Dear Parents,

We are more than halfway through our first term and the growth the children have shown during this short time is amazing. They are now quite familiar with school routines and know their way around the school. They are lining up beautifully in the morning and are leaving their bags in the correct locations. We certainly are very proud of them.

We have had a very busy and exciting past few weeks in Kindergarten.

On Shrove Tuesday we cooked pancakes with the help of Mrs Aylen. We watched for the bubbles to form on top of the pancake batter and then we knew it was time to turn them.

After we made our pancakes we wrote about making and tasting pancakes. The children commented on just how sticky our fingers were from the maple syrup. The children used lots of great adjectives to describe the experience, which we then used in our writing. Some of the adjectives the children came up with were: delicious, hot, flat, sticky, small, miniature, tasty, puffy, sweet, round, wobbly, mushy and fabulous.
In Maths we have been learning about counting and representing numbers to twenty and beyond. The children have also been looking at how to organise their collections to assist in using efficient counting strategies.

What’s happening in Kindy?

Religion

We have begun our second unit of work in Religion-Lent/Easter: From Ashes to Easter. During this time we are learning about the significance of the Lenten period. The children will explore the idea that Lent is our waiting and preparing time for Easter. During this time the children are also encouraged to help out at home in order to earn a coin to donate to our Project Compassion box.

English

We will continue to explore nursery rhymes as a class. We will have fun responding to each rhyme through a range of creative activities to consolidate our literacy skills. During our English lessons we will also be reading and exploring a variety of quality literature where we will focus on developing our skills as a reader and writer. We will be writing well-structured imaginative and creative sentences based on the topics explored in the literature that we read, listen to and view.
We hope that you enjoyed looking through your child’s writing book. During our writing time we will be focussing on finger spaces - that is the spaces between words. We will also be orienting our writing by starting on the left side of the page and writing across the page. When we write we listen to the sounds that we can hear in words and we reread our own writing to check that it makes sense.

**Phonemic awareness**

Each week we expose all students to the 42 sounds of the alphabet. We look at how these sounds are blended together to create words. We will continue to reinforce these sounds each week, however, we will examine in more depth two sounds per week. In Weeks 6, 7 and 8 the students will investigate the letters ‘c’ & ‘k’, ‘e’ & ‘h’ and ‘r’ & ‘m’ and the sounds they make in different contexts throughout language. This week we will also explore high frequency words and how these words are used in many of the texts we read. The children enjoy finding these sounds and their corresponding letter in the words of the books they read.

**Mathematics**

Starting in Week 7, we will be investigating addition to ten. The children will participate in a range of tasks using concrete materials to discover addition facts for ten. You may hear your child use the term ‘Friends of Ten’ over the next couple of weeks. Every time we use our counters we also find the numeral that corresponds to that many counters and we try to write the numbers too.

**Calling all Parent-Helpers**

We would like to organise parent helpers for Guided Reading and Discovery Time. The note for volunteering is included with this newsletter. If you are able to help please return the slip indicating your availability and we will begin organising the timetable for this. The groups you will be working with will be small and all of the activities will be explained and will of course be a lot of fun.

**Kindy Handy Hints**

**Personal Sight Words**

The children have now been bringing home their personal sight word lists for a few weeks. These lists are compiled from a group of the most common high frequency words that appear in texts. This is not meant to be an onerous task for your child or you. Some ways to help your child learn their words include:

- Make the words out of magnetic letters.
- Stick the words on the fridge individually at your child’s height.
- Play ‘snap’ with the words.
- Have a story hunt. Before reading a book with your child select three sight words that you are going to hunt for in the words of the book or story. At the end of the book, talk about which words appeared the most or the least in the text.
Reading with your child

Helping your child learn to read should be an enjoyable and happy experience for you both. Attached we have included a parent resource which explains how you can help your child during home reading.

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=c8d2e6446d&view=att&th=14bb9581a6f9800c&attid=0.1&disp=inline&realattid=f_i6hsha8i0&safe=1&zw

Changes to Going Home Arrangements

Just a reminder that if the arrangements for your child change permanently or just for the day, please send a note to your child's teacher to ensure we are aware of the new arrangements. This will reduce the anxiety not only for your child but for us and for you as we will ensure that they know where they are going. We have had a few occasions of late where our information says a different going home arrangement to what the child has been told to do on that particular afternoon. Thank you for your support in helping us ensure that going home arrangements run smoothly.

Shoelaces

Learning to tie shoelaces is a skill that takes times. In the meantime, it would be very helpful if parents could please tie their child's shoelaces in 'double bows'.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kindergarten Teachers
Mrs Rochelle Borg, Miss Zara Boudib and Mrs Corena Laso