

Welcome



Warm greetings and welcome to your child's **FIRST** school year at Essex Heights Primary School! We are all very excited to share this special journey with you and we loved our first day of Prep 2022 just as much as the children!



Our main form of communication is through Compass. There you will find this and each term newsletter as well as 'The Contact', the school weekly newsletter. You can also access all excursion and incursion information, as well as special days we hold at school, and other general information.

Two words you will hear a lot this term are routines and expectations. Your child will easily become familiar with the school and classroom routines and expectations. Each class will create a list of class expectations together, so the students have a voice in their classroom learning. It will be based on what our classroom looks like, feels like, sounds like. This is an important part of school life, and it helps the children and teachers create a warm and caring learning environment where children are safe to make choices and grow in their knowledge.

Throughout the year we develop School-Wide Positive Behaviours (SWPBS) based on our Essex Heights School values. These 5 values are **friendliness, honesty, respect, inclusiveness and persistence**. A lot of thoughtful discussion has taken place by our school community in establishing these values which set the tone and expectations of behaviour in our school and classroom communities. Essex Heights also has three specific expectations which are: 'Be Safe', 'Be Responsible', 'Be a Learner'. This framework is supported through our ArtSEL program and The Resilience Program which develops personal, social and emotional skills.

Please note the following information and reminders:

- Preps finish at 3:20pm with our schools staggered finish times. Please be waiting for them at the Verge!
- Zip folders are to be returned every day with Take Home Books safely inside!
- Although we are not having parent volunteers at the present, we are looking forward to this happening this year. Please ensure you have a Working with Children's Check and have signed the school Code of Conduct over the first few weeks.
- The children should have a named hat to wear each day in accordance with our Sunsmart Policy for Term 1 and 4. We are happy for them to stay in chair bags. They will be asked to play in a designated shaded area if they do not have a hat.
- Also a named water bottle so they can stay hydrated.
- We encourage the children to bring an extra 'brain food' snack to eat at approximately 10am. We would appreciate you providing cut up fruit or vegetables that are easy to snack on, as well as their morning tea snack. We appreciate foodstuffs with no nuts to support students with allergies.
- We always appreciate a donation of a box of tissues for the children to use throughout the year.
- Please ensure you have completed the permissions on Compass. There was an issue with some photo permissions not being there for you to actually accept! The problem will be resolved by the end of this week
- BIRTHDAYS – We love celebrating birthdays in Prep. Unfortunately we cannot celebrate with food this year. Instead, we would love your child to bring in their favourite story. We will make them feel very special and read their story to the class and then they can take it home that day. If your child has had a birthday in January, please send a book for them to share in the first couple of weeks of school.

Our Integrated theme for this term is 'Marvellous Me'. At the end of the term there will be a small project sent home which will be an 'All About Me Bag'. The children will talk about their items to the class early in Term 2. Children will be asked to collect 5 things that are special to them and put them into the special paper bag. There will be more information about this later on in the term.

In our classrooms we have been talking about getting along with others, waiting for your turn, sharing, putting up your hand and remembering to say please and thank you.

	<p>Dates in Term 1:</p> <p>Clean Up School Day 4th March (Clean Up Australia Day 6th March) Public Holiday: Monday 14th March - Labour Day School Photos: 21st and 22nd March - TBC National Ride to School Day 25th March Grandparents Day: TBC - Please check The Contact Last Day of Term 1 Friday 8th April First Day of Term 2 Tuesday 26th April (Monday the 25th April is Anzac Day)</p>
English	
Speaking & Listening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Discussions • Drawing about our weekend and then talking with a partner for weekend writing
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekend recount • Writing names in Victorian Cursive Script • Learning the names, sounds and the correct formation of letters (lowercase and uppercase)
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared reading of big books • Guided reading - small focus groups • Themed based poems • Take home readers
Mathematics	
Number	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counting forwards and backwards • Sequencing and ordering of numbers up to 10 • Sorting and classifying • Exploring of numbers 1-10
Measurement and Geometry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length- tall, short, wide and thin • Time- fast, slow, sequence daily events in order • 2D Shapes; triangle, circle, rectangle, square
Statistics and Chance & Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Graphs; favourite colour, eye colour, birthdays and family
Integrated Studies	
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My Five Senses (Science day)
Digital Technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hector's World - Your Personal Information Online • Safe use of iPads and laptops • Logging on and off

<p>Personal and Social Capabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Resilience Program ● ArtSEL Program ● Getting along, sharing, taking turns, helping others and using manners ● School Wide Positive Behaviour Chart (SWPB) ● Our School Values ● Classroom expectations and responsibilities
<p>Resilience Project</p>	<p>This year is our second year participating in 'The Resilience Project' as part of our focus on mental health and wellbeing for our students, staff and wider school community here at Essex Heights Primary School.</p> <p>The Resilience Project delivers emotionally engaging programs to schools - providing practical, evidence-based, positive mental health strategies to build resilience and happiness. Through presentations, school curriculum, student diaries and their app, The Resilience Project seeks to help all Australians become mentally healthy. The 'Resilience Project' team have delivered programs to over 1,000 government, independent and private schools nationally, and are regarded as one of the most engaging positive mental health programs in the country.</p> <p>The 2022 Prep Team Kirsten Lightfoot (Coordinator), Natalie Zailbak, Shona Misso, Verity Bright, Anita Dix and Emily O'Mahony</p>