Dear Parents,

This Term Overview provides you with a brief outline of the curriculum the students will be focussing on this term in classroom programs. Other key information and important dates are also included.

### INQUIRY

**Big Idea:** Rules are made to keep us safe

**Key Understandings:**
- Members of a community have rules and responsibilities
- There can be consequences if rules and responsibilities are not followed

**Key Questions:**
- Why do we need to be safe?
- Why do we need rules?
- What are good risks and bad risks?
- What sorts of rules keep us safe?

**Concepts:**
- Rules
- Responsibilities
- Risk Taking
- Fairness

### LITERACY

**Reading**
Discovering the joy of learning to read! Prep is about laying the foundations. Students learn basic reading behaviours, skills, and strategies to enable them to enjoy books with others and on their own. Over term 1, Prep classes will be looking at concepts about print, such as reading and writing from left to right. Prep classes will also learn the difference between words, letters and sentences. This term we will also look at the letters of the alphabet and their common sound. 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 rhymes, stories, chants and reading activities. Students will also learn how to make predications before, during and after reading, and investigate the purpose of Non-Fiction texts.

**Writing**
The beginning of writing is to understand that written symbols convey a message. Often beginner writers will display a collection of some known letters and squiggles to display their intended meaning. To assist students in developing a more formal understanding of writing, we will cover the basic conventions of writing through simple sentence structure and the mechanics of writing. Forming the letters of the alphabet correctly and placing them appropriately on the lines will be the main focus in handwriting, along with holding the pencil correctly and correctly writing their name. As students develop their sound and letter knowledge, they will be encouraged to use these in making more plausible attempts at spelling actual words and leaving spaces in between them.

**Speaking & Listening**
Recognising rhymes, syllables and sounds (phonemes) in spoken words will be the main focus in this strand. Being able to identify these parts of language forms a solid foundation in which students not only develop their oral language, but also assists in learning to read and can build towards generating these parts of words independently as emergent writers. Students will also begin Show and Tell, where they will practise sharing their ideas orally through presenting artefacts linked to our inquiry. The inquiry program and Bounce Back will also focus on teaching students specific vocabulary and expressions to understand that language can be used to explore ways of expressing needs, likes and dislikes.

### NUMERACY

**Number**
During term one, students will work on recognising and creating patterns in many forms. This will assist in building towards number pattern and counting. Students will work with quantities to ten and then twenty, reciting the number names and “clever counting” (one to one correspondence) when counting a collection. Students will also practise recognising the numbers in their written form and learn how to correctly write the digits. Students will engage in direct teaching through explicit instruction and also participate in open ended problem solving tasks that allow them to explore concepts. Students will also learn games and how to use equipment to support their understandings and practice new skills.

**Measurement - Shape**
Students will initially recognise and name common regular 2D shapes. Linking to patterning, students will also sort shapes based on observable attributes such as size, colour or amount of sides. Students will learn to draw shapes and move toward recognising irregular shapes.

### OTHER

**Bounce Back**
The start of the school year focuses on establishing class expectations through looking at the schools values. Students will work through unpacking, Respect, Friendliness, Honesty, Fairness, Responsibility and Caring for the Environment.

**Homework**
The only homework expected in prep is the reading of the take home readers. Model to your child the enjoyment of reading through sharing stories with them and also assisting them in a positive manner to have a go at their simple texts. Use the Prep Weekly Newsletter to keep up to date with phonics lessons and reading strategies covered in the week and try to implement these at home to further assist your child.