Welcome to Our Lady of the Nativity, we have had a very smooth start to school year and we thank you both the parents and children for your support in this. The Preps are settling into the school routine very well and we are really enjoying getting to know your children! 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 on Monday and Thursday.

**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.

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING DAYS ARE PREP FREE WEDNESDAYS:**

- FEBRUARY 15TH
- FEBRUARY 22ND
- MARCH 1st

Please ensure you have booked your child in for a literacy testing appointment on ONE of the above dates.

**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 or prior to your child’s borrowing day- Don’t forget your library bag! 😊

PREP G- 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 the uniforms. The shorts are grey. 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 Tuesdays 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.

BRAIN FOOD

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. Ideally children do not need to go to their school bag to retrieve this during learning time.

RELIGION

The main focus for Preps in Religion is to continue developing 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.

MATHS

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>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oral counting to 100</td>
<td>Recognising 2D shapes (squares, circles, triangles, rectangles)</td>
<td>Explore the language of our thinking (This is what I did, this is what I found out, this is what I know).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counting back from 10</td>
<td>The language of position (over, under, below, through, on, in,)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempting to record numerals 0-10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Recognition of numbers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Making collections of numbers</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>using maths tools (counters, buttons, etc)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Accurate counting of collections</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Labelling collections both written and orally</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

LITERACY

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
- Most used words (M100Ws)
- 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

UNIT OF INQUIRY

Transdisciplinary theme - Where We Are In Place and Time
Central Idea - School provides us with a place to learn and play.

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.

PREP MORNING ROUTINE

Each morning please assist your child to:
• Place their reader bag in their book tub- please bring reader bags 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 strongly encourage children to do this with parent support to build children’s independence. 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, Thursday and Friday. 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 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)
- Alternatives to food may include- a balloon, pencil or bubbles

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 13th February 3.30pm- 6.30pm</td>
<td>Parent Information Exchange</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 16th February 3.30pm- 6.30pm</td>
<td>Parent Information Exchange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 21st February</td>
<td>Prep Welcome Evening @ 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 6th March</td>
<td>Preps attend school full time- EVERY DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 9th March</td>
<td>Parent Helper Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 13th March</td>
<td>Labour Day- Student Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 17th March</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day- Green Clothes Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 2nd April</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 1 @ 1.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 18th April</td>
<td>Easter Monday- Student Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 19th April</td>
<td>First day of Term 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Assetta vassetta@olnaberfeldie.catholic.edu.au