



St Paul the Apostle

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, DOREEN

Monday 9 November 2020

Prep 2021 Transition Program

Dear Parents of our new Preppies for 2021,

Our children (and staff) have quickly settled back into the rhythm of school life and our inclusive school culture, further evident last week with our Book Week Parade as we celebrated Book Week 2020, *“Curious Creatures-Wild Minds!”*

Now that the COVID restrictions are finally easing, we are able to provide our new families with a detailed Prep Transition Program for the weeks ahead to support you during this exciting period.

Prep Orientation Weblink – <http://spaschooltours.weebly.com>

Over the past few weeks, our Prep Team have been busily putting the finishing touches to our 2021 Prep Transition weblink: <http://spaschooltours.weebly.com> which will enable families during these COVID restrictions to gain a deeper insight into life as a new Prep.

The Prep Transition weblink is now live to families enabling our new Preppies and their families to take a virtual tour around our Prep Learning Areas, weekly virtual Orientation story time and arts and craft sessions, hearing from our Prep team and other exciting activities and handy hints.

ACTION: Families are encouraged to visit our weblink.

Prep Showbags Now Available for Collection from the School Gate

To help the children as they transition into school, the Prep Team and staff will provide each child with a special Prep Showbag which includes several activities and helpful hints and arts and crafts materials that families can use at home while watching their teachers during the pre-recorded story time sessions.

ACTION: Families are invited to collect their child's Showbag (displaying their name) from the school gate anytime between 9.15am – 2.30pm from Tuesday to Friday this week. Simply enter through the school gate and locate your child's showbag from under the gazebo.

Prep Onsite School Visits – Please Stay Tuned

Like the rest of Victoria, we were delighted to listen to the Premier's announcement yesterday detailing the easing of restrictions from today 9 November. The new 20 person indoor limit will allow us to provide families with further opportunities to enjoy at least one transition session and an Information session here at SPA Doreen over the coming days.

We are now permitted to welcome a total of 20 people onsite. From a practical and justice perspective we will arrange for 10 Preppies each accompanied by one parent (20 in total) to a morning Orientation session. While the new preppies will be engaged in a short orientation session with the current Prep Level Team, their parents will be able to remain for a chat and updates.

ACTION: Tomorrow we will provide families with a link to book in your Orientation session to suit your busy diary.

Liaising with Preschools & Childcare Centres

Over the past few weeks, our Prep Team and Learning Diversity Leader have been liaising with Pre-schools and Child-care centres to learn more about your child as a young learner and to arrange for our teachers to visit them over the coming weeks (COVID restrictions permitting). We are also receiving other supportive documentation online which will assist us in supporting your children through their transition period.

Prep Information Night – Tentative Date

The old adage, “patience is a virtue” remains very apt through 2020 and we look forward to holding our Prep Information Night for parents after the Premier’s next announcement on Sunday 22 November. This should allow a larger number of parents and teachers to safely meet for the Prep Information Night (also recorded for families who are unable to attend).

ACTION: New Date: Prep Information Night @ SPA Doreen

Tentative Date: Wednesday 25 November 7.00pm – 8.15pm (TBC)

Prep Uniform Ordering – New Procedures

A number of months ago during the height of our COVID-19 pandemic leading to our lengthy lockdown, Emma and Donna, the managers of our School Uniform shop, placed a large uniform order (based on our numbers and sizes for our new Preppies in previous years), to enable families to place an order online and receive the uniforms before the end of the school year.

The pandemic has prevented families from visiting and entering our school site and therefore were not able to try-on items of clothing which was part of the procedure pre-2020. Due to current restrictions and safety protocols in place, families will be required to order items of uniform online.

As a guide, our school uniforms, supplied by PSW come in standard sizes. They start from Size 4 which only some of our smaller children require. For 2020 the majority of our Preppies purchased Size 6 with a handful of children requiring Size 8. (NB: The PSW retail outlets do not stock our uniform as we deal directly with the manufacturer to keep costs down.)

ACTION: Please order your child’s school uniform online using CDFpay.

CDFpay, is a *cash-free solution* for our Uniform Shop, Special Food Days and various fundraising activities the SPARKLE Team organise during the year.

CDF pay is an online payment platform offered by the Catholic Development Fund Melbourne (CDF).



Please see the attached information with instructions on how to register your child and order their school uniform online. We will contact parents via email once the uniform is ready for collection.

NB: If you wish to change any of the uniform items you have ordered, please keep the tags on and return it to the school office with a uniform exchange form or note of the changes you require eg: *please change the sports top from size 6 to size 8*

We encourage all parents to use this simple, cash-free platform.

Once again, we thank you for your patience and understanding and look forward to meeting your families over the coming weeks.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Doherty'.

Phil Doherty
(Principal)

Danielle Di Stefano
(Prep Team Leader)