



Prep Curriculum Newsletter

Term Four 2025

Welcome to Term 4!

Thank you for your hard work and cooperation so far this year. We are in for a busy final term, completing our learning for Prep in Reading, Writing, Numeracy and Integrated Studies. Along with the main subjects learning will also occur in Japanese, Visual Arts, Physical Education, STEM and Music.

Communication folders have been handed back to students and are in use again. Please remember these need to come to school each day for students to change their reading folder and carry any important notes to and from school. Continue to check your child's reading folder each night when you read with them.

Term 4 is **No Hat, No Play** in accordance with our school's *Sunsmart Policy*. Ensure your child brings a school approved wide-brimmed hat to school each day. Also make sure your child's name is CLEARLY marked in their hat. If your child needs a new hat, they can be purchased at the office for \$10.

Remember to check and use Compass on a regular basis to keep up to date with events happening throughout the Term. Don't forget the 'Connect' feature on Compass to relay a quick message to your child's teacher if need be.

Literacy

In Reading this term, students will continue working through the Phonics Plus program, revising the letter sounds they've already learned and exploring new ones, including digraphs such as *sh*, *ch*, *th*, and *wh*. They will use spelling patterns and guidelines to help them read and write unfamiliar words with growing confidence. Students will practise blending and segmenting sounds, reading simple and more challenging decodable texts, and writing sentences using the words they know

Take Home Readers will continue to be changed daily, and it is very important that you spend 10 minutes each night reading with your child. Students also need to practise the letters and sounds of the alphabet and the Essential Words that are attached to their Take Home Reader cover. Please also remember to complete your child's Reading Log daily (this is the yellow diary) so that we have a record of the reading completed at home.

In Writing this term, students will explore how authors use different features to make their writing engaging and meaningful. They will analyse the structure and language of narrative and informative texts, identifying how elements like characters, settings, facts, and descriptions help to share ideas and information. Students will make personal connections to the themes they encounter, using their own experiences to inspire their writing.

Numeracy

During this term, students will continue to develop their counting strategies and number sense. During this time, students will be introduced to the concept of division and sharing items between small groups. Students will also work on money, identifying coins and adding small amounts together. They will learn about time and understand the concepts of 'morning', 'afternoon' and 'night' and create benchmarks for these. Before the end of Term 4, students will identify and describe 3D shapes in their environment before looking at the capacity and mass of these objects.

Integrated Studies

In Term 4, students will explore how we use our senses to make observations and discoveries about the world around us. They will investigate how objects move, how pushes and pulls can change movement, and how sound is made through vibrations. Through hands-on experiments and simple investigations, students will develop curiosity, build scientific thinking skills, and learn how science helps us understand and care for our environment.

Smarts Goals

Student Smarts Goals will now be updated on Compass for you to access. These goals are referred to and practised daily. New Smarts goals are issued on a regular basis. Please talk to your child about their Smarts Goals and practise these at home too.

Investigations

In our Investigations Program, students will explore different play-based activities that will enhance their social and language skills. Activities are linked to the curriculum as well as student interests. The activities involve a construction zone, dramatic play area, a creative area for drawing, collage and writing, mathematics, science and technology and a sensory exploration area.

Visual Art – Ms Nicole Wassel

This term, Prep students are continuing to build upon the routines and foundational skills established in Semester One, with an ongoing emphasis on the safe and responsible use of materials and equipment. Now that students are familiar with the art room environment and its expectations, they will further develop their independence through a range of structured tasks designed to promote choice-making and ownership of their creative outcomes. Students will be supported and encouraged to complete set tasks with growing confidence and self-assurance.

The program continues to focus on strengthening foundational art-making skills, including cutting, drawing, gluing, painting, and basic construction. Students will engage with a variety of materials and techniques that will support the development of these essential skills.

As part of the curriculum focus, students will explore the elements of line and texture, and continue their investigation of colour through painting activities. They will also examine form through simple yet challenging construction experiences. These learning opportunities are designed to foster creativity, encourage experimentation, and build confidence in artistic expression.

Additionally, students will continue to develop their art vocabulary and visual literacy by observing and discussing a range of artworks, including illustrations drawn from children's literature.

LOTE: Japanese – Ms Miyuki Wirth

This term, Prep students will build on their Japanese language skills by expanding their vocabulary with animal names. They will enjoy singing the Japanese animal song and further develop their Hiragana recognition through short phrases and gestures. Prep students will enjoy Japanese folk stories. Through these tales, they will learn simple morals about kindness, respect and how to treat others, while also experiencing the fun and imagination of Japanese storytelling. Additionally, students will learn about the Japanese celebration of the 'Shichi Go San Festival', gaining insights into this cultural tradition.

Physical Education – Mr Tom Digby

This term in Physical Education, Prep students are learning all about "striking" — the skill of hitting an object with control and accuracy. Through fun, active games and modified sports such as cricket and tennis, students are developing their hand-eye coordination, timing, and body awareness. Learning to strike helps children improve focus, balance, coordination, and reaction skills. Most importantly, our Preps are discovering that being active and having a go is what matters most!

Performing Arts – Music, Mrs Lisa Wood

During Term Four, the students in Grade Prep will be using percussion instruments to learn about beat and rhythm. Students will be introduced to basic music notation and will use percussion instruments to demonstrate their understanding.

All students will learn a Christmas song/dance that will be performed at the end of year assembly.

STEM – Mrs Leanne Sammut

During Term 4 our youngest students are exploring the big question, *“What is sound, and how do we make it?”* Students will investigate how vibrations create sound and experiment with everyday materials to design and build their own musical instruments. This hands-on unit links to the **Design and Technologies curriculum**, as students imagine, plan, create, and test their designs while learning that objects can be repurposed in creative ways to make music. Students will also explore how the shape, size, and material of an object can change the sound it makes. It's sure to be a noisy, creative, and fun-filled term in the STEM room!

Library

Students will continue to visit the Library each week. Prep students are encouraged to pick their own book from the school library for personal borrowing. This book will not be at the students' level and is just a book for students to enjoy by themselves or with someone else. Library books are due back to the student's classroom the day before their class has their library session (please see the timetable below to find out the day your child's class visits the library). Please note that students will not be allowed to borrow books if they have not returned books from the previous week.

Specialist Timetable

	Prep A Mr Jinnah	Prep B Miss McKinna
Monday	Japanese Library	Library
Tuesday	STEM	STEM
Wednesday	P.E	Japanese
Thursday	Art	P.E Art
Friday	Music	Music

School Uniform

All students are expected to be in full school uniform every day. The correct uniform includes the school polo shirt, navy shorts/skirt or school dress. Jumpers and pants are expected to be navy blue. Hair ties and clips are asked to be blue or white. Footwear must be appropriate for school and should be black. Sneakers and runners should predominantly be black or white.

Stud earrings or small sleepers and watches are permitted. For safety reasons, other jewellery such as bracelets and necklaces, must not be worn unless for religious or cultural purposes.

To help prevent the spread of head lice students must tie up shoulder length or longer hair (a plait will often help with longer hair). Please label all articles of clothing and hats as this will assist in children reclaiming them if lost.

A copy of the Uniform Policy is available on the Woodville Website if you require further information.

Attendance reminders

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind. In Victoria school is compulsory for children and young people aged 6 -17 years. Coming to school every day helps your child make and maintain friendships and build connections with others. **It is a requirement that schools must record and monitor attendance and absences.**

There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick. Developing good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference. The school requires medical certificates for students who are experiencing high levels of absenteeism.

Please ensure that all student absences are reported to the school. This can be done by:

- Logging via Compass and add an attendance note (found under “approvals” on the app)
- Calling the school on 9749 2770
- Emailing the school - woodville.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Please take some time to go through the attached 'Every Day Counts Attendance Fact Sheet'. Thank you for your assistance with this.

Kind Regards,
Prep Team
Farzeen Jinnah and Beth Mckinna

Every Day Counts

Attendance fact sheet for primary school students

School is better when you're here.

Do I have to go to school?

Yes, in Victoria everyone aged from 6 – 17 has to go to school.

Missing one day a fortnight is the same as missing four whole weeks of school a year.

From Foundation to Year 12 that adds up to 1.5 years of school!

School is better when you attend. Your friends and your teachers notice that you are away and wonder if you are OK.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT THAT I GO TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY?

Right now, being at school is the most important thing you need to do for your future. School helps you build good habits for later on in life. You might think school is just about Maths and English but you're also learning about how to work with other people and how to solve problems.

Being at school every day also means you are becoming more independent as a learner and interacting with your friends and teachers. If you are at school you can get help from your teachers and friends and won't have to try to learn things in your own time.

Being an adult probably seems far away but we know that young people who attend school more frequently have better outcomes after school too. This means they earn more money, have better job opportunities and are generally healthier. So being at school really does make a difference!

Minutes lost = days lost per year

A couple of minutes here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss days per year

5 mins
per day



= 3 days



30 mins
per day



= 18 days



Patterns of lateness
can have a serious
impact on your child's
education.

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight



= 4 weeks



= Over 1 year missed

1 day per week



= 8 weeks



= Over 2.5 years missed

Do my parents need to let the school know if I'm going to be away?

Yes. Your parents need to notify the school of your absence as soon as they can within three days of your absence. If they know you are going to be away, they should try to tell the school before the day or days you are away.

If you're away from school too much and don't have a reasonable excuse like a serious illness, your parents might get a letter from the principal asking about why you're away.

Are there any good reasons to be away from school?

No. Unless you are very unwell or there is an event like a funeral, you should be at school. Every day you are away is a day of classes and social connection you miss out on. Taking a day off for your birthday or go shopping isn't a good reason to miss school.

Even medical and health appointments should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays. This includes family holidays. Your parents are encouraged not to plan holidays during the term but to organise these during the school holidays.

If you do have to be away for some reason, your parents need to contact the school and let them know what's going on. Depending on the situation, the school might provide schoolwork for you to complete.

if I'm not at school, What do I miss out on?

You miss out on all the big stuff – class discussions and all the interaction that happens in a classroom, the chance to get help from teachers and the opportunity to practice skills and gain knowledge.

Being away means you might miss out on a lot of learning or that you need to catch up in your time.

If all of that isn't enough to convince you to be at school every day, being away also means you also miss out on playing with your friends. Being away from school a lot can be lonely. It has a big impact on relationships and social connections.

Believe it or not, everyone wants you at school and it really is better when you attend.

What if I'm having problems getting to school?

Getting to school on time everyday can be about having a good routine.

If you find yourself running late or missing school because you're disorganised, try:

- Asking your parents for help getting ready
- Having a set time to go to bed
- Leaving all technology out of your bedroom
- Packing your school bag the night before with everything you need
- Having a set time for breakfast
- Planning to meet up with a friend so you can travel to school together.

Sometimes, though it can just be hard to go to school. Whatever the situation is, staying away from school isn't the answer. Many people want to help you. Try talking to:

- Your parents or another adult family member
- A trusted teacher
- Wellbeing Coordinator.