

## TNSS Prep News

Week 6, Term 1

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to the first “Prep News” for 2019! These short newsletters will be emailed home each Friday, so check your inboxes to keep up-to-date with Prep goings-on. We have been pleased with how all of the children have been settling into the routines of Prep. Thank you for your assistance in helping the children become more independent. It is such an important part of their schooling. Thanks also to all of those parents who were able to come along to the Parent Information sessions on Monday afternoon, it was quite a good turn out with many parents present. If you weren't able to make it on the day, some of the main points we covered are below.

### **Curriculum**

#### *English*

- Topics covered - Term 1: Talk about a favourite book, Term 2: Create and recite a rhyme, Term 3: Respond to a rhyming story, Term 4: Writing a letter to a book character asking simple questions
- *Learning to read* is the main aim in Prep, with learning letters, sounds and sight words a big part of this. Instilling an interest and love in reading using Big books, reading picture books and practicing sight words at home with parents
- *Benchmarks*: aim is to be reading PM level 6 by the end of Prep, though each child will achieve this at different times
- *Jolly Phonics*: the program we use to introduce letters, sounds and words, will send home practice activities around this. We begin with the letters s, a, t, p, i, n. This is so that we can quickly make combinations that make simple words and begin to practice how sounds go together to make words
- *Homework*: this is not meant to be hard or put stress on the family. If homework becomes stressful, please speak to us about this. Homework will usually involve sounds, sight words and home readers, which will be tailored to each child's needs. We use a strategy called Magic 100 Words (or M100W) to teach sight words, which focuses on learning the 100 words most frequently used in the English language, which make up approximately half the words used in reading and writing. The words are divided up into 7 coloured levels (12 Golden, 20 Red, 12 Blue, 16 Green, 16 Orange, 12 Indigo & 12 Violet words)
- *Reading Eggs*: the log in for this will be sent home in the coming weeks and is a great way to practice letters and sounds, and then early reading skills at home
- *Out and About*: an app that can be downloaded to use to practice these sight words at home. Includes a parent information section and suggested activities

#### *Maths*

- Focuses on understanding number (0-20), patterns, shape, measurement (length, mass), language to describe location, grouping familiar objects, ordering of events in a week, through lots of games, hands-on activities to explore and talk about our learning

#### *Science*

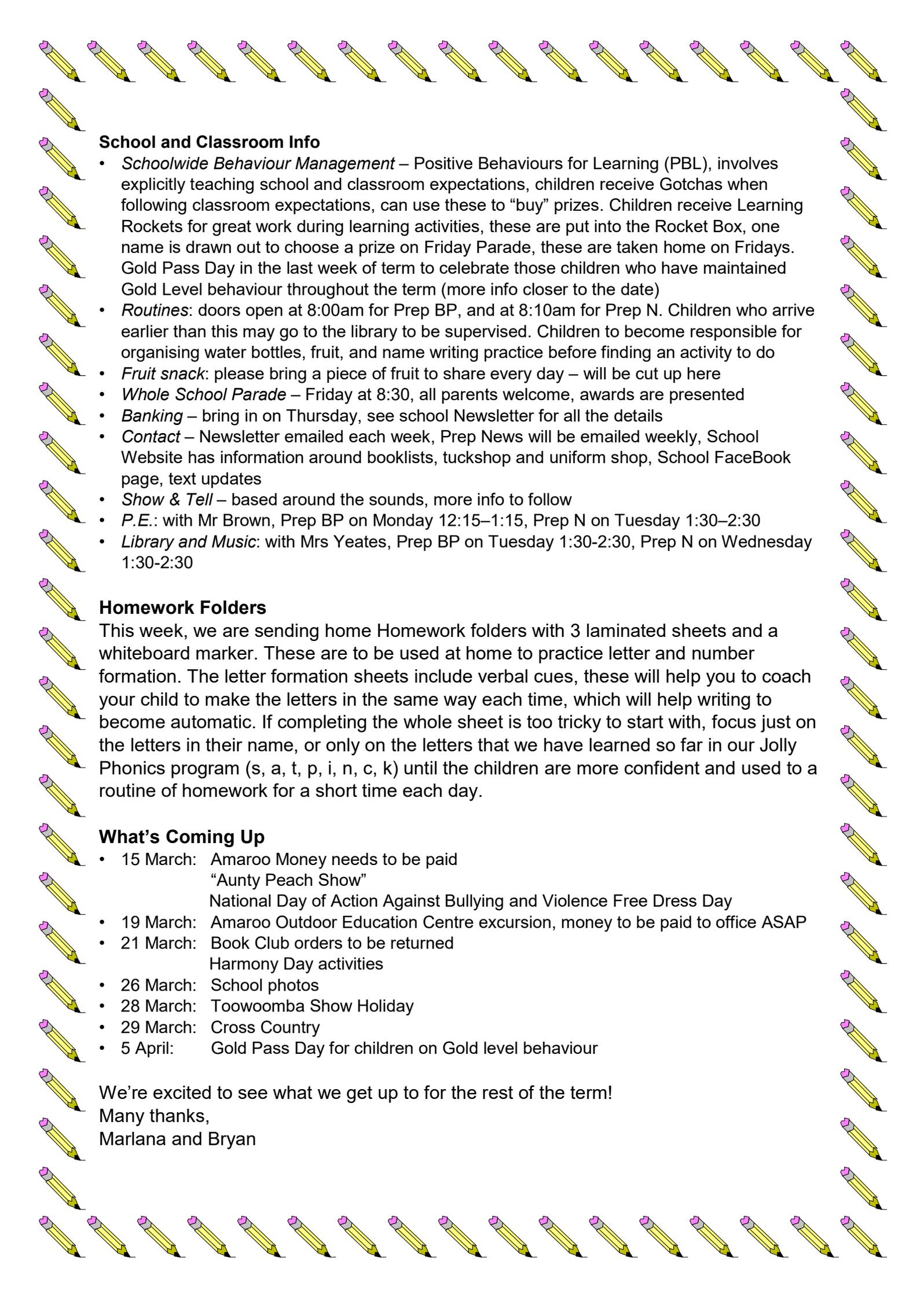
- Topics covered - Term 1: Exploring moving objects, Term 2: Exploring our material world, Term 3: Exploring our weather, Term 4: Exploring our living world

#### *HASS (History and Social Sciences)*

- Topics covered - Term 1: Exploring families, Term 2: Talking about special events, Term 3: What is my place like?, Term 4: How do we care for a special place?

#### *The Arts*

- Opportunities for Drama, Music, Dance and Visual Arts – painting, collage, construction, creating



## School and Classroom Info

- *Schoolwide Behaviour Management* – Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL), involves explicitly teaching school and classroom expectations, children receive Gotchas when following classroom expectations, can use these to “buy” prizes. Children receive Learning Rockets for great work during learning activities, these are put into the Rocket Box, one name is drawn out to choose a prize on Friday Parade, these are taken home on Fridays. Gold Pass Day in the last week of term to celebrate those children who have maintained Gold Level behaviour throughout the term (more info closer to the date)
- *Routines*: doors open at 8:00am for Prep BP, and at 8:10am for Prep N. Children who arrive earlier than this may go to the library to be supervised. Children to become responsible for organising water bottles, fruit, and name writing practice before finding an activity to do
- *Fruit snack*: please bring a piece of fruit to share every day – will be cut up here
- *Whole School Parade* – Friday at 8:30, all parents welcome, awards are presented
- *Banking* – bring in on Thursday, see school Newsletter for all the details
- *Contact* – Newsletter emailed each week, Prep News will be emailed weekly, School Website has information around booklists, tuckshop and uniform shop, School FaceBook page, text updates
- *Show & Tell* – based around the sounds, more info to follow
- *P.E.*: with Mr Brown, Prep BP on Monday 12:15–1:15, Prep N on Tuesday 1:30–2:30
- *Library and Music*: with Mrs Yeates, Prep BP on Tuesday 1:30-2:30, Prep N on Wednesday 1:30-2:30

## Homework Folders

This week, we are sending home Homework folders with 3 laminated sheets and a whiteboard marker. These are to be used at home to practice letter and number formation. The letter formation sheets include verbal cues, these will help you to coach your child to make the letters in the same way each time, which will help writing to become automatic. If completing the whole sheet is too tricky to start with, focus just on the letters in their name, or only on the letters that we have learned so far in our Jolly Phonics program (s, a, t, p, i, n, c, k) until the children are more confident and used to a routine of homework for a short time each day.

## What's Coming Up

- 15 March: Amaroo Money needs to be paid  
“Aunty Peach Show”  
National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence Free Dress Day
- 19 March: Amaroo Outdoor Education Centre excursion, money to be paid to office ASAP
- 21 March: Book Club orders to be returned  
Harmony Day activities
- 26 March: School photos
- 28 March: Toowoomba Show Holiday
- 29 March: Cross Country
- 5 April: Gold Pass Day for children on Gold level behaviour

We're excited to see what we get up to for the rest of the term!

Many thanks,  
Marlana and Bryan