



February 2016

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to welcome both parents and children to Kindy and look forward to a very happy and successful year.

Our first focus will be on helping the children make a smooth transition from home to school. Settling into kindy, learning routines and developing social skills is an important part of the Kindergarten curriculum.

Some learning experiences this year will include cooking, painting, singing, dancing, rhymes, shared reading, drama, craft, and basic writing and counting introduction. The children will be encouraged to begin their day by tracing their name. This term, we begin to help the children develop some specific fine motor abilities such as pencil grip and cutting skills.

Play will also be a major part of the curriculum; play is vital to the overall development of the child. Children learn about mathematical concepts through water play, block play, sorting play and constructive play.

Children also develop their language and social skills through cooperative and, sociodramatic play. Imaginative or symbolic play is also vital in the development of a multitude of abilities including creativity, sequential memory, receptive vocabulary, group cooperation and impulse control.

Therefore, the Kindy curriculum will provide daily opportunities for both indoor and outdoor play. This will include dramatic play, block building, tactile table, easel, puzzles, music and movement as well as water play. The equipment and opportunities for play will be added to and changed regularly throughout the year to ensure that the children's imagination and creativity are constantly being challenged and stimulated.

In week two we will begin weekly news session. Your child will have a news day that will remain the same for the entire year (see attached). Please ensure your child brings a news item from the list (see attached). The list of topics and student's news day will also be displayed in the classroom. News sessions are an enjoyable way for students to develop their confidence and speaking and listening skills.

We will begin our Buddies Program in week 2. Year 2 students will be partnered with a kiddy buddy and each Friday they will spend half an hour together. The Year 2s sometimes read their buddies a story, teach them a table game or work on a craft activity with them. This has been a highly successful program for both Kindy and Year 2. Buddies helps the children develop confidence, self esteem and empathy.

To give the children time to settle into the school routine, our parent help roster will begin in Term 2. At this early stage in the year, the children are still learning to separate from their parents in the morning and become at ease with the Kindy routine.

Reminders:

- Please keep children at home if they are unwell or displaying cold/flu symptoms. Colds and flu spread very quickly in the kindy environment. Even if your child asks to attend school, it is best to keep them at home as children who are unwell are unable to learn and participate. There are also children within the group who are particularly vulnerable to certain bugs.
- Kindy is a "nut aware zone". Please refrain from sending any nut products to school.

- Kiss and Drive zone is located along Bent Road. While kindy children cannot be picked-up in this manner, it is important to remember not to park and leave vehicle in the zone between 2.45pm and 3.30pm.
- The kindy children will have library sessions every Wednesday. They will only begin borrowing books to take home in week two. Please ensure that your child has a book bag, with their name on it, by week five.
- Each child has a box for notes and work. A trolley with your child's box will be placed on the table outside kindy. Please check your child's box for any notes, work or newsletters.

With thanks

Annamarie, Bernadette, Claire, Sandra and Margaret



News Topics Term 1

- Week 2 Favourite family photo.
- Week 3 Concert/theatre/movie tickets from favourite Show.
- Week 4 Favourite piece of clothing e.g. dress or shirt.
- Week 5 A drawing, painting or piece of art/craft.
- Week 6 Favourite book.
- Week 7 Favourite baby photo.
- Week 8 Favourite holiday souvenir.
- Week 9 Something that starts with an "S"
- Week 10 Free choice