



# MENTONE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Foundation Newsletter

Term 4, Week 5

What an exciting fortnight it has been - lots of learning and lots of fun. The children loved dressing up and celebrating Halloween with 'treating' happening on arrival at school and then, accompanied by Buddies, throughout the building! Mr Agars and Patti thoroughly enjoyed sharing the goodies with a mixture of ghouls, ghost and witches - that is, the Prep children.

The Prep children have also loved our regular Wellbeing afternoons where both grades come together for team sports such as Tunnel Ball, Over Ball and Round the World. This has helped connect the children across both grades as well as reiterating the importance of participation in a game rather than winning. The Preppies have learnt not only to be good losers but also gracious winners whether playing in a team game or an individual game such as Broken Window.

The highlight of the week, in terms of outdoor activities, was the Horse Racing to celebrate Melbourne Cup. The children were in pairs with one child the horse and the other child the jockey. Reins (skipping ropes) were passed over the 'horse's' shoulders, under their forelegs (arms) and then held by the jockey. Following strict racing guidelines (!) the horse and jockey had to gallop across the finishing line, swap over positions and race back again. Lots of laughter...and the winners were honoured with a gold medal.



In **Reading**, we continue to learn, revisit and practise a range of strategies to decode words and to ensure an understanding of what has been read. We are also responding to a range of literal and inferential questions to ensure we understand and locate relevant information in a story. Additionally, we are working hard to further improve our fluency and expression when reading aloud.

In **Writing**, whilst some of the children are consolidating their sentence structure knowledge others are being challenged to extend their thinking to write several sentences or even a short story. Children are continuing to be encouraged to tune into the sounds in words, draw on their understanding of spelling patterns/blends/digraphs (ch, sh, ay, ar etc.) and to use the M100W spelling resources to make plausible attempts at writing words. Above all else, the children continue to be encouraged to 'have a go'!

In **Maths**, the children have continued to work in needs-based groups across the two grades. Over the past 2 weeks the children have been again focusing on addition, and revising strategies that will help them work more efficiently. These strategies include understanding Friends of 10, doubles and near doubles. This week the children have used a range of hands on activities and number stories to help them develop and consolidate their understanding of subtraction.

Please continue to read with your child every night - no matter what level they are reading. It will not only help them with their reading but also help them develop a love of books.



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Nov 16	School Photos
Nov 23	Book Week
Dec 18	End of Term 1:30 Finish

### Take Home Books

This week we have started sending our daily take home books for reading. The children will bring home a book each night to be read to their parents. It is vital that you support your child through listening them read the book, followed by a discussion on what the text was about. Depending on the length and content of the text you may wish to discuss the beginning, middle and ending of the story or talk about characters, settings, adventures, morals or facts found in the book.

### Library Books and Bags

During Term 4 we will continue to visit the Library on Friday mornings; please could you send along a named Library bag (if you have not already done so). Once the children have shared their Library book with you, it can be returned to the Library box in our classrooms the following Friday or earlier. Please note that the children select their own picture storybooks and would love to read and enjoy these books with your help.

### Specialist Classes

From next week all specialist classes (Art, Pe and Italian) will on Wednesdays.

### Staff Car Park

For the safety of your children, please do not walk them through the staff car park. Please use one of the several gates that front Broome Avenue. **PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE STAFF CAR PARK UNLESS YOU HAVE PERMISSION.**

### Reminders

- Please return the **coloured tubs** to school along with any takehome books you may still have at home. Thank you.
- Can we please ask that students **only drink water** at school and continue to bring **two serves** of fruit or vegetables (fresh/raw) for fruit breaks each day.
- We respectfully ask that students remain outside the prep doors until the **8.50am** bell rings and the doors are opened for us to greet the children. Could parents please wait in the prep outside area for the the **3.30pm** bell when the teachers will open the doors and dismiss the children.. Thank you.

Thank you for adhering to social distancing and remaining outside the Prep building. If you have any concerns or questions and need to speak with us, please phone or email us and we will make a time for a 'Covid-friendly' catch up.

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**STUDENT  
SPOTLIGHT** 



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# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

