The Preps have settled into their first term of school very well. They have been practising their organization by getting their lunch boxes, drink bottles and reader folders out of their bags each morning and putting them in the appropriate spots in their classrooms. Thank-you to all the parents for ensuring that their children are made responsible for their own belongings. The children should be able to enter the classrooms by themselves and get ready for the school day.

**AUSSIE OF THE MONTH!**
Every month some lucky preps are chosen by their teacher, or a specialist teacher to be an Aussie of the Month. They receive this for their continued good choices and wonderful behaviour. It is one of the ways at school that we can recognise children’s efforts at school. We hope you can also acknowledge their efforts at home when this award is won. You will be informed when your child has been chosen so that you can attend the Friday afternoon assembly when

**School Fees**
Please ensure your school fees are paid. Students will miss out on upcoming performances or excursions if any monies are owing. We would not like to see this happen to the students, so if you need assistance in paying or would like to set up a payment plan, please see Veronica in the office.

**HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD AT HOME?**

**Reading and Writing Tips**
Students begin to read through rhymes, storytelling and following along with their favourite book. Learning to write begins with scribble and drawings. Try these activities at home to help develop these skills:
- Share rhymes and have your child join in.
- Listen to your child and respond to their ideas with questions and ask for more information.
- Write down their stories as they tell you and encourage them to read them back.
- Point out and talk about letters and words all around you, e.g., on cereal boxes, car number plates, signs.

**Maths Tips**
Dice are a great addition to any toy collection. Roll the dice and say, make or write the numbers identified. Roll the dice and add the numbers together to find the total.
- Use different numbers as the starting point for practising counting, for example start counting from 6 or 10. Ask your child to count forwards and backwards. Ask what number comes before or what number comes after.
- Play matching number games with playing cards.
- Encourage your child to draw, create and describe their own patterns. Use them for borders or greeting cards or on material.

**Home Reading**
**PLEASE** continue to listen to your child read every night. This is extremely beneficial to your child’s continued success. Reader folders must be at school **everyday**.
**Discovery Learning Sessions**

In Prep we encourage children to progress through stages of development in a supportive and non threatening environment. Children need opportunities to explore concepts and ideas in many different ways. They must have the chance to work with concrete, hands on materials to develop their skills. With practice and a wide range of experiences, these skills and understandings can be established and internalized.

*Discovery Learning* is an inquiry based approach to learning that allows classroom teachers to integrate play and exploration into the classroom program. For **1 hour** per day students participate in literacy, numeracy and Inquiry activities through a combination of strategically planned play based centres, exploration and explicit teaching. The centres provided are developmentally appropriate, give students a chance to practise what they know, are linked to learning intentions and designed to reflect the social, emotional, physical, language and cognitive learning needs of your child.

Students are also withdrawn from their explorations to work with the teacher in small group or individual settings. Here, literacy and numeracy skills are both revised and explicitly taught. Children are supported to discuss their learning and move to their next point of growth in line with their individual goals.

Through individual interests and discovery experiences, your child will be provided with opportunities to:

- Express needs and wants
- Develop social interactions
- ‘Have a go’ and risk take
- Develop eye/hand coordination and strength
- Problem solve through exploration and discovery
- Practise new ideas

*The Prep team will be attending a 2-day International conference conducted by Sanguine Consulting during May. This conference will enhance our Discovery Learning Program and we look forward to the opportunity to discuss Inquiry Learning with other professionals from around the Asia-Pacific Region. During these 2 days, the Prep children will have familiar replacement teachers teaching them.*
**Alphabet Books**
Thankyou for helping your child complete their alphabet books each week. The effort put into many of them is amazing, keep it up. These must be back at school on Fridays, to allow us to set up the new letter for Monday. If you have missed a week please let us know.

**Dates for your Diary**
- **May Race Holiday**—Thursday May 1st
- **Cross Country**—Thursday May 8th
- **Report Writing Day**—Friday June 6th
- **Queen’s Birthday Holiday**—Monday June 9th

**Reminder:**
Our new school times commence this term with the bell to come inside at 8.45am and the home bell at 3.20pm. Please try to have your child at school ready for the beginning of the day to ensure minimal disruption and adequate time to organise themselves to begin learning time promptly.

**New Playground**
During the holidays our new Prep playground was installed and will provide a safe and fun play space during snack and lunchtimes!

**Uniform**
With the cooler weather approaching it is important that your child has adequate footwear and a school jumper to keep them warm and snug. Please name your child's jumper to ensure it is returned to them should it be misplaced.

**LUNCH ORDERS**
Preps are now able to have a lunch order. These are available on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. A Canteen list is available from the Office.

**JAPANESE**
During Term 2, the Prep children will be introduced to Japanese language and culture. Anne Robertson will be team teaching in each classroom once a week.