What a wonderful start to the school year we have had! Our Preps are settling in nicely and getting used to the routines and expectations at Point Cook College. The Prep Team would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Prep families for their support and to congratulate the students on a very successful start to school!

Term 1 Reminders:
- Hats need to be worn for all outdoor learning and play during Term 1
- Please label all of your child’s belongings
- Blue reading bags are to be brought to school every day. Please check these regularly for notes and communication from the college
- Your child needs an art smock, labelled with their name and homeroom. This will remain at school for the year and be returned at the end of the year
- Please ensure there is a full change of clothes in your child’s bag

Dates to Remember:
- 12th of February: Assessments
- 19th of February: Assessment
- 26th of February: Parent teacher interviews
- 14th of March: Labour Day
- 21st of March: Public Holiday
- 23rd of March: Harmony Day
- 24th of March: SWPBS Launch Day
- 24th of March: Easter Hat Parade
- 24th of March: Last Day of Term 1
  3:00pm dismissal

Encouraging Independence In Your Child

Your child will learn so much in their first year of school, academically, socially and emotionally. It is important also to develop their independence, sense of responsibility and enable them to settle at school more quickly. It is for this reason that we encourage students from the very start of their schooling to take responsibility for their own belongings, follow the routines of the homeroom and begin to do simple tasks for themselves. You can encourage your child to develop their independence by doing these simple things:

- Encourage your child to pack his/her bag and show them when they have notes to hand to their teacher
- Encourage your child to carry his/her own bag into class
- Allow your child to walk into his/her homeroom without you
- Familiarise your child with his/her specialist timetable and encourage them to be prepared, for example wearing their sports uniform and runners when they have P.E
- Ensure you send your child to school with containers and packaging they can open and close themselves, help them practise at home
- Help your child practise how to take off their jumpers independently and start teaching them how to tie up their shoelaces
English

Students are being supported to develop their phonemic awareness, and to use their letter-sound knowledge and word recognition in order to begin to read simple texts. Students are being supported to develop their concepts about print, such as we read from left to right and top to bottom. They are being supported to learn to identify and compare letters, words and sentences. Students are being introduced to the strategies to use while reading such as looking at the picture, pointing to the words and looking at the first sound in words.

Students are being supported to discuss what is happening in the stories they are reading, the characters and their thoughts and feelings about what they are reading. They are being supported to retell the events in a story.

They are being supported to use their developing knowledge of letters, sounds, words and sentences to write about familiar events. They are taking part in various language experiences in order to develop their vocabulary and their speaking and listening skills.

Mathematics

Students are being supported to develop an understanding of numbers and the counting sequence by ones. They are being introduced to efficient counting strategies in order to count small collections, make comparisons between sets and match numbers to sets. They are being supported to learn to write and order numbers and collections from smallest to largest.

They are involved in the collection of data to develop simple graphs such as pictographs. They are being supported to compare data presented in a pictograph and answer simple questions about this data.

Students are being supported to learn to identify, name and compare two dimensional shapes and describe their features. They are being supported to learn to sort and classify objects into groups and develop and continue simple patterns.

Inquiry

This Term in Inquiry students are being introduced to the Point Cook College School Wide Positive Support Framework (SWPBS). They are being supported to become familiar with the expected behaviours ‘We are Learners’, ‘We are Safe’, ‘We are Responsible’ and ‘We are Respectful’. Students are investigating what these behaviours look like in all settings.
In Visual Art this semester, students will be investigating how to build pictures using shapes. Students will learn how to use art equipment such as scissors and paint brushes. They will explore colour theory when mixing paint during a study of the illustrator Eric Carle. Students will engage in activities such as mixed media, modelling and printmaking to support their fine motor development.

In Performing Art this term, prep students will get to experience Performing Arts. They will experiment with Music, Dance and Drama based on familiar themes such as Nursery Rhymes, Move Your Body and Feelings. Students will sing familiar songs, play instruments, participate in role-plays and explore movement.

In PE this term, prep students will be introduced to the safety consideration within the gym, basketball courts and oval spaces, including the whistle, listening circle and boundary rules. Once adequate understanding of safety is achieved, students then participate in a perceptual motor program which will assists students general ability to perform basic motor skills including crawling, jumping, hoping and balancing.

Scan this QR code to view a PE semester 1 curriculum summary video of Grade Prep at PCCP-9.

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**Uniforms**

Please ensure that your child is in full school uniform, inline with the Point Cook College uniform policy. If you are unsure of the policy, it can be accessed on the college website:


**Lateness**

We have noticed a number of students arriving at class after the bell. Please be aware that homeroom teachers open their classroom doors at 8:40 am each morning to allow for students to come into class and get organised for their learning. It is extremely important that students arrive on time. If for any reason your child is late, please ensure they enter with minimal disruption to learning time. Parents should not be in homerooms after the bell at 8:50am, this is to minimise disruption to learning time.

**Take Home Books**

To support your child’s learning at school they will begin to bring home reading books to practise with you. Home reading is a fantastic opportunity for your child to practise and reinforce reading skills learned at school. It is also a time for your child to build their confidence and fluency; for this reason your child’s home reading book will be at an easy reading level.

When reading with your child you may like to follow these steps in supporting them...

*Look through the book and create a story together which matches the pictures.*

*Read the story to your child.*

*Ask your child to read the story to you.*

*Discuss the story with your child. What was their favourite part? What happened 1st 2nd etc. What do you think might happen next?*

**Remember**

- Never cover the pictures up. Using the pictures as cues is an important strategy for children to learn.
- Some words can’t be read by sounding them out, so do not focus on this too much with your child.
- Talk with your child about which are words, pictures and letters. Children need to be taught the difference between these.
- Don’t focus on the mistakes... celebrate the successes!

Your child will be practising different strategies when they read. They should be able to tell you the strategies they are using and how these help them to read.

Reading with your child should be an enjoyable and stress free experience. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to come and speak to your child’s homeroom teacher about how to better support your child at home.