Welcome back everyone. This year seems to have gone so quickly. Each day we are amazed at the new learning that occurs both academically and socially. We have an interesting term planned, one that will involve an exciting day at Bundoora Park Farm. This term, your child will also be involved in a transition to grade 1 program. Let’s make term 4 the best yet!

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 4
Thursday 16th October: Responsible Pet Ownership Program
Thursday 24 October: FARM EXCURSION
Thursday 7 November: House Sports Day
Monday 12th November: Chicken Hatching program begins

Please ensure your child is at school on time. The teaching and learning in the Prep room starts at 9.00. It is important that your child is at the line up area on time to be ready to begin the day. Arriving late to class unsettles children and they are missing out on valuable learning time.

Literacy

The Prep children are improving daily with their reading skills. Thank you for continuing to return the Take Home Book to school daily. Sharing books with your child fosters their love of reading. Remember to discuss the pictures and ask your child questions about the book. This improves speaking and listening skills and increases their understanding of the book.

During terms 1-3, children have been involved in learning all the letters and sounds of the alphabet. In term 4, children will be learning about sh, ch, th, adding ‘s’ and word endings ‘ed’ and ‘ing’. We will also be revising our letters, sounds, letter formations and providing lots of extension activities for children.
We will be learning these words:

**here, little, with, go, going, one, you, of, be, by, they.**

Your child will be involved in daily writing activities. Make sure you look in their schoolbags, for some fantastic writing that they are completing at school.

In the classroom, children will be reading and writing throughout the day. We read and write during Literacy time, Maths time and during our learning in Integrated Studies.

We are so proud of the Prep students and their writing. Please come and have a look at some of the writing displayed outside the classroom.

**Speaking and Listening**

We have been practising how to ask a question and how to answer a question. This term we will continue to learn about rhyming words. We have been practising using describing words and being able to tell an interesting story. We will be listening to music from other cultures.

**Prep Parent Storytime**

Thank you so much to all the parents, grandparents and siblings who came to join us and shared the joy of reading during our Prep Parent storytime sessions. Our program continues during term 4. Please come and join us. We continue to add new quality books to our collection and they are a joy to share.

This article is taken from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Prep for Parents website:

**Telling stories to your child and having them tell stories to you is a great way of sharing experiences, ideas (imaginative and real) and can help form close family connections.**

**Storytelling extends your child’s vocabulary, which can help them enjoy reading more. It can shed a light on the way your child sees things and help them understand other people. And it’s a great way to learn about their culture and family traditions.**

**Stories about your culture can help your child understand your family values and traditions. Telling stories in another language will help your child with reading and writing in English as well.**

**Talking about significant cultural events and what happens when your family celebrates these shows your child what is important to your family. It gives your child a sense of ‘history’ and ‘belonging’ and will help expand their vocabulary and understand how stories are structured. This is essential knowledge when learning to read and write.**
**Numeracy**

This term we will be looking at subtraction and informal division. We will be revising shapes and location of objects. We will also be learning about capacity and area. You can help at home in many ways.

**Subtraction**: Ask your child to count out some objects. Now take away some. Ask how many are left?

**Division**: Share things between children.

**Capacity**: Provide different sized containers in the bath. Talk about containers being full or empty. Ask them to half fill a container.

Continue to count as many different things that you can.

Ask questions: Which one is first/second/third? Find different shapes in the environment and discuss.

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**Science**

This term, we will begin our unit on Living Things. In this unit of study we will be learning that living things have basic needs. We will be looking at plants and animals. We are excited to learn about the life cycle of chickens during our chicken hatching program. We will be planting some seeds and watching them grow. We will visit Bundoora Farm as an integral part of our learning.

We will also have a visit by the Responsible Pet Ownership group. The educator will bring their dog and teach the children how to be safe around dogs.
SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
In term 4, the Prep children will be assessed on the Fundamental Motor Skills that they have been taught this semester. They will also continue to develop their skills by practising the overhand throw, catch and bounce during P.E. lessons. To finish the term, the children will participate in a Minor Games unit, where they will play games such as Kickball and Rapid Fire.

Prep-2 Swimming will run from Friday 11th October - Friday 29th November, at Thomastown Recreation & Aquatic Centre (TRAC). The Prep children will also participate in the Annual House Sports day, on Thursday 7th November.

ART
The children will finish the year with a textile unit. They will dye some material with food dye and help create some scarecrows to go with their farm theme. Finally some glittery celebration activities will complete the year.

MUSIC
In Music this term, the Prep students will be furthering their knowledge of musical concepts, especially tempo and texture. The students will discuss how varying the speed of music can change the mood of a song and students will participate in a variety of activities to reinforce this concept. The students will also be introduced to a wider range of songs and will be introduced to basic music notation.

We are available to talk to parents about any concerns you may have. Please arrange a time to come and see us, as we often have meetings before and after school. We are looking forward to working with your child in term 4.

Daniela, Lauren and Karen
The Prep Team