Welcome to Blackburn Lake Primary School. We have had a wonderful time getting to know your children over the past few days. The transition to school for the Preps has gone very smoothly. Over the past week the children have been learning about our school, classroom routines and getting along with others.

Thank you for coming to our Parent/Teacher interviews. If you were unable to attend your interview or lost your time in the busy Christmas rush please make another time to see your teacher. Today we have sent home your child's communication diary. Please use this diary to communicate with us. If your child is absent there is a small form at the back of the diary you may fill in.

If you have any concerns, questions or queries throughout the term please do not hesitate to contact us through your child's communication diary or via email (our individual addresses are listed below). We are always willing to talk to you about your child's progress and want to ensure that the link between home and school remains strong. We hope you and your children have a great first term.

Best wishes, the Foundation team:
Sue Rosendale, Bec Phillips and Alana Hartman-Smith

Sue Rosendale: roendale.susan.j@edumail.vic.gov.au
Bec Philips: williams-phillips.rebecca.r@edumail.vic.gov.au
Alana Hartman-Smith: hartman-smith.alana.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

(To ease the congestion in the morning could students in Prep A and Prep S please enter the Prep building from the entrance near the toilets - thank you!)

**SUNSMART**

During term one and term four it is a requirement that all students wear a school hat when outside. Please ensure your child has their name clearly labelled inside their hat and that they bring it to school each day. Some parents may choose to put sunscreen on their child in the morning to further protect them from the sun or others may send a roll of sunscreen to school. This is allowed, however it is the child's responsibility to apply it each day.

Obviously with hot weather, children can get dehydrated. Please be assured we are more than happy for your child to go and get a drink of water out of their bags or from the drinking taps throughout the day. This is not just limited to play times.

To assist your child cope with the transition to school and the demands physically and emotionally that this can have on them, you may want to consider limiting any extra-curricular activities your child may be involved in after school during term one. This will allow them adequate time to rest and 'recharge' at the end of each school day.

**School Nurse Visit**

* Please sign and tick both boxes on the permission form to be sure that your child is seen by our school nurse. Envelopes need to be returned by Friday February 13th. Our nurse, Carolyn will assess the students on Tuesday 17th March.
SPECIALISTS

At Blackburn Lake Primary School, your child has the opportunity to participate in a variety of specialist classes. Please see below for your child's specialist class times.

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<th>PREP A:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Art – Fri 9.00am</td>
<td>Art – Thurs 11.30am</td>
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<td>Italian – Tues 12.50pm</td>
<td>Italian – Mon 2.30pm</td>
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<td>Library – Fri 12.30pm</td>
<td>Library – Wed 12.30pm</td>
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<td>Music – Mon 11.30am</td>
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PREP B

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PICKING UP YOUR CHILD

We will continue to bring the children out of the classroom to the netball court at the end of the day where you can meet them. Please allow us to get right around to the netball court before you take them out of the line. This will be the procedure until we inform you to make a meeting spot with your child.

If you have not yet arranged the following items, please do so as soon as possible since it is essential your child has them at school.

- Labelled Art smock
- Labelled Library bag
- Labelled wide-brimmed or legionnaire style hat
- Tissues
TAKE HOME BOOKS

Today your child will bring home their green Blackburn Lake 'book-bag' with a take-home book in it. This must be brought to school each day. You may record the book your child has read each night in their school communication diary.

We have decided to vary the books your child can bring home over the next two - three weeks. Your child may be able to recognise some words that are in them, they may not be able to recognise any words or they may be able to read it to you. All responses are ok. We just want the children to become familiar with reading or listening to a book every night and to enjoy reading.

Below are some hints about how you can help your child with reading.

How to help your child with Reading

- Make a regular time for reading together
- Talk about the book, use the pictures to predict what is going to happen before you even begin reading the book
- Locate signs, read recipes, junk mail, packets and other household items
- Read old favourites again and again to promote familiarity and confidence
- Display an interest in reading – let your child see you read
- Discuss parts of the book – show me the cover, where is the title?
- Explore the pictures in books to decide where the story is taking place. Compare those events and places with those in your own lives
- Please don’t cover the pictures – the child can use these to predict words
**PREP ‘WORD RING’**

Today your child will also bring home in their green Blackburn Lake ‘book-bag’ their very own ‘word ring’.

On this metal ring is your child’s name and the letters of the alphabet on white laminated card. As well as reading with your child each night we encourage you to practice the letters of the alphabet with them and the first or initial sound the letter makes.

In class the children learn to say “My name is . . . I can say .....” Depending on your child’s understanding of letters and sounds you may wish to focus on five letters at a time, introducing new letters once your child has become confident and is ready to move on.

This ‘word ring’ must be bought to school each day in your child’s green ‘book-bag’. Once your child’s teacher believes your child has a sound understanding of the alphabet letters and their sounds, they will be assessed on their knowledge and supplied with the first group of coloured high frequency words to go on their word ring which can be practiced and learnt for reading each night.

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**Morning Recess & Lunch**

Over the next two weeks the Preps will have different outside play times to the other students in the school. This allows them to gain confidence when using the playground before sharing it with others.

Every child in the school is allowed 10 mins to eat their lunch inside before going out to play. In Prep, the children (at times) tend to take longer to eat so therefore we will begin eating our lunch and play lunch earlier than the students in other year levels.

In Prep, as in other years, the students are often so eager to go outside to play with their friends and explore the playground or take a long time to eat that they will often not eat enough during the school day. This can result in reduced concentration, lethargy and poor behaviour at home and at school. Although your child’s teacher will do their best to monitor your child’s eating during morning recess and lunch we suggest you consider offering your child snacks that are nutritional, easy and quick for your child to eat and appealing to them eg, fresh fruit, vegetable or cheese sticks, yoghurt, crackers, or homemade treats.

**BRAINFOOD** – will commence in Term 2 -more details to come. Looking forward to a wonderful year .... Sue, Bec and Alana (The Prep team)
SPECIALISTS:
At Blackburn Lake Primary School, your child has the opportunity to participate in a variety of specialist classes.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**
*Phil Lumsden - lumsden.philip.a@edumail.vic.gov.au*

In PE this term Preps will be involved in basic movement activities such as skipping, hopping, jumping and running which requires them to move at different speeds and patterns. They will also use different ball-handling skills such as striking, kicking, throwing, trapping, rolling, dribbling and catching.

Please ensure your child is appropriately dressed on the day they have PE.

**ITALIAN**
*Vincey Montesalvo - montesalvo.vincenza.v@edumail.vic.gov.au*

In Italian this terms the Preps will be learning about Pinocchio. They will be learning colours, numbers, and family members names.

**MUSIC**
*Sam Collins – collins.samantha.s@edumail.vic.gov.au*

In music this term Preps will be involved in learning our National Anthem that is sung at assembly each week. They will then spend time exploring the words, melody and origins of some of our best loved nursery rhymes through song, movement, drama and the use of percussion instruments.

**VISUAL ARTS**
*Sam Collins – collins.samantha.s@edumail.vic.gov.au*

In Visual Art this term the Preps will be exploring the art room using different techniques of drawing painting, cutting and pasting. They will be investigating the artist Vincent Van Gogh and create a piece of artwork based on the Starry Night set of paintings. Please ensure that your child has an art smock clearly labelled with their name and grade.