Welcome to Our Lady of the Nativity and well done to both parents and children on a smooth start to school. The Preps are settling into the school routine very well and we are really enjoying getting to know your child! As you are aware the school environment is very different to what your child has been used to, as they are required to participate in more structured activities and concentrate for longer periods of time. Over the first term we will work on building up the children’s stamina. Naturally the children will be tired so they will need plenty of rest and relaxation when at home. Don’t be surprised if the novelty of the first few weeks wears thin when they realise that school is an ongoing event: we will certainly strive to maintain their interest! 😊

There are a few important reminders about Prep events over the first few weeks of school. Please read the following information carefully and if you have any questions, don’t hesitate to contact your child’s teacher. We are looking forward to catching up with all of you at the Parent Information exchange sessions coming up.

**Punctuality**

The first school bell rings at 8.30 am when classrooms are open and children are welcome to come inside and set up for the day. The following bell rings at 8.45, this is the time that children must be in the classroom ready for the day. We would like to remind you that the morning literacy session starts promptly every morning at 8:50am. Children that arrive after this time do miss out on important teaching and learning time.

**Specialist Classes**

The Preps will participate in specialist lessons every **Tuesday** and students will need to wear their sports uniform every **Tuesday and Thursday**.
**LIBRARY BORROWING**

Borrowing will happen once a week with your child’s classroom teacher. Please note, this is separate from the children’s library specialist session, no borrowing occurs on Prep specialist days. Please return library books and bags to the designated spot in the classroom on our prior to your child’s borrowing day- Don’t forget your library bag! 😊

**PREP A- MONDAY**

**PREP B THURSDAY**

**UNIFORMS**

Please ensure your child is in full school uniform each day. In Term 1 and 4 children are to wear SUMMER uniform, see pictures below for boys and girls uniform. Boys are to wear grey shorts. This uniform is to be worn with grey socks and black school shoes.

On Tuesday and Thursday (or as specified for special days eg- athletics day) children are to wear their full SPORT uniform. Children are able to wear their house colour polo top on Tuesday and are required to wear their pale blue polo top on Thursdays. Boys and girls are to wear navy shorts. Children must wear runners and white socks.
Please send along two pieces of brain food each day. Brain food must be fruit or vegetables, this can include cucumber or carrot sticks, strawberries, grapes or a banana. Please ensure this is able to be eaten easily while children are working eg- no spoon/fork required. No messy fruit please! Children are to bring their brain food in a small container and place it on their desk each morning. This is a small snack to keep children going before they eat their recess food or lunch.

The main focus for Preps in Religion is to begin to develop a loving relationship with God the Father and his son Jesus along with Mary our Mother; the Holy family, and St Francis. This occurs through understanding our relationships with our families, friends and others in our community. In Religion this term we are focusing on Morning Prayer, Our Prayer Place and Mary (through the Hail Mary.). We will also focus on the correct actions to make the sign of the cross.

Mathematics includes Number & Algebra, Measurement & Geometry and Statistics & Probability. For this term we are focusing on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number &amp; Algebra</th>
<th>Measurement &amp; Geometry</th>
<th>Working Mathematically</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Oral counting to 100  
• Counting back from 10  
• Attempting to record numerals 0-10  
• Recognition of numbers  
• Making collections of numbers using maths tools (counters, buttons, etc)  
• Accurate counting of collections  
• Labelling collections both written and orally | • Recognising 2D shapes (squares, circles, triangles, rectangles)  
• The language of position (over, under, below, through, on, in,) | • Explore the language of our thinking (This is what I did, this is what I found out, this is what I know). |
The teaching of Literacy includes Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking. We cover these areas in our literacy block every day. For this term we are focusing on.

**Reading**
- Reading for enjoyment
- Letter/sound recognition
- High frequency words
- Recognising print

**Writing**
- Writing their name correctly
- Writing some high frequency words
- Hearing and recording sounds in words
- Attempting to write a simple sentence

**Speaking & Listening**
- Sitting still
- Making eye contact when speaking
- Using a clear voice
- Describe and talk about experiences
- Asking questions

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**UNIT OF INQUIRY**

**Transdisciplinary theme- Who We Are**

**Central Idea-** We come to school to learn about ourselves, others and the world.

Through this inquiry we will explore how our school works, the roles peoples play in our community and what it means to be a friend. We will also inquire into who we are as learners through beginning to develop an understanding of the learner profile. Children will be encouraged to ‘get to know’ themselves, other students in their classroom and around the school including their grade six buddies, the teachers and school staff. They will have opportunities to learn to play constructively together and be encouraged to develop friendships with peers.

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**PREP MORNING ROUTINE**

Please assist your child to:
- Place their reader bag/satchel in their book tub- please bring reader bags/satchel EACH DAY
- Put their drink bottle and brain food on their desk
- Find a quiet activity or book to read
- PLEASE LEAVE LUNCH BOXES IN SCHOOL BAGS

We also ask you to be mindful that due to the fast pace of the morning routine it can sometimes be difficult to see classroom teachers. It may be best to send an email for a simple communication or arrange a time to have a discussion.
if necessary as we are more than happy to meet with you. Please note that we have meetings each Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon and are therefore unavailable at these times. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

**HATS**

Children are required to wear their school hat in Term 1 and Term 4. We ask that hats are clearly labelled and left at school in your child’s tub each day. Please do not take hats home. Children who do not have a hat must stay on the deck in the shade at recess and lunch time as part of our sun smart policy.

**SHARING**

Sharing allows Preps to practise their speaking and listening skills. In the coming weeks a roster will be sent home with your child’s sharing day and a list of weekly themes. Please practise with your child prior to their sharing day to help build their confidence to speak in front of their peers. We ask that children only bring in ONE item per week (where appropriate) to share. It is not a requirement that children bring in objects each week for sharing, they may be happy to bring a photo or no prop and just chat.

**READERS**

At this early stage the Preps will be changing their readers on a Monday and a Thursday. Please ensure that you are reading every night (you can read the same book more than once). However, it is essential that children bring their reader bag/satchel to school EACH day as this is also used as a communication folder for school newsletters, notices and permission slips. We ask that you check this reader bag for notes each night and remove any notes. Please feel free to place any notes or permission slips in the reader bag to be sent to school.

**BIRTHDAYS**

Birthdays are fun to celebrate but we ask that parents are mindful of what they send into school with their child as a birthday treat. Below is a list of treats that can be sent to school for your child’s birthday:

- Icy poles (please inform teacher on the morning or day before)
- Freddos
- Lollypops
- Jelly lollies (eg. Natural Confectionary snakes, jubes)

**TISSUES**

At the beginning of the year we request that each family donates two boxes of tissues to the classroom. Please feel free to leave these boxes on the back bench in the classroom.
ABSENCES

Please send a written note or email including the date and reason for any absences. This includes appointments. The Tiqbiz app can be used for these communications. Any extended absences including planned holidays must be requested in writing and approved by the Principal, this can also be done via the Tiqbiz app.

TERM 1

CALENDAR DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 8th February</td>
<td>Parent Information Exchange</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.30pm-6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 11th February</td>
<td>Parent Information Exchange</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.30pm-6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 23rd February</td>
<td>Prep Welcome Evening @ 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 29th February</td>
<td>Preps attend school full time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 10th March</td>
<td>Parent Helper Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 14th March</td>
<td>Labour Day- Student Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17th March</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day- Green Clothes Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 24th March</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1 @ 1.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 13th April</td>
<td>First Day of Term 2</td>
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</tbody>
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We are looking forward to a great term! Please see us if you have any questions or concerns.

😊 The Prep Team 😊

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Vanessa Ambrosino vambrosino@olnaberfeldie.catholic.edu.au