

Prep/1 Newsletter

Term 1 -2021

Welcome to all of our students and parents. The students have had a great start to the year and have settled into school life nicely. This term will be filled with new adventures where the students will get the opportunity to learn new things and make new friends.

Stationery Items

At EPS we do not provide communal books and pencils for students to share within the classroom. This means that if they do not have all of their required stationery, student's learning can be impacted. Can we please ask that ALL stationery items from the booklist are sent to the school, this **includes pencils, glue sticks, scissors and sharpeners**. Students have locker tubs where these items are safely stored and teachers will distribute when needed. Booklists can be collected from the office if you are unsure of the stationery items required.

Important Term 1 dates:

- 03 Feb: - Brainstorm Productions Sticks & Stones Incursion (Grade 1s only)
- 16/17 Feb TBC - Meet & Greet
- 17 Mar - Harmony Day
- 22 Feb - Parent/carer helper training
- 8 Mar - Public holiday
- 1 Apr - Last day of Term 1.

Our learning

Café Reading

This term, students will be learning about the features of a book and where to start reading on a page. They will be encouraged to point to the words as we read and to look at the pictures to assist with their comprehension. Grade 1 students will continue to develop their ability to decode words and read fluently.

Writing

The Prep students will engage in various activities to develop their fine motor skills. They will learn how to hold a pencil correctly, how to use scissors and will begin to form lower case letters correctly through tracing and independent practice. Grade 1 students will continue to practice their letter formation and to write sentences using correct beginning and ending punctuation.

Phonics

At Epping Primary we follow the Little Learners Love Literacy program to learn the sounds of the alphabet and how to write them. This term, we will focus on one sound a week. Each week students will be introduced to a new sound following the story of Milo the Monkey and his friends. Each friend, begins with a new sound. The sounds we will focus on this term are M, S, F, A, P, T, C and I... Grade 1 students will continue to develop their understanding of vowel digraphs following the Little Learners program.

SEA

SEA stands for Social & Emotional Awareness. Students participate in these lessons once a week with their classroom teacher. Social and Emotional learning is about learning how to manage feelings, manage friendships and solve problems. These are essential life skills needed to manage ourselves, relate to others, resolve conflict, and feel positive about ourselves and the world around us.

Inquiry

Our Inquiry topic this term is "All About Me." All students will learn about how students are the same and different in terms of family, culture and their engagement in the community.

Maths

This term, the Prep students will be learning about the numbers to 10 and how to count small collections using 1:1 correspondence. Grade 1 students will be learning about the Place Value of two and three digit numbers and will revise their understanding of the numbers to 20. All Prep/1 students will explore measurement using informal measurements and collect data using simple tallies and graphs.

Each Grade will also count how many days we have been at school using different methods such as tallies, hundreds cards and tens frames. This is a great way to build excitement leading up to a class celebration on the 100th day.



Brain Food



EPS schedules daily brain food (fruit) breaks for children to snack on brain-healthy food during class to keep up energy levels and increase healthy food intake. Please provide your child with daily 'nude' brain food such as a piece of fruit or a vegetable. Brain food happens at 10am daily. **Can we please ask that this fruit snack is sent to school in a separate labelled container so students do not get confused with what to eat at this time and to allow teachers to store in their classrooms.**

Specialists

Italian

In term 1, students will become aware that languages have an origin and Italian is spoken in Italy. They will learn how to introduce themselves and greet and farewell the teacher.

Performing Arts

In Performing Arts this term, students will be exploring the elements of music including high and low pitch, fast and slow tempo, keeping a steady beat and exploring their singing voice as well as learning to play a variety of percussion instruments.

P.E.

In P.E, the children will work on Gross Motor Skills: Running, Hopping, Skipping, Jumping, and Balancing activities.

Visual Arts

Students will be exploring mark-making in the Art Room this term. They will be experimenting with a variety of drawing tools while learning about the elements of line and shape.

Buddies

Buddies occurs fortnightly with the Grade 5s. This allows the children to learn about social skills, build relationships with their peers and engage with lots of fun activities with their buddies.

Magic Words

Our Magic **100 Words** make up 70% of the **words** used in reading. **Learning the Magic Words** improves reading, increases fluency and develops comprehension. There is a set of Magic 100 Words in each classroom to help all our students keep track of their progress. It is important that students are able to read these words in sentences and write them correctly. Magic Words activities should be completed nightly with your child.



REMINDERS

Attendance/being at school on time

Just a gentle reminder that classes begin at 9:00 am sharp. Students can miss out on vital instructions and school routines if they are late. Regular attendance at school is vital to ensure that your child is able to learn to their full potential. If your child is absent for medical or other reasons please contact either the office, your child's teacher or add directly to Compass.



The See Saw app is a free app that allows family members to keep up to date with their child's learning and easily communicate between school and home. At EPS, Seesaw is our one of our main links between home and school to share and celebrate student learning, special events and communicate reminders for families who are unable to make contact with your child's teacher in person. Many families are still not connected and using the app. Please contact your classroom teacher to get started.

Lost Property

Young students are very good at losing things, so the best way to make sure things find their way home is to write their name on jumpers, drink bottles and other items.

Making Appointments

We love hearing from you and discussing your child's learning journey, however to be fair and considerate to all children and to be inline with COVID guidelines, appointment times need to be arranged. Please contact the office or your teacher through Seesaw if you would like to arrange a meeting. If you are sending a note to school in your child's bag please be aware that children often forget to give things to us so if it's important information it's best to message us on Seesaw so we can follow it up.

Homework

Students should:

- Read/be read to for up to 30 minutes each night.
- Practice reading and writing their Magic Words.
- Grade 1 students will have spelling words to practice.



Home Reading

Nightly reading with your child is important to develop their reading confidence and to build their stamina. It is recommended that children either read or are read to for at least 30 minutes a night. Please ensure that your child is bringing their blue communication bag back to school daily so when home reading books are sent home, they can be swapped over. **Make sure you are using your reading diary to keep track of the books and nights your child is reading.**

