Dear Parents,

Welcome to Apollo Parkways Primary School! Thank you for preparing your children so well for their first year of school. Your interest and support is evident in the way the children have settled in so smoothly.

You will receive a Prep newsletter each term to inform you of our curriculum plan for the coming term. It will also list coming events and other important information. Please ensure that you read the school newsletter each week as well as all the other notes that will come home – there will be many!

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

Our first full day of school will be on **Monday, 2nd March (9:00am – 3:30pm)**

As part of our Sun Smart policy, children must wear their sun hats outside at all times during term one and term four and when there is an elevated UV index. Children without hats will be asked to sit in the ‘no hat’ area.

Children are encouraged to have a drink as they need to during class time. So please send water in a drink bottle for your child. If your child has a lunch-order, please ensure they still bring along a snack for recess time.

If your child has brought home a food allergy note, your co-operation is essential to maintain a safe environment for children with allergies. In keeping with our ‘no food sharing’ policy, children are not permitted to order or purchase food for other children from the canteen.

Please make sure all clothing (including shoes) and belongings e.g. lunch boxes, are clearly labelled with your child’s full name. You may need to check the name to ensure it hasn’t worn off.

Children are expected to wear correct school uniform at all times. With the exception of watches and studs, jewellery and nail polish are not to be worn at school.

Children require a clearly labelled art smock (or old shirt) and library bag. Please send these items to school as soon as possible if you have not already done so. Please note, children need to wear their runners to school on their allocated sport day.

To avoid congestion around the Prep rooms please say your good-byes and direct your child to line up outside their classrooms. We recommend this approach to prevent children becoming overwhelmed.

Children are taught to only use the age appropriate playground equipment during recess and lunchtimes. To reinforce this, we ask for your assistance to
ensure that children only play in the Prep playground before and after school as well.

Please encourage independence by allowing your child to come into the classroom and be responsible for unpacking their own bag in the morning. Most children are already doing this!

Children will bring notes home in the blue plastic ‘communication’ folder. Please check this, remove any notes and return to school daily.

Take-Home reading will begin shortly. We hope you enjoy the children’s enthusiasm. A note regarding parental involvement will be sent home soon.

SOME HANDY HINTS
- Organise clothes and pack school bag the night before to avoid rushed mornings.
- Establish a calming routine with a set bedtime to ensure your child gets enough sleep.
- Keep after school activities to a minimum, particularly in term one when the children are adjusting to so many new people and routines.
- Encourage your child to eat a balanced breakfast.
- Pack snacks and lunches that your child can manage independently.
- Pack an extra piece of fruit for after lunch, when children start attending until 3:30pm.
- Pack a spare set of underwear and socks to keep in your child’s bag.

COMING EVENTS
- Nursery Rhyme Day – Monday 2nd March, to celebrate the children’s first full day at school. On this day, children can come to school dressed up as a nursery rhyme character or in colourful clothing.

TERM ONE CURRICULUM
Integrated Studies
We commence the year with a ‘Linking to Thinking’ mini unit, which is implemented at the beginning of each year at all grade levels. This is planned to help children settle at school, become familiar with the school, staff and our rules and responsibilities. This term, as part of our Linking to Thinking unit, we will be discussing the school ‘Code of Conduct’ – Caring, Courtesy, Co-operation, Contribution and Consideration.

Our Integrated Curriculum unit for this term is ‘Social Harmony’. We will look at families - similarities, differences, roles and responsibilities of family members and belonging to a family. Children will discuss stages of development and achievements, being at school, being part of a class and the roles and responsibilities within our classroom and school. **Children are asked to bring along a family photo for us to display during this term.** We will of course send these back at the end of term, however please do not send a valued family portrait!
Mathematics
During this term we will provide children with varied experiences and tasks to help them build on, and further develop many maths concepts. Some areas we will cover include: number recognition and formation, one to one correspondence, pattern and order, time - days of the week, months of the year, timetables.

English
In term one, the literacy program in Prep will help children develop an awareness of print in their environment and the importance of reading, writing, listening and speaking. During term one we will introduce letter/sound relationships, cued articulation (hand signs for sounds) and letter formation. Children will develop an awareness and familiarity of high frequency words and we will encourage the establishment of a daily reading routine. The letters to be studied for this term are s, b, a, t, e. We will begin learning about the letter ‘s’ in the week beginning 23rd February and the subsequent letters will follow.

We will encourage the children to ‘have a go’ with writing. At this stage, it would be greatly appreciated if your child practises writing their name at home using a capital letter and lowercase letters. A handwriting pack will be sent home in the coming weeks. Children will have the opportunity to develop speaking and listening skills throughout the day through ‘share time’ and class discussions. As children come to school with different needs and abilities, our literacy program caters for individual needs.

At this early stage of the year our children are already developing the cooperative skills required for working in small groups. Many of our daily activities are undertaken in this manner in preparation for our literacy program. The Early Years Literacy program will more formally commence in term two.

ENGLISH AND MATHS ONLINE INTERVIEW: Prep Assessment
The English and Maths Online Interviews are key elements of the ‘Early Years Literacy and Numeracy Program’ and are designed to provide teachers with information regarding the literacy and numeracy needs of children as they enter school. The formal assessment process involves children taking part in several small tasks. The tasks are undertaken in a most informal manner with children on an individual basis. To the children they will appear as games and activities similar to those of the daily classroom program.

If you have any queries please feel free to speak to us. We look forward to working together with you in this very important partnership, and hope that your child’s first year of school will be a happy and rewarding experience for all!

Regards
The Prep Team 🌟