Friday, 18 March 2016

Dear Parents,

It has been wonderful to see so many contributions being made to Project Compassion during Lent. As the children get excited about the prospect of the Easter Bunny visiting, we encourage you to continue to discuss the real meaning of Easter with your child.

What’s happening in Kindergarten next week?

- **Religion** – We will conclude our unit, ‘From Ashes to Easter’. Children will be focusing on the story of Palm Sunday (Mt 21:1-11), as well as the events of Holy Week.
- **English** – We will continue our author study of Eric Carle. The book focus for the week is *Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What do you hear?* Children are introduced to letters, words, text direction, spacing between words, full stops and capital letters. Children will be singing ‘Ants in the Apple’ to assist in developing their phonemic awareness.
- **Mathematics** – The focus for the week is addition. Children will be solving addition problems using concrete materials and recording informally.
- **HSIE** – We will continue our History unit ‘Personal and Family Histories’, by focusing on using photos as a source of finding information. Children’s baby photos will be used this week. We will also be sending home a sheet for you to complete with your child about family country of origin. If possible, please complete this and return it with next week’s homework.

Special Messages.....

- If your child is absent from school, please send a note of explanation to the class teacher upon your child’s return. Alternatively, you may use the Skoolbag App to explain your child’s absence. Teachers are legally obligated to record all absences on the school roll. If a note is not given to your child’s class teacher the absence is recorded as being unexplained.
- As next week is a shorter week due to Good Friday, we ask that homework, readers, and sight word folders are returned on **THURSDAY**.

How can I help my child develop their literacy and numeracy skills?

With the Easter long weekend coming up and school holidays not far away, we would like to give you some ideas to help support your child’s learning at home:

**Literacy** - You can assist your child develop their literacy skills by ensuring that they read and practise sight words on a daily basis. It will also greatly benefit your child if they revise letter names and sounds through games such as ‘Memory’ and ‘Snap’ (you may like to use the *Ants in the Apple* cards handed out earlier this year for these games). Many children also enjoy using the online program ‘Reading Eggs’. You may like to practise writing simple consonant/vowel/consonant words such as cat, pig, top etc.

**Numeracy** - You can assist your child by practising rote counting forwards (to at least 30), counting backwards (from ten initially, then from 20, then from 30 etc.), counting from a non-zero starting point e.g. start counting from 12, estimating and counting collections of objects (buttons, pencils, straws etc.), identifying one more/one less than a number, number recognition, writing numbers, adding collections of objects together, subtracting objects from a group.

The possibilities are endless! Remember, the more fun you make it, the more likely they are to want to do it!

Wishing you a Happy and Holy Easter,

Sue Neilly, Karina Davis and Karen Shillito