!
☺️ Snack attack – nude food (fresh fruit or vegetables with no wrappers to reduce litter and promote productive learning).  
☺️ Please ensure all clothing and accessories are clearly named, particularly jumpers. Check it hasn’t washed off in the wash!  
☺️ Remember to bring a drink bottle every day.