

Hello Parents

Well, what a wonderful start to 2014! It has been fantastic to watch the new Preps enthusiastically and some even confidently (as they are now "big school children") enter the school on the first days. It is always a great joy, as Prep teachers to see this growth and we congratulate and thank both the children and you, their parents, for supporting this development.

Thankyou for standing back from the lining-up area as the children come to us in the mornings. We very much appreciate having this space to successfully "gather" the children and have the ability to keep an eye on them all. A special reminder that our "Welcome Picnic" is this Thursday! This is a wonderful opportunity for not only the children to enjoy being with their new friends, but for prep parents to get to know each other. See you there!

One more thing.....stay tuned for details, because [Michael Grose is coming to Whitehorse in May!](#)

Thanks to you all for your support from home,

Marcela, Stephanie and Marion

Letters/sounds

We have begun to study the alphabet - names of the letters, the sounds they make and identifying words that begin with these sounds. We also look closely at how the letters are formed when writing (starting points, entries and exits). 'I Spy' is a fabulous game to play at home to consolidate what they have learned and to extend their ability to isolate initial sounds. The iPad app Letter Muncher is great fun for identifying letters of the alphabet and isolating the first sound. For correct formation of letters rED writing and Australian touch and write are highly valuable. The first four weeks letters are....

Ss Ll Mm Ff.

Reading

It could be that your child has told you already that they can read, and "yes - they can". We are building a small, but ever-growing list of words that they can identify. We will be sending home school-made reading books once a week that we have worked on at school. During our reading lessons we look at High Frequency Words, sentence structure, letter formation, simple punctuation and much more.

(We hope you enjoyed reading 'I go to school' with your children!)

Maths - Number

- Numbers - before and after, more than, less than
- Graphing activities
- Positional language i.e. inside, over, under, before behind, through etc.
- Mapping
- Counting activities (forwards and backwards)
- Ordinal number (i.e. first, second - tenth)



Science with Mr (Professor ©) Fly

Well, didn't the children enjoy their Science lesson with Mr Fly! Via a quick interactive white board activity Mr. Fly introduced the children to the concepts of "sink" and "float". After playing a sink/float quiz game with word cards, it was out in the corridor for lots of fun anticipating whether a variety of objects would sink or float and then checking their guess. The children are certainly going to look forward very much to their weekly lessons with Mr. Fly!

