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 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.

- **Theme** – We will concluding our unit, ‘School Days’ focusing on symbols in the school (flags, Bethany emblem) and discussing people who help us in the school environment.

**Special Messages.....**

- Just a reminder that we will be starting ‘Crunch and Sip’ this Monday. Children are asked to bring 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. 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. 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 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.

- Next Wednesday (4th March) is school photo day. Please make sure your child is in full school uniform. Girls need to wear red, blue or white hair accessories.

- We begin our phonics/handwriting lesson at 8:30a.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 group.

- 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. If you have lost your child’s login details or you are experiencing difficulty using the program, please speak with your child’s class teacher.

- 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 Sarkisian and Karen Shillito