



Year Prep 2025 Term 1 Overview

Welcome to Term 1 in Prep! We are looking forward to a fun-filled year of learning.

The students will be involved in a range of activities this term, including our annual pancake-making on Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday Mass. This year, the Preps will be involved in the cyber safety program, 'Inform and Empower Digital Safety and Wellbeing Program'. This digital safety and wellbeing program will include a live-streamed incursion each term. Follow-up lessons will occur throughout the term to support this important program and our students' learning.



Throughout this year, the students will be supported through a range of learning experiences that incorporate the use of contemporary tools such as the Habits of Mind and the learning dispositions that lead to a Growth Mindset. Learning tasks will also embed the '4 Cs of 21st-century learning'; Critical thinking, Creativity, Collaboration and Communication. This term the students will focus on the Habits of Mind of, *Persisting* and *Managing Impulsivity*.

These tools align with our school values, 'I am a learner', 'I am a friend' and 'I am respectful', and complement the key principles of 'The Resilience Project', which are Gratitude, Empathy/Kindness and Mindfulness (GEM). The students will be provided with relevant and purposeful learning opportunities, where core knowledge and skills are integrated across the curriculum. The four Capabilities from the Victorian Curriculum, 'Personal and Social', 'Ethical', 'Intercultural' and 'Critical and Creative Thinking', will be taught explicitly in and through all learning areas.



RELIGION

Daily prayer and regular Christian meditation are an integral part of our Religious Education program. The Preps have created a class prayer cloth that will be used for afternoon meditation and prayer sessions.

The learning units that will be explored this term are:

- *Called to be Me*
- *Praying to God.*

INTEGRATED TOPIC

'Me and My School' - Health & Humanities

The students will:

- explore their personal identity and the ways in which they belong to different groups
- recognise the meaning of our three School Values, 'I am a friend', 'I am a learner' and 'I am respectful'.



MATHEMATICS

Developing number sense is an essential component of Mathematics and every lesson will begin with a short activity that engages students and tunes them into the learning. This can include counting, skip counting and purposeful games.

Alongside this, each Maths session will include a 'Daily Review'. This important component consists of reviewing and revisiting previously taught knowledge and skills in a considered, methodical approach. This is purposefully designed to ensure the students regularly practice retrieving previously taught knowledge and skills from their long-term memory, and 'recall' it in their working memory. Research into the Science of Learning shows that this methodology strengthens the neural connections in long-term memory, thereby aiding 'remembering' and reducing 'forgetting'.

The Victorian Curriculum outlines four Mathematical Proficiencies: *understanding*, *fluency*, *problem-solving* and *reasoning*. For Prep students, *understanding* would include connecting names, numerals and quantities, and partitioning numbers in various ways; *fluency* would include counting numbers in sequence both forwards and backwards; *problem-solving* would include using materials to model problems; and *reasoning* would include explaining patterns (numbers or objects) that have been created.

Through a variety of whole class, small group and partner learning activities, the following topics will be covered this term:

Number

- connecting number names and numerals up to 10 and beyond
- reading, writing and interpreting numbers up to 10 and beyond
- ordering numbers to 10, including identifying the number before and after
- counting forwards and backwards, initially by 1s, up to 20 and beyond
- exploring number facts to 5, including 'friends of 5', eg. 2 and 3, 4 and 1
- identifying and creating patterns with a range of objects.



Measurement and Geometry

- connecting days of the week to familiar events (e.g. weekly and daily school routine).
- location.

Algebra

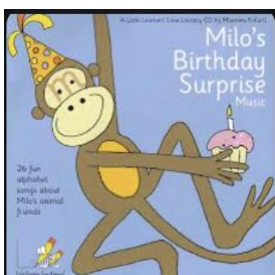
- recognising, copying, continuing and creating repeating patterns represented in different ways.

ENGLISH

The English language is comprised of 44 phonemes - the units of sounds that make up words. These phonemes are represented in writing by symbols known as graphemes - the letter or group of letters that represent each sound unit that we read or write. This year, we will be further developing our whole school phonics approach to reading, spelling and writing through the implementation of, '*Little Learners Love Literacy*' learning and teaching program in Prep.



The '*Little Learners*' program focuses on phonemic awareness (the ability to notice and work with the individual sounds - phonemes - that combine to form spoken words), the alphabetic code (phonics), vocabulary and the explicit linking of reading, spelling and writing.



Reading

The students will focus on the phonemes 'm', 's', 'f', 'a', 'p', 't', 'c' and 'i' this term through a variety of learning activities, such as:

- blending (encoding) sounds into words, e.g. /s/ /a/ /t/ = sat
- segmenting (decoding) words into sounds, e.g. pit = /p/ /i/ /t/
- deleting and changing the sounds in spoken words - changing the onset and rime - to make new words, e.g. /h/ + at, /m/ + at, /p/ + at, /c/ + at etc.
- practising high-frequency 'sight' words such as, 'I', 'the', 'my'.

Writing

Using the phonemes 'm', 's', 'f', 'a', 'p', 't', 'c' and 'i' the students will practice writing and identifying the graphemes that represent them, and spelling through learning activities such as:

- blending (encoding) sounds into written words, e.g. /s/ /a/ /t/ = sat
- practising high-frequency 'sight' words such as, 'I', 'the', 'my'.



Handwriting

The students will:

- participate in a range of fine motor strengthening activities to assist them with their handwriting
- focus on the mechanics of handwriting, including the correct pencil grip and seating posture.
- receive explicit instruction and practice correct letter formation and direction.



Speaking & Listening

The students will:

- be exposed to and use a range of vocabulary associated with the weekly phoneme through the Little Learners Love Literacy Program
- respond to questions and ideas from others
- learn the importance of turn-taking and respectful listening.

Library borrowing day is Thursday.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

As part of Digital Technology lessons, the students will participate in the 'Inform and Empower Digital Safety and Wellbeing' program. The focus this term is 'My Screen and Me' which includes making clever screen time choices.



The students will learn to:

- identify appropriate times and places to use devices.
- take care of devices
- share devices.

SOCIAL and EMOTIONAL LEARNING - The Resilience Project

'The Resilience Project' delivers an emotionally engaging program to the students and is based on the concepts of Gratitude, Empathy/Kindness and Mindfulness (GEM). Lessons based on this project will occur weekly throughout the term.



The topics that will be covered this term are:

- 'A Good Friend' - identifying some actions of a good friend
- 'Feelings' - identifying different feelings
- 'Gratitude Chain' - understanding what gratitude is and how being grateful makes us feel.

VISUAL ARTS

The students will be exploring ideas related to themselves, their experiences, observations and imagination, to create visual artworks to present, share and display throughout Term 1.

The students will:

- experiment with different materials, techniques, and the elements of colour, shape and line, to create artworks in response to personal experiences and shared literature.



ITALIAN



'Introduzioni e Saluti' (Introductions and Greetings)

During Term 1, the students will be encouraged to develop their verbal language skills in Italian, by following instructions and being exposed to Italian communication. They will learn about the ways to greet others and introduce themselves. Additionally, students will learn to count to 10 and be introduced to Easter traditions.

Throughout the term, students will regularly engage in the reading of Italian picture books to support exposure of new vocabulary as well as being immersed in the fluency and intonations of the Italian language.

Signora Merola

PERFORMING ARTS

The students will participate in a range of Performing Arts activities to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills. The focus this term will be drama based and to learn about how they can make drama to communicate ideas and stories.



Karil Torcasio

SCIENCE

This term, the students will begin by exploring the questions, 'What is Science?', 'What is a scientist?' and 'Where do scientists work?'. By sharing their previous knowledge and experiences with each other, the students will begin to develop collaborative skills and a shared scientific language and mindset.

The students will continue to use this language and mindset to develop a greater awareness of themselves and their world as they explore this term's focus on Chemical Science.

The students will:

- observe the properties of materials around us
- identify how the properties of objects are used for different purposes, e.g. wood for building, glass for windows
- classify objects based on their similarities and differences.



Janelle Baldwin



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This term, the Prep students will be learning to develop their fundamental motor skills of running whilst participating in minor modified sports and games.

Coach Bruno

REMINDERS

Monday:

- Art Smocks
- Assembly, changing to 2.45pm each Monday from March 17

Tuesday:

- Performing Arts
- Italian
- Physical Education - sport uniform to be worn

Wednesday:

- Show and Tell
- Sport - sport uniform to be worn

Thursday:

- Science
- Library - library bags are required for borrowing

CLASSROOM TEACHER CONTACT INFORMATION:

Please do not hesitate to contact us anytime throughout the school year with any concerns, questions or information. If you would prefer to meet with us, please email to arrange a mutually convenient time.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
February 21	Welcome Picnic	6-8.30pm	Top court playground
February 25	Open Day #1	All day	
February 26	No Preps	All day	
March 3	Preps commence full time	All day	
March 4	Shrove Tuesday	All day	
March 5	Ash Wednesday whole school mass	9.15am	MI Church
March 10	Labour Day Public Holiday - no school	All day	
March 11	Open Day #2	All day	
March 12	Celebration of Learning	2.15-3.15pm	Classrooms
March 13	SAC Meeting	7pm	MIPS Board Room
March 25	PLP Meetings		
March 27	Sacrament of Reconciliation	6pm	MI Church
April 1	PLP Meetings		
April 2	Prep & Year 5/6 Class Mass	9.15am	MI Church
April 3	Open Day #3	All day	
April 4	End Term 1 - Students dismissed 1pm	1pm	