HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

PREP
NEWS AND INFORMATION
TERM ONE, 2017

A Community of Faith; Learning for Life.

Faith
A vibrant faith community living like Jesus, in the spirit of the Good News.

Learning
Confident life-long learners who embrace challenges and experience success.

Life
Active, informed and courageous members of a global community.

TEACHERS:

CHANTELLE JACKSON
EITHNE KING
KAREN WILLIAMS
Dear Parents,

Welcome to an already exciting year in Prep! The children have settled in enthusiastically and are becoming aware of school routines and expectations. It has been great to see familiar families and we welcome all new families to Holy Family.

We have enjoyed getting to know you and your child and look forward to meeting with you at the many events to be held in Term 1. We thank families for joining us at the Prep Parent Dinner, we hope you all enjoyed our social night! We will then catch up at the School Twilight Athletics, Prep Curriculum Information Night, and many more events.

Throughout the year, Level Newsletters will be sent home at the beginning of each term. In Prep we also send out a weekly newsletter each Friday that outlines the focus for each learning area. It also highlights important dates, reminders and details. We encourage you to read the newsletter weekly, and discuss with your child what they are learning at school.

The school website is updated regularly so please ensure you use this to download forms you may require and to keep up to date with what is happening around the place.

We look forward to working with your child as well as building a partnership with you. Please do not hesitate to ask questions for further clarification from your child’s class teacher as they are always your first point of contact.

Yours Sincerely,

The Prep Team:

Chantelle Jackson, Eithne King and Karen Williams

Email addresses:
cjackson@hfmw.catholic.edu.au
eking@hfmw.catholic.edu.au
kwilliams@hfmw.catholic.edu.au
Religious Education

Religious Education is integrated into the daily conversations and learning experiences that we have and plan for with all of our students. Through the Gospels of Jesus and our school values, we endeavour to be active Christians in today’s world. Students at this level participate in parish masses, whole school masses, meditation, classroom liturgies and focus lessons based on the Good Shepherd Experience as outlined in the Catholic Education set text, ‘To Know Worship and Love’.

Below you will find some unit overviews outlining student learning for Term 1.

This term we are learning about ‘Our Prayer Place’. The students will become familiar with prayers-including meditation, our prayer space and expectations during this reverent time, when we talk to God.

We will also be learning about, ‘Who is Jesus?’ – events in Jesus’ life from His birth to His death. We will be listening, retelling and responding to stories from the bible through various activities such as songs, Godly Play and through art etc. We will also be focusing on the season of Lent, from Ash Wednesday through to Holy Week and Easter.

We welcome you to all class and school masses throughout the year. The Prep students will attend school masses with their buddy or a senior class, who will assist them with routines and behaviours expected at mass. All masses will be included in the school and Prep newsletters.

Dates for Class Masses:

Friday 17th March  
9:15am Prep KW, 1/2T, 3/4DK, 5/6GA

Friday 24th March  
9:15am Prep J, 1/2McK, 3/4H

Inquiry

In order to make learning more authentic for students the Learning Areas (The Arts, English, Health and Physical Education, The Humanities, Maths, Science, Technologies) and The Capabilities (Critical and Creative Thinking, Ethical, Intercultural, Personal and Social) are integrated into connected units or questions of Inquiry. These are based on significant content (Health, Technologies, Science and Humanities) that enable students to develop ‘big ideas’ about the world.

Our Inquiry Unit this term is called ‘Our Learning Community’. As the Prep students are beginning their school journey, we aim to investigate our focus question:

How can we create the best learning community?
In Inquiry we will work through the following understandings:

- The students will understand that there are many different people in our school community
- The students will understand that we come to school to learn together
- The students will understand that how we speak and act are important in making friends and learning with others
- The students will understand that we have rights and responsibilities to ourselves and to others in our learning community.

The Preps will be immersed in many opportunities to find out and sort out information, to extend and challenge their thinking. Throughout the Inquiry unit the students will reflect on their learning and then share their gained understandings with others.

**Literacy**

At Holy Family we aim for literacy teaching that connects students to their world so that deep engagement is possible. We are committed to teach in ways that are relevant, focused and consistent to support all students. All students at Holy Family School have a structured two hour block of literacy education on a daily basis. This incorporates reading, writing and speaking and listening.

Classroom practices and planning for literacy are informed by evidence and school data and our teachers are continually deepening their knowledge of current literacy pedagogy. During Term One all students in Prep to 2 participate in Early Years Literacy Testing and teachers collect and analyse student achievement and data information. They use this to set goals for improvement, refocus teaching and learning, direct resources and report on each learners’ progress.

**Let's Read!**

When parents help their children learn to read, they open the door to a big, exciting world. When you read to your children, they develop a love of stories and poems; they want to read on their own, they practice reading, and finally, they read for their own information or pleasure. When children become readers, their world is forever wider and richer.

We cannot emphasise enough the importance of parents reading to their children as well as having your children read to you.

Reading is essential to school success, and it should not be just a school activity. We have several suggestions:

- Read aloud to your child: books, newspaper and magazine articles, the back of the cereal box, labels on cans, or directions.
- Read poems aloud together to learn about rhythm and repeated sounds in language.
- Point to the words on the page when you read. Move your finger from left to right.
- Listen to your child read favourite stories to you.
- Go to the library together and check out books. Be sure to ask the librarian for good books or to help you find what you need.
- Have books, magazines, and papers around the house, and let your child see that you like to read, too.
- Encourage older children to read to younger children.
- Help them talk, draw and/or write about what they read.

This term in Prep, we start learning to read with a focus on concepts about print, the difference between letters and words, rhyming words and oral language structures. Through the use of big books, pictures and the interactive whiteboards, the students will begin to practise asking questions, making predictions and sharing their understanding of the events in a text. We explore concepts about print including book orientation, title, text direction and punctuation. We track words from left to right and match pictures with words in order to instil good reading practice. The students begin to ask questions about books shared and retell the events in these in terms of the beginning, middle and the end of stories. We learn to generate rhymes such as cat and mat / dog and log. We also introduce the students to the 100 most commonly used words (common sight words) which are grouped into different colours. Different activities are planned to encourage the students to read these words automatically and then record them when writing.

We will be using ‘Cued Articulation’ which develops a phonological awareness of the English sound system. Each sound holds a hand gesture to represent a mouth and tongue position and the movement of air to make that sound. This is also associated with a song. Encourage your child to teach you each sound and cue as it helps when they begin reading and come across an unfamiliar word.

In Writing, the students use personal experiences to begin writing recounts through illustration and role play. They begin to understand that writing conveys a message. We encourage students to ‘have a go’ and develop their confidence to attempt writing tasks. The students will learn about letter/sound relationships when recording their ideas. They will also be encouraged to use the 100 common sight words, in their writing. In Handwriting we focus on sitting position, pencil grip, starting position and correct letter formation. We concentrate on fine motor skills such as threading beads, lacing activities and cutting to improve pencil grip and scissor control.

Oral language is at the core of both reading and writing, and activities are based on many opportunities to speak with and listen to others. The Preps will learn about, ‘What does a good speaker do?’ We focus on making eye contact, volume, body language, speed and sharing a variety of ideas. ‘What does a good listener do?’ We focus on making eye contact, not talking, body language and asking related questions. We also teach the students about following instructions, asking questions and constructing grammatically correct sentences.

In Prep (once Literacy testing has been completed) your child will begin to bring home a book each night. We encourage students to read every night and remind parents that the home readers are supposed to be easy texts. This is very important as it allows the reading to be enjoyable and encourages fluency, phrasing and the use of expression. If your child is sometimes tired or reluctant to read it is perfectly okay for you to share the reading or to read to your child. Please see your class teacher however if your child is reluctant to read at all. We will inform all families about take home books, later in the term.
There will also be Take Home Bags which will provide students with experiences in Religious Education, Numeracy and Literacy. They are intended to provide students with an opportunity to interact with their families about their learning.

**Maths**

This year the students will develop a fundamental knowledge of Number, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. We teach a majority of maths through structured play using rich tasks, investigations and open ended activities. These are related to real life experiences which assist the children in making more sense of new learnings.

In Number and Algebra, the students will explore the numbers from 1-10 through one to one matching of objects, counting, writing and recognition of the numeral name. Students will use hands on materials to create patterns, and then copy these using drawing implements.

In Measurement and Geometry, the students will be learning about naming, sorting and describing features of 2D shapes, such as triangles, squares, rectangles and circles. They will also be comparing the length of familiar objects using appropriate language e.g. taller, shorter, longer. Students will also be exposed to the days of the week, and ordering familiar events in a day.

**Better Buddies**

The Better Buddies Framework was founded by the Alannah and Madeline Foundation. Through Better Buddies, children in their first and second last year of primary school buddy up and learn the values: caring for others, friendliness, respect, valuing difference, including others and responsibility. All children in the school learn these values through formal and informal activities. Better Buddies enables younger children to feel safe and cared for while older children feel valued and respected.

Through a variety of activities they will continue to develop the following skills and values:
- sharing and taking turns
- treating others with respect
- acceptance of differences and including others
- caring and support
- cooperation
- organisation
- leadership
- no putdowns.

At Holy Family, the Prep students are given a Grade 5 Buddy. They meet throughout the term, completing activities that aim to build upon the above values. This term the students will become familiar with one another, building their friendship and trust with each other.
# PREP CLASSROOM SPECIALIST TIMETABLE

## TIMETABLE FOR WEEKS 2-6 WHEN THE PREPS HAVE A REST DAY!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREP J</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>REST DAY</td>
<td>Literature/Library Physical Education* OR Italian</td>
<td>Sport*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP KW</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>REST DAY</td>
<td>Literature/Library Physical Education* OR Italian</td>
<td>Sport*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Please note: All Prep students are to wear their sports uniform on Thursday and Friday.

## TIMETABLE FOR THE REST OF THE TERM WHEN THE PREPS ARE FULL TIME!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREP J</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Physical Education*</td>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>Literature/Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP KW</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>Physical Education*</td>
<td>Literature/Library</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Please note: Students are to wear their sports uniform on these days only.  
  Prep J: Wednesday and Friday  
  Prep KW: Thursday and Friday

### Our Specialist teachers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Mrs Marea Mitchell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Mrs Karen Boyle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE</td>
<td>Mrs Prue Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>Signora Silvana Cetrola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Mrs Adrienne Morris</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Aligned to the schools focus on further developing positive reading habits Holy Family have increased our staffing commitment to the School’s Literacy/Library Resource Centre. This year Adrienne Morris, school Literacy/Library Resource Leader, will work 8 weeks per term on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. This provides Adrienne with a greater opportunity to tap into each child’s reading habits and for children to source Adrienne as a partner in their reading journey. We encourage parents to meet with Adrienne, to bring your children into the Library/Literacy Resource Centre before and after school on a Wednesday or Thursday and to tap into Adrienne’s expertise and knowledge of different authors and genres.

### Prep Classroom Teachers

**Prep KW**  
Eithne - Monday – Wednesday until 12:30pm  
Karen - Wednesday from 12:30pm – Friday  
**Prep J**  
Chantelle – Monday – Friday
Dates and Newsletters

Please remember to read the school and Prep newsletter each week to check important dates and upcoming events. They are the main communication between home and school. The school newsletter will be sent by email and uploaded to the website and App each Thursday. Please ensure that you have emailed the school office with your details, as no more paper copies will be sent home. The Parents and Friends also email to all families a weekly newsletter on a Friday. A school calendar is available on the school website on the “News and Events” page and is updated regularly.

Important Dates in Term 1

February

Wednesday 15th
Prep Rest Day
Prep Parent Dinner 6.30pm
Friday 17th
School Twilight Athletics
Wednesday 22nd
Prep Rest Day
Prep Curriculum Information Night 7pm

March

Wednesday 1st
Thursday 9th
Parent Teacher Interviews

Wednesday 8th
Prep Rest Day

Friday 10th
LAST Prep Rest Day

Monday 13th
SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY
Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 14th
SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY

Wednesday 15th
School Photos

Friday 17th March
Class Mass 9:15am Prep KW, 1/2T, 3/4DK, 5/6GA

Friday 24th March
Class Mass 9:15am Prep J, 1/2McK, 3/4H

Wednesday 29th
Parent Teacher Interviews

Thursday 30th
Parent Teacher Interviews

Friday 31st
Last day of Term One - 1:30pm finish

*Please note some dates may change so please refer to the school and Prep newsletters throughout the term.

ALLERGIES

We Are Allergy Aware!

Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life threatening allergic reaction. We have children in our school who are allergic to nuts, legumes (beans) and egg. We ask that you refrain from sending any nuts, nut products such as: peanut butter, nutella, bean products such as chickpeas, hommus dip, lentil burgers, baked beans or egg sandwiches, boiled eggs etc...

We want to do our best to keep those at risk, as safe as possible!

Please help us to keep EVERYONE safe!
Classroom Helpers
Literacy Block
Parental/extended family support is greatly encouraged in the classrooms and at the end of last year we had our first Classroom Helper Session. Classroom helpers in the morning block are an essential part of presenting the best possible curriculum to your children. It is a 2 hour session that you can attend for an hour or two depending on the timetable in your child’s classroom. Unfortunately we cannot accommodate toddlers during this time. Thank you to the families who have returned their form indicating their availability to assist in the classroom. We will send out a roster shortly. Please ensure you have an up to date Working with Children Check, in order to help in your child’s classroom. All WCC details need to be registered with the school office, prior to classroom assistance.

Excursion/incursion
During the year there will be a variety of opportunities for parents to assist in different ways. Please keep your eye out for opportunities such as; excursions, incursions, cooking etc.

Parent/Teacher Contact
Parents are urged to contact the class teacher if they have any queries regarding the progress of their child. All that is required is a telephone call, email or note to arrange a mutually convenient appointment time. Discussions before the morning bell may not be suitable if the teacher is in a meeting or preparing for the day. We, too, will contact you if we feel there is a need.

Communication Folders
All children have a green communication bag that holds newsletters, notes and important information. We ask that you check this each night even if your child is the youngest at the school as there are always bits of information to send out, especially at the beginning of each term. Students are then to check for notices each morning upon their arrival at school. Please encourage your child to follow this routine independently and only assist when needed.

School Attendance and Punctuality: helping your child make the best start.
Attendance patterns are formed early in life. Children who develop good attendance habits in the early years will be more likely to continue them throughout their schooling. When your child attends school on a regular basis, they take an important step towards reaching their full potential, and are given the greatest opportunity to learn new things and develop their skills. We cannot stress enough the importance of your child’s regular attendance at school to ensure a complete education.

Students who are frequently absent or arrive late consistently miss carefully planned sequences of instruction. They miss out on active learning experiences and class participation. They miss out on the opportunity to ask questions. They are more likely to feel apprehensive and less confident in class due to the disrupted start to the day.

- School Gates open at 8.30 am.
- Classroom doors are open at 8.45am for students to unpack and prepare for a day of learning. Students are not to enter the room if a teacher is not present.
- At 8:55am bell rings and students are ready to start their day of learning.
**Reminders**

- Sports uniform is to be worn on the designated sports day **only**, please note white socks with sports uniform.
- Green socks are to be worn with Summer uniform.
- Please keep your child at home if they are unwell.
- Should students be absent through illness, or for any other reason, a brief note must be forwarded to the class teacher explaining the reason for non-attendance.
- Students are reminded to bring a **water** bottle (preferably a pop-top) to school, which they are able to drink from throughout the day. This is important especially in the warmer weather. Please refrain from sending fruit juice drinks.
- At Holy Family we promote being ‘Sunsmart.’ It is compulsory for students to wear the school hat when outdoors in first and fourth terms. A **no-hat-no-play** policy is our practice during these terms. Please apply sunscreen to your child before coming to school. Your child is able to independently apply sunscreen at lunch time if they have sunscreen in their school bag.
- Toys and electronic equipment should not be brought to school.