We have had a very enjoyable few weeks getting to know your children and making them feel welcome and safe in their new Prep environment.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in preparing your child and working with us to effectively establish routines and encourage confidence and independence.
You Can Do It

- Is a social/emotional educational program adopted in prep to support the school and homes in a collective effort to optimise the social, emotional, and academic outcomes of young children.

The 5 social and emotional skills presented in the program are:

1. **Confidence — Connie Confidence**
2. **Persistence — Pete Persistence**
3. **Organisation — Oscar Organisation**
4. **Getting Along — Gabby Get Along**
5. **Resilience — Rickie Resilience**

- Its unique contribution is in identifying the social and emotional capabilities that all young children need to acquire in order to be successful in school, experience wellbeing, and have positive relationships.

Letterland

- Letterland is a phonics program adopted by the Early Year School and has already been introduced to the prep children. This has been a very successful program and includes many interesting characters and songs. We will incorporate this program into our show and tell and will appreciate your assistance in the preparation of certain activities.

Origo

- This year the school is introducing a new Maths program called Origo which aligns with the National Curriculum. The strands Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability are taught using a variety of interesting tools — big books, games, interactive whiteboard and practical hands-on experiences.
Show & Tell

- Show and Tell is an important way for the children to develop confidence and express their ideas.
- There will be selected topics each term and we would appreciate your help preparing your child for their talk.
- Normally no toys are to come to school unless it is part of Show and Tell.
- We will send home a note explaining topics and the specific day your children will be asked to present their talk.
- The first few weeks the children have been able to bring in items of interest when they wish which we have enjoyed.
- Our topic for Term one is “My Family Tree”.

Fabulous 4

- Please support your child in becoming more independent and organised by encouraging them to check their bags for their Fabulous 4 every day!
  1. Hat
  2. Lunch
  3. Water bottle
  4. Pouch

On Library borrowing day it becomes the fabulous 5 to include their book and library bag on set days.

Library & Borrowing

- Library lessons and borrowing have commenced.
- Please ensure that your child always has a library bag for borrowing on Thursdays (Prep White) and Fridays (Prep Blue).
- Books must be returned in order to re-borrow.
Assembly

- Assemblies are held on a Friday at 9:00am.
- Awards are presented at the assembly for all classes.
- The awards include a Student of the Week and a Student We Admire Greatly (SWAG).
- We will inform parents in advance if their child is to receive a Student of the Week Award so that parents can attend if they wish.

Liturgy

- Classroom Liturgies are held on Tuesdays. You will be informed and invited to attend our Prep Liturgy when it is to be held this year.

Uniform

- Sports Uniform — Thursday and Friday
- Formal Uniform — Every other day
- Hair — School colours must be worn (ribbons and scrunchies are available at the uniform shop)
- Hat — No hat no play policy. Please ensure your child has a hat everyday.

Lunch Time

Lunch Box and Water Bottle:

- Children are required to have a water bottle every day with their name clearly displayed.
- Lunch boxes are also to be named clearly.
- Cool packs are not required as both the lunch box and water bottle are stored in the fridge.
- Please ensure you pack a healthy lunch that your child is able to manage independently.
• Can you please also respect allergies within the school by providing nut-free food (for example not peanut butter)

Rotations

• In prep we have indoor and outdoor rotational activities across both classes and these provide the children with opportunities to participate in a range of learning experiences in different contexts depending on their interest and learning needs.

• These rotations also provide opportunity for the classes to interact and the teachers to work cooperatively with all your children.

• Parent help would be greatly appreciated in order to provide the children with maximum learning and interaction. This term the rotations will be held in weeks 7 and 8 from 9:00 am to 10:15 am on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Your support would be greatly appreciated and we ask that you inform teachers if you are able to help.

• This is a lovely time for parents to be involved with classroom activities, working with teachers, other parents and children from both Prep classes.

Occupational Therapy & Speech Screening

• In accordance with our good practices policy at St Ignatius, all children in Prep will be screened by Speech and Occupational Therapists this term. The purpose of these screenings is to identify any difficulties your child may be experiencing in learning certain skills so that early intervention can be affected before these difficulties become an issue. The children will be withdrawn from class and will miss minimal lesson time as these screenings take place at school.
Shared Partnerships in Life & Learning (SPILL)

As an integral part of our prep year reporting, we will be holding interviews with parents towards the end of the term to discuss your child’s social/emotional and academic progress.

National Year of Reading – Reading Ted

2012 has been nominated in Australia as the National Year of Reading. At St Ignatius, we have a number of initiatives to celebrate throughout the year. One specifically for Prep children is the “Reading Ted” which will travel home with different children each week to spend time in their homes and be with them as they enjoy story time with their families.

Each week the “Treasure of the Week” or “Star of the Week” in the Prep classes will be the lucky students to take Reading Ted home. He will come equipped with his own bag, pencil case and book. He will go home each Friday and return the following Wednesday ready to tell the class all about his adventures.

We encourage families to let Ted be a part of the family for the week and join in activities and events which happen. Most particularly though we want Reading Ted to be part of story time with his home family each week. If you can take a photo/s of this special time we would love you to put a copy into Ted’s book and write a little bit about what he has done while he has been with your family.

When the children will return with Ted on Wednesday, they will share some of the adventures he has had with the family and show Ted’s book with details of what has happened to him while he was away from school. This “Reading Ted” experience is another way to reinforce the importance of taking time to stop to read and share stories and enjoy the special time to foster a love of reading that will continue for a lifetime.
We are looking forward to an exciting and memorable year filled with fun, laughter, love and learning.

We will endeavour to provide learning experiences to interest, challenge, inform, and celebrate your child’s individuality.