Firstly, welcome to the new Prep families! The students have settled in very well and have become enthusiastic members of the Sunshine Primary School Community already. Our Inquiry unit “Working and Playing together” has been a great way to get the Preps familiar with school and learn about themselves in the process. Term One will be jam-packed with lots of exciting learning which the students and teachers are ready for!

**INQUIRY**

At Sunshine Primary School we have an Inquiry approach to learning. We encourage the students to be thinkers, researchers and investigators. Our Inquiry unit for Term One is “Working and Playing together”.

**Our understandings are:**

- Things can happen that affect the way we think and feel. We can choose how to respond.
- We are all part of many groups/communities and we all have a choice in how we interact within these groups.
- We know the school values of ‘Respect, Safe and Learning.’

This unit is about belonging, friendship and the importance of working and playing together. During the unit students will be introduced to the school values of ‘Respect, Safe and Learning’ and learn about classroom rules and why they are needed. Students will be role playing different scenarios that demonstrate making great choices at school, looking after yourself and friends, and how to use different strategies to act appropriately in a variety of situations.

**LITERACY**

In **Reading**, we are developing respect for books and a love for reading. We will be learning about decoding strategies for unfamiliar words. These strategies include understanding the letter-sound relationship, different letter patterns and initial sounds in words.

**Home reading** continues to be an extremely important part of our learning and we are so proud of the efforts families have been making each night. Remember, Home Reading books change every Friday and reading together is a special time to share with your child.

Our Magic 100 Learning Words (M100W words) program has begun and students have thoroughly enjoyed learning these words at home. We will continue to send words home on a weekly basis and students will be tested on their weekly words every Wednesday. We encourage families to play games regularly, incorporating the words and looking for words in everyday situations. Most importantly, have fun with the words!

We will be focusing on recording messages using pictures and words in **Writing** during Term One. The students have already begun to investigate letters. This involves looking at where they are found in words and how to write both upper and lower case letters with correct starting points and formation. It will be an exciting time to be a writer in Prep!
**Numeracy**

In *Numeracy*, we are exploring numbers using pictures, words and hands on materials. The students enjoy creating collections of different amounts and comparing the sizes of groups. Throughout the Term we will be looking at counting, number patterns and ordinal numbers. We are counting the days at school and are looking forward to celebrating our first milestone of 25 days at school!

**Parent Helpers**

We value the role of parents and carers in the education of each student and welcome you into our classrooms. Parent helpers can be involved in many ways. Please contact your child’s teacher if you are able to help every now and then, or on a regular basis.

We thank those parents and carers that have offered their help in the classroom already, your assistance in the classroom is very much appreciated. The teachers and students value your time and effort as it will benefit the students learning.

To support our programs please ensure your child has the following items at school:

- Art smock
- Box of tissues to share in the classroom
- Drink bottle with water
- Fruit
- Snack
- Lunch

Karen Ervin and Nick Lovett
Prep/One Teaching Team

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**Specialist Timetable**

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Friday Assembly at 3:15pm – All Welcome
PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE) - RAY McCREDDEN

(Learning skills and how to play)

During Term One, students in Prep/One will be involved in a Physical Education and a Motor Program that has a focus on developing an understanding of simple rules, procedures for safe movement, and how to follow instructions. Students will combine movement with the use of equipment to develop basic motor skills such as running, hopping, jumping, skipping, rolling, balancing, twisting and turning. Another key component of the program will be on developing eye tracking ability and the basic components of hand-eye co-ordination. While participating in movement and physical activities, students will learn to consider, support, and encourage their classmates to share equipment, and to adhere to rules, linked to the school values, that aid participation and cooperation. The prep students will begin to develop a movement vocabulary, including movement words, ways of describing the physical responses of their bodies to movement and the feelings associated with participation in physical activity; for example, hot, tired, sweaty, puffed, excited, scared and happy.

VISUAL ARTS - JULIE VELLA

The students in Prep/One will be focussing on colour this term. We will be discussing warm and cool colours. The students will also have a chance to mix colours and share their learning with the class.

Art can be very messy! Please ensure that your child has a labelled art smock at school to use during art lessons.

We are always looking for donations in the art room. Items needed include wool, fabric, newspaper, magazines, ribbons, beads, egg cartons. If there is a remote possibility we can do something with it, then send it in...we are VERY creative!

MUSIC - JOYCE AZZOPARDI

During Term One in Music, students in Years Prep and Prep/One will participate in various moving and listening activities to investigate different sounds and use appropriate language to describe their characteristics. They will investigate the musical elements of Pitch and Dynamics, recognizing high and low, loud and soft in music and environmental sounds. They will be introduced to simple rhythm patterns and be given the opportunity to create their own beat circles. Students will be introduced to a variety of percussion instruments and learn basic playing techniques such as tapping, shaking, banged and scraping.

AUSLAN - KATRINA MYNARD

This year we will be learning AUSLAN. Katrina will teach students once a week where they will learn the alphabet, common phrases used in everyday life and phrases related to our Inquiry unit each term.