

Prep Bulletin

TERM 1 – Week 6



Our Enduring Understanding:

Being part of a team helps me to belong. Unpacking the question: 'What makes me, me?'

Some things we are learning about:

- Rhyming words
- What it means to be part of a team
- The use of pictures and words to communicate meaning
- Identifying the first sound of a word
- Continuing to match quantities to numerals and working on pattern
- Collecting information and presenting this information

What you could do at home to support this learning:

- Play rhyming games with your children, remembering words can be made up as long as they rhyme
- Have a conversation with your child about what they are experiencing and their thoughts and feelings about being part of this new team, that is Armadale Primary School, and within their individual class groups
- Draw pictures to promote conversation and continue to read with your child
- Continue to engage in hands-on learning experiences with your child such as, craft, to continue to develop their fine motor skills

Friendship

As your child settles into school it is only natural to worry about whether or not they are making friends and forming strong relationships. Making friends, lasting friends, is a skill and something that is learnt over time. Children do not start to form long lasting relationships with their peers until they are older and have had the chance to practice the skills required to do so. It is important that if you are worried about your child making friends, you don't let them see this as it can often lead to them being more stressed and anxious.

Below is information from a wonderful article on the Kids Matter website, about how children approach making friends and the different stages. More from this article will be included in future Bulletins.

Friendship skills children are learning

To develop good friendships, now and later, it is important children begin developing the following skills:

- Self-control: being able to wait for what they want, using words to express their feelings rather than acting disruptively or misbehaving, giving others a turn with toys.
- Welcoming: being able to approach and respond to others positively (eg with a smile and greeting such as 'hello').
- Assertiveness: being able to say what they would like.
- Consideration: being able to say 'please' and 'thank you', taking turns, being able to lead and follow what others want to do, being able to cooperate and share.
- Play skills: being willing to take part in games and make suggestions for play.
- Communicating: talking and listening to others in a friendly way, saying something to start a conversation.
- Helping: being willing to help others.
- Prediction: being able to understand how others might be feeling based on their behaviour, being able to predict how their behaviour might affect others.
- Thinking: such as about alternatives when things go wrong (eg if other children want to play something different, thinking of whether to join them or find someone else to play with).

- Coping: being able to respond to rejection, disappointment or disapproval without experiencing too much distress or winning without gloating.
- Empathy: being able to respond to others' feelings with understanding.
- Flexibility: being open to hearing or learning about other points of view or ways of doing things.

It takes a long time to learn these skills and we continue to develop them well into adulthood. We can help children develop these skills by being aware of what friendship and empathy skills they are developing, playing with them and giving some gentle coaching when children are really struggling with something.

Children develop these skills through daily experiences; however, if you are aware of them you can give a hand at moments when some help is needed. You can do this by playing puppet games with children to help them practise these skills (eg "What will the puppet do if we push him? If we smile at him? If we say we like what he is doing?").

Drama Toolbox: SEAL Program - Social & Emotional (Active) Learning

The students had another wonderful session. They had to work together as team to form a train and help all the puppets get to school camp. This links in brilliantly with our Unit of Inquiry, 'Being part of a team helps me to belong'.



Prep S' Drama Toolbox session commences promptly at **9:10am** on a **Thursday**. Miss Sozzi will bring her class in at about **8:50am** to prepare the students for the session. Please ensure that your child is waiting on the dots at this time. If your child is late to the session, you will need to bring him/her over to the Performing Arts Room which is adjacent to the MPC.

Change of routine

If there is going to be a change in routine of how your child is picked up e.g. they are going to OOSHC or a different person is picking them up, please make sure you tell your child and their teacher. Children often become anxious and stressed if a routine changes and they're not prepared or aware.

Food

Please ensure your child is bringing practical food to school. We are noticing that some children need a lot of assistance to eat the food they have been sent and to open and close their lunch boxes. We encourage students to be independent and it is really important that they are able open containers by themselves. Also, please remember we are a **Nude Food** school so no rubbish or packaging should be coming to school.

Prep Information Night

In last week's Bulletin we started to answer some of your wonderings from the information night. The other wonderings we collected on the night were regarding contacting the teacher. Teachers emails are all listed on the website. Click on the 'About Us' tab and then 'Staff Contact Details' and all staff are listed there. Simply click on who you wish to email. We are always open to having a conversation with you about how your child is going, but it is important to make a time with us or come and speak to us after school. There are formal means through which we communicate, reports go home at the end of Term 2 and at the end of the year and we have parent teacher interviews at the end of Term 2 as well.

Rain

If it is raining before school an announcement will be made and your child's teacher will bring them into the classroom. If it is only a light drizzle, take shelter under the shade cloth. No children are to come into the building without a teacher present.

Lost Property

There is a large amount of lost property that has been sitting by the door of the Infant Hall, including a large number of head bands. If it is not claimed by the end of the week we are going to send it up to Lost Property in the MPC.

Hair

Please ensure that if your child has hair that is shoulder length or longer, they tie it up. If it is not tied up this can lead to lice spreading.

DONATIONS:

Playdough

Thank you to those families who have donated some playdough. We are always looking for more playdough so any more donations would be greatly appreciated.

We were kindly donated a picnic rug by Benjamin's family (Prep S). Thank you for that donation; it has been put to great use in the picnic area.

Thank you

Thank you very much to those parents and children who are assisting with the sweeping and watering. If you are able to help please put your name down on the roster which is located on the Communication Board.

Have a great week!



Prep Team

Angela, Jade and Nikita

