Dear Parents,

It has been another busy week in Kindergarten. The children have settled in very well to school life and are developing their reading, writing and numeracy skills. They are continuing to get to know each other and are developing friendships.

What’s happening in Kindergarten next week?

- **Religion** – We will continue our unit, ‘God Loves Me’. We will be reading and discussing the scripture story *Jesus Blesses the Little Children* (Lk 18:15-17).
- **English** – We will continue our author study of Eric Carle. The book focus for the week is ‘The Very Busy Spider’. 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 2D Shapes. Children will be focusing on identifying and representing two dimensional shapes.
- **Science and Technology** – We will be concluding our unit ‘On the Move’ by focussing on how toys move and exploring various ways to describe movement (push, pull, slide, roll etc.).

Special Messages.....

- We will begin our history unit in week 7. As outlined in earlier communication, we are asking that children bring some items from home to help with their learning in this unit. It would be greatly appreciated if you can locate a photo (or copy) of your child’s immediate family, and extended family, and send it to school by next Friday.

- Just a reminder that children are asked to bring in a small serving of fruit or vegetables for ‘Crunch and Sip’ each day. Please do not send whole apples/oranges etc. as eating time is only about five minutes. Fruit and vegetables cut up into small pieces is a better option. A handful of grapes, a small number of strawberries, half a carrot, or a kiwi fruit, are examples of appropriate amounts. If your child does not like a particular fruit or vegetable, we ask that you please do not send it in for ‘Crunch and Sip’. Children may also bring a bottle of water to drink.

- We will be welcoming parent helpers into the classroom from this Monday. Thank you to all the parents who have offered their assistance in the classroom. Just a reminder that any parent who wishes to assist in the classroom must complete a Child Protection Module. If you still need to complete this course, the link is on the Bethany website. Of course confidentiality is of the upmost importance when assisting in the classroom. The skills and behaviour of children within the class are not to be discussed with other parents outside the classroom.
• We begin our phonics/handwriting lesson at 8:30 a.m. each morning, so it is vital that your child is at school on time every day. As you can appreciate children arriving late also distract the rest of the class.

• Thank you for ensuring that your child’s homework, readers and sight word folders were returned to school today. As we need to organise homework etc. for the following week, it is important that these items are all returned each **FRIDAY**. Please make sure homework books are covered.

• We encourage children to utilise the online reading program ‘Reading Eggs’ at home on a regular basis. Your child’s login details can be found on the inside of their homework book.

• Children are also able to access online Mathletics tasks, which are set on a fortnightly basis. The login details for Mathletics can also be found on the inside cover of your child’s homework book.

• If your child has attended any type of early intervention (e.g. speech therapy or occupational therapy), or you have any medical issues that may have an impact upon your child’s learning, please ensure that you make the teacher aware of this (if you haven’t already done so). Please pass on copies of any reports to the class teacher. The more we know about your child, the more effectively we can cater for their learning needs.

• Keep up the great reading at home! Remember to make all reading experiences enjoyable. It is important to encourage your child to use a variety of reading strategies (remember to refer to the reading strategies handout given at the information night). It is also essential that you discuss what your child has read. Ask some comprehension questions about the story or discuss your child’s favourite part of the story. Remember, reading without meaning is not reading!

Have a lovely week,
Sue Neilly, Karina Davis and Karen Shillito