Your Child and School.

Things you can do at home:
- Give your child opportunities to do things on their own e.g. carrying their own bag, taking their jumper off, putting their cup in the sink
- Practice leaving your child with friends and family for short periods of time
- Set up a regular routine including appropriate bed time for your child
- Meet with other children who are starting school with your child
- If you know children who will be in the same class as your child, refer to them by name. This will allow your child to become familiar with them
- Provide them with lunch in a lunch box
- Speak positively about school with your child
- Make sure your child is familiar with their bag and their belongings
- Play short games with your child which involve following rules
- Be aware of your child’s toileting needs and teach appropriate skills and strategies including how to tell someone they need to go to the toilet

How to make your child familiar with the school:
- Visit the school with your child. Use the drink taps, toilets and playground
- On the weekend, go for a walk or ride bikes through the school
- Point out your child’s school as you drive past it in the car
- Point out the spot you will pick your child up from

Dear Parents,

I know that you will all be as thrilled as I am when I announce that our dear Miss Polly is back in the Prep room. Debbie has taken opportunities elsewhere and we all wish her well. Polly and I are so happy and feel very blessed to be again sharing the role. Until after Labour Day I will be in the classroom on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays and Polly will be there on Tuesdays. To help ease the Preps into school, we have a gentle settling-in period, with Wednesdays off until after Labour Day. I will be visiting each family at home on these Wednesdays. Please see the dates and times below for Term One and mark them in your diary. Our Prep program is flexible and fluid and responds to the needs and interests of our Precious Preps and story or craft may end up different to the one planned.

Please find attached our list of what to bring to school (and what not to bring!) If you have any queries, questions, comments, ideas, or you’d just like a bit of a chat, please ring the school and we’ll arrange a meeting time. Formal meet the teacher interviews will be held in Week Three of Term One and we will have the opportunity to discuss your child’s time at school in more detail.

Home visits will occur during Term One and times have been placed on our Weekly Plan sheet. Please find your child’s name and time and confirm with Johanna.

Each week a family will be on duty. Responsibilities for duty families include bringing a bunch of flowers, leaves or grasses on Monday for our table and taking home the laundry bag on Friday, washing the contents and returning to our room Monday morning.

Johanna will need a painting helper on Thursdays between 11.30-12.30. Please see Johanna if you are able. All parents are invited to come along and help in the garden on Tuesday afternoons. Siblings, grandparents, friends and family are all welcome. Hailey Avey’s Mum is our Garden Guru and will be co-ordinating this so catch her in the hallway if you have ideas or time. Maree Finn’s Mum is our Crafty Mumma and will be in touch about things we need for our classroom.

Thanks to Meghan Ruby’s Mum, Natalie Ava’s Mum, Sarah Esmae’s Mum, Hailey Avey’s Mum, Paula Coda’s Mum, Penny Tully’s Mum, Clair Jordy’s Mum and Sam Otis’s Mum for all their work helping get our room ready for the first day of school. Thank you also to everyone who responded to my email saying they would love to help out but weren’t able to make it on Friday. There are always lots of things to help out with and I will call on you again. Outside our classroom there is a basket where I will place mending. Please take anything from here to mend and return.

Each child will have a school smock (which stays at school) with their shape and could your child’s resting lambskin/blanket please be kept in a plain pastel colored cotton pillowcase. We have some spares if you can’t put your hands on one.

Hot lunch will be available for all students on Wednesdays and the Preps will be able to enjoy this when they attend full weeks. Please return the Hot Lunch note and payment promptly making sure to include any specific dietary requirements. Please also note that if your child is away from school the office must be notified. When your child returns to school they must be accompanied by a note.

Please don’t hesitate to email me with any concerns or queries and I look forward to spending this very special year with you and your child.

blessings
Johanna camm.johanna.j@edumail.vic.gov.au
Polly youstons@bigpond.com
What to bring to school

- **School bag** Please, not too big or with logos on it!
- **Hat** During terms 1 and 4, a broad-brimmed or legionnaires hat must be worn for outside play (not baseball cap). During terms 2 and 3, a woollen hat or beanie is required.
- **Lunch** Please pack sensible, nutritious lunches; fresh food is always the best source of lasting energy and nutrition. Avoid chips, lollies or other pre-packaged foods, and minimise the packaging you use. Our school promotes ‘Nude Food’. Please provide a thermos for hot food, or a ‘cold pack’ to keep food cool.
- **Drink Bottles** Drink bottles are to be filled with water only.
- **Snacks** Please include some snacks to have throughout the day, as a ‘back up’ if children are still hungry after morning tea or during lunch play. We enjoy After Lunch Munch at 2.30 each day.
- **Piece of fruit or vegetable to share for morning tea.** Every day is fruit day in the Prep room. Mango and sticky fruit can be enjoyed at home.
- **Set of spare clothes** Please put a full set of spare clothes into a separate bag to leave at school. Please allow for all of Melbourne’s erratic weather conditions, including wet weather.
- **Gumboots** These can be stored in the classroom for use throughout the year (please put your name on them!)
- **Raincoat** Can be left on their bag hook or kept in school bag (these are needed even in Summer – Melbourne weather is often interesting...)
- **Sensible shoes** Children need to be able to put their own shoes on and take them off with minimal supervision. Enclosed shoes are best.
- **Slippers** Especially nice in winter, as shoes are taken off inside.
- **Sheepskin** for resting time.
- **Birthdays** are a special time and parents are invited to come into class in the afternoon with some stories, special items or some photo’s to share with the class and a birthday cake for the class to share.
- **Treasure Time** A treasure from Nature or something that has been crafted or made at home. Please note your child’s Treasure Time day on our Weekly Plan.

Please **DO NOT** bring:

- **Toys from home** This causes undue stress and anxiety. (A small toy kept in their bag may be helpful, although it will need to stay in their bag at all times). Toys are not to be brought for Treasure Time.
- **Pencils, pens, stationary** We provide all school supplies
- **Blanket** We have our own blankets for rest time

**Things that are always gratefully received:**

- **Flowers** for vases and posies around the classroom. Please ensure the plants you pick are not highly toxic or poisonous!
- **Additional fruit** We can make jams or other yummy things.
- **Smiles and ‘happy vibes’**!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week starting.</th>
<th>Craft.</th>
<th>Story.</th>
<th>Other.</th>
<th>Duty Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Feb</td>
<td>Bark Boat</td>
<td>Little Boat and Little Dolphin</td>
<td></td>
<td>Johanna and Polly</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th Feb</td>
<td>Wax shifty with little shell.</td>
<td>Shifty the crab.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lilia A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th Feb</td>
<td>Sun weaving</td>
<td>Three Billy Goats Gruff</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rayne</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd Feb</td>
<td>Sunflower bed</td>
<td>The sunflower seed.</td>
<td>Bring empty matchbox to school.</td>
<td>Finn</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th Feb</td>
<td>Baking bread</td>
<td>Little red hen</td>
<td>Bread for morning tea.</td>
<td>Avey</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th March</td>
<td>Corn dolly/corn husk wreath.</td>
<td>Corn Dolly</td>
<td>Corn for lunch. Monday Holiday. Start full week.</td>
<td>Scarlet</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th March</td>
<td>Tissue Dragon Fly</td>
<td>The Dragon Flys Tale</td>
<td>Make Easter Baskets</td>
<td>Mali</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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TERM ONE STEINER PREP PROGRAM 2016.
| 21<sup>st</sup> March | Decorate blown eggs. | Easter Hare | Hot Cross Buns for morning tea. Bring a blown egg. | Lilia |