Dear Parents,

Thank you to all the families who were able to attend the welcome barbeque last Friday. It was a great opportunity for parents and children to get to know each other in true Bethany spirit. Thank you also to the parents who attended the Parent Information night on Tuesday. We hope that it provided you with some helpful information as we work together in partnership to educate your child.

What’s happening in Kindergarten next week?

- **Religion** – We will continue our unit, ‘God Loves Me’. Children will be exploring their uniqueness.
- **English** – We will be starting an author study of Eric Carle. The book focus for the week is ‘The Very Hungry Caterpillar’. 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 patterns. Children will create and continue shape and colour patterns, forming the basis for number patterns later. Part of each Mathematics lesson will also focus on whole number (estimating and counting collections of objects, reading and writing numbers).
- **Science and Technology** – We will continue our unit ‘On the Move’, focusing on how we move our bodies.

Special Messages.....

- From this Monday 22nd February Kindergarten will be dismissed at the usual school finishing time of 2:45p.m.
- Please cover the remaining exercise books in clear contact over the weekend. If you are unable to cover them, please return them to school on Monday, and we will send them home at the end of the week.
- Homework, sight words and readers will be sent home this Monday. We ask that they are all returned on **Friday**. There will be containers outside each classroom in which to place these items. It is important that homework, readers and sight word folders are returned on **Fridays**, as this is when we have parent helpers designated to assist in testing sight words etc. in preparation for the following week. Homework books may be covered in any coloured contact (pattern etc). Please make sure your child’s name is on the front of the book.
• We will also send home coloured copies of ‘Ants in the Apple’ cards. You may like to ask your child if they can sing the song for you while showing the appropriate card. We have provided two copies of each letter so that you can play memory or snap using the cards. This is one way to develop your child’s letter sound knowledge.

• Please reinforce the school’s ‘hands off’ rule at home with your child. We encourage children to report incidents of hitting etc. to the teacher, as we take any form of violence seriously.

• Kindergarten will begin having ‘Crunch and Sip’ from this Monday 22nd February. Children are asked to bring a small amount of fresh fruit or vegetables as per the note sent home earlier this week.

• Parent helpers will be invited to assist in the classroom from Monday 29th March. A confirmation note will be sent home prior to this date. Thank you for offering your assistance. If you would still like to add your name, there are sign-up sheets outside each classroom.

• Please ensure that you write a note to the class teacher explaining your child’s absence from school if they are away for any reason. Teachers are legally required to record all explained/unexplained absences in the class roll.

• It is very important that children are at school by 8:30a.m, as we start learning immediately (this is when we focus on handwriting and phonics). It is best if children are at school at least 10 minutes early, as this often reduces the last minute anxiety that is felt by children who arrive on or just after the bell.

Kind regards,
Sue Neilly, Karina Davis and Karen Shillito