Learning to Read

This week we will be starting to look at the alphabet, in particular, we will be looking at the letters m and s. We will be talking about how the letters have a name but also make a sound. We will be introducing ‘cued articulation’ which are actions designed to help children differentiate between sounds. We will look for letters, write letters and make letters using play dough and classroom materials. One of the strategies of reading is to look for rhyming words to help read new words. Share some rhyming books at home and talk about the rhyming words. Dr Suess is always lots of fun! Remember to keep using the Reading Eggs program to further develop your child’s literacy skills.

**Reading:** This week we are focusing on the letters Ss and Mm. We will learn how to use pictures to ‘read’ a story and will talk about how to point to the words as we read them. We will be doing lots of letter and sound activities.

**Writing:** This week we are focusing on using pictures to record a message and how to write our name correctly (with a capital letter at the start and the other letters in lower-case).

**Speaking and Listening:** This week we are focusing on asking and answering simple questions for information and clarification as well as waiting to speak when two other people are speaking.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR CHILD’S BLUE BOOK BAG EVERY DAY WITH THEIR BOOK AND DIARY INSIDE.**

Social Development

**Term One Personal Skills:**

In term one we will use developmental play, games, activities and other programs to develop confidence, social skills, friendships, a willingness to think outside the square, teamwork skills, independence and a sense of belonging, purpose and direction. Children will be provided with opportunities to:

* Organise themselves in the morning and afternoon.
* Develop their independence and confidence.
* Confidently communicate their needs and ideas.
* Learn to make mistakes and see them as a learning opportunity.
* Learn that all ideas are valued.

Maths

This week we are focusing on number. We will be using lots of manipulative materials to develop counting and number recognition skills. We will be focusing on the numbers 1-5. It is important for the children to learn all about number 5 and to be able to instantly recall different numbers that combine to make 5 e.g. 3 and 2.

* Use toys, food and other household objects to make 5 e.g. two apples and three oranges.
* Read numbers in the environment e.g. on clocks, number plates, price tags, the microwave, speed signs etc.
* Use chalk, biscuit dough, household objects, etc. to write numbers and make matching groups.
INTEGRATED STUDIES

This term our focus is on ‘me and my family’. The following are examples of ideas that may be investigated over the term:

* Developing a common understanding of school rules and their purpose.
* Investigating and celebrating what makes your child unique.
* Investigating and celebrating your child’s interests and strengths.
* Investigating your child’s role in the classroom, community and family.

The children will be encouraged to share their thoughts, investigate concepts of interest and work collaboratively with their peers to develop their understandings. The curriculum will evolve according to the children’s interests, understandings and individual needs.

This week in integrated studies we will...

* As a team we will develop a classroom routine.
* As a team we will establish rules and our classroom culture.
* We will investigate our roles in the school community and begin looking at what makes us special.

Buddies

Last Thursday the Preps had a second session with the Year Five buddies. The Preps moved around and worked with different Year Five children to get to know them. The Grade Fives played games, drew and read stories with the Preps. Many of the Preps have already developed a connection with a particular Year Five student. Next week, each Prep will be assigned a Year Five buddy who will care for and support them over the next two years. This week when we meet with the buddies, your child will create a poster with their buddy. This will come home to you so you can learn a little about your child’s buddy. Preps will not be paired up with a sibling or family friend as the program is designed to broaden their support network and social skills.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

THE PREPS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO PLAY IN THE SENIOR PLAYGROUND BETWEEN OUR BUILDING AND LINE UP AREA BEFORE SCHOOL OR DURING THE DAY. PLEASE MAKE SURE THEY USE THE PREP PLAYGROUND IN THE BACK CORNER.

PUPIL FREE DAY.

This is a reminder that FRIDAY 21st February is a PUPIL FREE DAY.

Staff will spend the day with Adam Voight from Real Schools, learning about Restorative Practices and how this will benefit our school.

Click on this youtube link to find out more: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7x8z8Jztqc

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD HAS A WRAPPER FREE LUNCH. WELL DONE TO ALL THE CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN BRINGING THEIR FOOD IN LITTLE CONTAINERS. THANK YOU!

THIS WEEK THE CHILDREN WILL BE TAKING THEIR SHOES OFF INSIDE. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD WEARS SHOES THEY CAN PUT ON AND DO UP INDEPENDENTLY.

Other Reminders....

- Don’t forget to purchase arm bands for the fair.
- Don’t forget to return parent helper course, parent helper or fair helper notices.
- Please make sure you name ALL belongings that come to school.
- Prep lost property will be placed in the black tub under the easel in the Prep B and C entry.
- Please remember that nail polish and jewellery, with the exception of studs, sleepers and watchs, are not permitted.
- Please make sure that all hair that is longer than shoulder length is tied back.