Dear Parents,

Thank you to all the parents who attended the Kindergarten information night this week. We hope that you found the evening informative and reassuring. We have sent home handouts to parents who were unable to make it to the meeting.

We greatly appreciate the many parents who have generously offered their time to help in the classroom. If you were unable to attend the information night, but would like to assist in the classroom, please let the class teacher know what days you are available. We will be inviting parent helpers into the classroom from Monday, 2nd March.

Just a reminder that any parent who wishes to assist in the classroom must complete a Child Protection Module. Many parents completed this course during Kindergarten transition last year. If you still need to complete this course, it can be done online through the Catholic Education Office (the link is on the Bethany website).

Of course confidentiality is of the utmost 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.

While children love their parents to help in the classroom, sometimes children do not cope well with their parents in the classroom, or find separation difficult when their parents finish assisting for the day. If this is the case with your child, we may need to make alternative arrangements.

Assisting in the classroom is beneficial for all the children in the class and gives you the opportunity to gain a better understanding of what your child is learning at school. Whilst we understand that you may prefer to read with or assist your child’s group, please understand that this is not always possible, as there may be more than one parent volunteering for a group.

We fully understand that there may be days when you are unable to assist in the classroom on your designated day. If possible, please let the class teacher know the day before or send a message with an older sibling, so that other arrangements for learning activities can be made.

What’s happening in Kindergarten next week?

- **Religion** – Children will continue to explore what make them unique.
- **English** – The nursery rhyme focus for the week is ‘Old Mother Hubbard’. 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 (adding groups of objects and recording informally).
- **Theme** – We will continue our unit, ‘School Days’ focusing on identifying areas within the school and what individuals need to be happy and safe at school.

Special Messages.....

- We have sent home the remainder of the school exercise books to be covered over the weekend. Please cover these books in plastic or clear contact so that the cover of the book can be easily identified. Please do not use coloured or patterned contact and return all books to school on Monday. If you are unable to cover the books over the weekend, please return the books to school uncovered and they can be covered the following weekend. The exercise book that your child has brought home for homework may be covered in any contact/plastic of your choice (coloured is fine). However, please make sure your child’s book is clearly labelled with their name.
- Next week will be the last week of the early finishing time for Kindergarten (8:30a.m to 2:15p.m). From Monday, 23rd February, Kindergarten will be dismissed at the usual finishing time of 2:45p.m.
Homework and sight word folders will be sent home with your child next Monday. Your child will also bring home two readers of their choice. Please return homework, sight word folder and readers each Friday. There will be containers outside each classroom for collection of these.

We kindly ask parents not to stand near the classroom windows and doors while the children are in class, as this can be quite distracting. Children who can see their parents through windows and doors find it difficult to hear and follow the directions of the teacher. We promise there will be plenty of opportunities for parents to assist in the classroom and visit during the year. We would greatly appreciate your support in this matter.

Please continue to encourage your child to develop their independence by allowing them to put their school bags and lunch boxes in the appropriate areas and handing notes to their classroom teacher when they go into class.

It is very important that children are at school by 8:30 a.m. (five or ten minutes earlier is ideal). Kindergarten begin their learning at 8:30 a.m. each day by revising letter names and sounds, and completing handwriting tasks. Not only do children who arrive late miss out on important learning, they are often embarrassed by their late arrival and find it more difficult to separate from parents. While we understand that occasionally a child may be late, we need to keep distractions from late arrivals to a minimum for the benefit of all the children in the class.

Kind regards,
Sue Neilly, Karina Sarkisian and Karen Shillito