

Launching Place Primary School
Term Planner – Foundation/Prep
Term 1, 2017



What's Happening in the Classroom

The 2017 Foundation/Prep staff are as follows:

Prep N – Lynne Noy (level coordinator)

Prep T – Marissa Tomlinson

We wish to welcome you and your child to Launching Place Primary School and wish to congratulate the students on a fantastic start to their school life.

English

At Launching Place Primary School we use the CAFÉ structure when teaching reading strategies. We will begin by looking at concepts about print, such as reading and writing from left to right and will learn the difference between words, letters and sentences. The children will be introduced to reading through the use of shared big books, word games, small group directed activities and other published materials. A document will be sent home that shows the reading strategies needed by beginning readers.

This term we will begin to look at some of the letters of the alphabet and their common sounds. When learning about the letters the children will focus on the formation of each letter, the common sound it can make and recognising words that begin with that sound. To assist the students in learning the sounds we will use a rhyme and action for each letter that identifies the common sound. Please see the table included for the order of the letters.

Students will develop their writing abilities through recalling personal experiences and writing about these in their journal. They will also participate in modelled writing sessions and activities based on our 'word of the week'. This term we will be looking at the following words: I, to, the, like, and, can and we. As an introduction to 'Writer's Notebook', students will participate in visual literacy where they will look at different pictures and discuss them. We will focus on developing a correct pencil grip and appreciate your support with this when the opportunity arises at home. The children will learn to write in Print Script. It would be beneficial for you to encourage them to use this writing style at home. Please see the handout sent home with the correct formation of letters.

As part of our writing program we are developing 'Writer's Notebooks'. Students will be asked to collect and bring in items of interest to them. These will become 'Seeds' to inspire and extend their thinking and lead to a variety of writing topics throughout the year.

The children will bring readers home on a daily basis for a shared reading experience with an adult, which can be recorded in their diary. In the next two weeks we will give each child a M100W display folder. This will contain a set of word lists that students will work through at their own pace. It is important that you regularly look at your child's current level i.e. Golden Words. More information about the use of the M100W display folder will be provided when the folder is sent home.

During the term your child will be allocated a weekly turn for Shared News with the opportunity to come along prepared to share something based on our weekly focus. A timetable for Shared News will be sent home. During these sessions children will be encouraged to display appropriate speaking and listening skills. This includes voice projection, making eye contact with their audience and correct body positioning.

Some ideas to help your child with English:

- Reading your child's reader with them on a regular basis (please see the attached note on reading with your child at home).
- Regularly practising your child's Magic Words with them by playing games such as memory, snap and fish.
- Providing experiences at home where your child can practise their writing e.g. writing a shopping list, birthday cards, letters to friends or relatives, etc.
- Encourage your child to use the correct pencil grip.
- Have the letter of the week timetable on your fridge or displayed somewhere so you can assist your child with the specified letter each week.
- Complete the letter page sent home each week by colouring the pictures and discussing things that start with that sound.

Mathematics

This term we will primarily focus on building the students' understanding of the numbers to 20. We will do this through whole class activities and small group work. We will use a range of concrete materials including counters, unifix cubes, dice and other collections of objects. We will also develop their number sense through various number rhymes, songs and stories. Students will practise these skills in a range of ways, such as games and activities as well as completing written tasks.

Key understandings in the area of number to be addressed include:

- Counting forwards to 20 and beyond.
- Counting backwards from 10.
- Accurately counting and making sets of at least 10 objects.
- Recognising, writing and ordering numbers to at least 5 and recognising that zero is a number.
- Developing one-to-one correspondence when counting a collection of objects.
- Estimating the size of groups and making groups that are smaller/bigger.
- Addition of small groups without the use of the formal addition sign.
- Ordinal numbers from 1st to 3rd.

We will also focus on the other areas of the Mathematics curriculum, Measurement and Geometry, Statistics and Probability. Key concepts we will be working on in these areas of Mathematics are:

- Creating and repeating simple patterns.
- Sorting and classifying objects according to at least two attributes e.g. tall and short.
- Identifying, describing, drawing and naming common 2-D shapes.
- Using vocabulary to describe location e.g. In front, above, behind, below, next to.
- Collecting data and graphing.

You can help your child with Mathematics by:

- Counting with your child during daily tasks such as climbing the stairs.
- Playing simple Maths games such as Snap and Go Fish.
- Getting your child to assist you with cooking and measuring the ingredients.
- Identifying numbers in the environment, such as on speed signs, letter boxes etc.

Integrated Studies

This term's Unit of Study is called 'Me and My Neighbourhood'. We will be discussing what makes each of us special, our place in the family and important family events. We will look at our school environment, how we are part of it, how we look after it and the people who work in it.

During the term, the children will experience activities based around their family, school and neighbourhood which will include viewing images to note changes, learning about school values and the people who work in the school. Students will investigate what makes up our local community including streets, parks and houses and will participate in a local neighbourhood walk with their buddies.

Also during this term we will be becoming more familiar with Australia's national anthem and we will look at both the Australian and Aboriginal flags and why these are important aspects of Australian life.

ICT

We have laptops in the Prep classrooms, as well as an interactive whiteboard. The laptops and interactive whiteboard will be introduced towards the end of term and are then regularly used to support the children's learning in Literacy and Mathematics through interactive stories and activities.

Library

Preps will shortly begin to visit the library for half an hour a week on a Friday. Students will be given the opportunity to borrow up to two books at a time. Books are required to be returned at least every two weeks. If you have not already done so please send a library bag to school for your child as they are unable to borrow books without one.

The Arts – Miss Candice Nyman

The Arts for Preps will be held on Mondays.

This term The Arts will be held on Mondays. Students will receive an hour and half lesson each week that will combine elements of visual arts and performing arts, including music, drama and dance. In Art, students will be exploring colour, patterns and adhesive techniques. They will create a picture of themselves with crazy hair and they will use their hand prints to create a picture of a vase with flowers. In music, students will learn how to correctly use some of the percussion instruments. They will use them to echo some basic rhythms and demonstrate their understanding of volume. Students will do some dancing and learn a class song. In drama, students will use their bodies to portray different animals.

Physical Education - Mr Andrew Devisser

P.E will be held on Wednesdays.

It would be great to see everyone wearing **appropriate footwear** on their PE days. School shirts and shorts or school tracksuits are ideal. Hats are also a must

The first term will focus on Minor Games to start the year which will focus on collaboration and generate enthusiasm for the program. The main focus of the term will be Athletics, with the preps focusing on skill development in a more playful approach. This will include running, jumping and throwing activities.

Don't forget the School Swimming Carnival on Friday 10th March.

LOTE – Japanese – Toko

Japanese will be held on Tuesdays.

The Japanese program at Foundation level primarily involves children becoming comfortable and familiar with the sounds of the language and clusters of words. This term the children will firstly be introduced to Japanese class routines, words for Japanese greetings and simple classroom instructions. They will be participating in singing songs, action games, finger puppet making and dress-up during the term. Children will gain some cultural knowledge such as specific gestures and cultural icons such as the flag, Karate and traditional food.

Visiting Your Child's Classroom

Children are often keen to 'show' their classroom to parents either before school or when collected in the afternoon. Visits for a quick browse at 8.50am are always welcome; however classes start at **9am sharp.**

Assembly is at 9am each Monday morning and we welcome parents to attend this whole school event.

Parent Helpers

We will be asking for your assistance in the classrooms later in the term once the students have settled in and become more familiar with the school routine. An expression of interest form will be sent home to all parents and a roster will be established. Parents can help in a range of capacities. This may include working with small groups of children, listening to children read and helping with PMP. The children enjoy having their parents participate in the different aspects of classroom life and your assistance is greatly appreciated.

You can help your child and us by:

- Sending the communication folder to school every day and checking for notices on a daily basis.
- Home Reader Diaries should be brought to school each day and if there is a note please encourage your child to notify their teacher to ensure that it is seen.
- If you need to communicate using the diary, there is a Home – School Communication section on each page.
- Sending a note to school explaining any absences on a piece of paper or on the template provided.
- Encouraging your child to take responsibility for their personal belongings including, unpacking of their own bag and changing their reader.

- Organising Shared News before their day, encouraging them to speak in a clear and confident voice when they present to their class.
- Sending a box of tissues to school with your child for shared classroom use.
- Ensuring your child has a healthy lunch, water bottle and fruit/vegetable snack to eat mid-morning (if the fruit/vegetable snack requires peeling or cutting please ensure that this is done before school).
- Naming all their belongings such as jumpers, lunch boxes, drink bottles and hats to ensure lost items are returned.
- Please note that there is a prep child who has a severe allergy to nuts. Please refrain from sending food with nuts.

Reading With Your Child at Home

Reading is a very important skill for children to develop; reading is an essential skill in everyday life and will assist children in all areas of their learning at school.

Each night, children will bring home a 'take home reader' in their communication folder. Please read the book with and/or to your child every night. Please record your child's reading in their Home Reader Diary, by recording the name of the book. You might also like to write a comment about the reading experience.

Tips for listening to your child read:

- Before reading, talk about the front cover, the title and the pictures; discuss what the book may be about.
- Let him/her hold the book and turn the pages.
- Let your child "read" from the pictures – if he/she seems to be making up the story as they go along, this is perfectly ok. This is an important beginning reading strategy.
- Vary your approach to reading together; take turns to read, one night you could read the book to them, another night they might read it to you.
- Make this an enjoyable and fun time, preferably at the same time each day/night and away from distractions such as the TV.
- After reading is finished, talk and ask questions about the story and the pictures and encourage them to retell the story.
- Draw your child's attention to words on the page and/or individual letters. We focus on a letter per week; you may like to focus on the same letter we are. Talk about the letter name and the sound it makes. You could discuss if that letter is in your child's name or a family member's name. This will add additional meaning to the experience.
- To help your child learn a story so he/she develops confidence in their own abilities as a reader, read a sentence and have your child repeat it after you. With repeated readings, your child will probably memorise the book. When this happens, ask your child to find common words such as "at", "and", "or" and "but".
- **Note:** if your child shows any indication that the reading time is not enjoyable (i.e. "I don't want to.." etc), please stop and try again a different time. If your child continually does not seem to enjoy the reading time, please come and see us and we will talk about some ways to make it more fun. We want to develop a lifelong love of reading and it starts now 😊.

Please don't hesitate to come and see us with any questions you may have, now or when they pop up in the future.

Thanks for your support,

Lynne Noy and Marissa Tomlinson

Dates to Remember:

- Parent teacher interviews if required (Getting to know your child) – Wednesday 15th Feb
- Prep Buddy and New Families BBQ night – Friday 24th February
- Whole School Swimming Carnival – Friday 10th March
- Labour Day - Monday 13th March (Preps begin full time from Tuesday 14th March)
- Neighbourhood walk – date TBA
- Last day of term 1 – Friday 31st March 2.30pm dismissal

Term 1

Date – Week beginning	Letter of the week	Words of the week
February 6 th	Ss	
February 13 th	Tt	
February 20 th	Hh	I
February 27 th	Bb	to
March 6 th	Mm	the
March 13 th	Ff	like
March 20 th	Aa	and
March 27 th	Ww	can, we