April 2016

Welcome back to another fun filled term!

Welcome back to another fun filled term! We hope you have had some time over the break to rest, relax and enjoy your families. We hope the children are refreshed and ready to continue their learning journey with us.

Please read the following information regarding our program for this term.

Science Focus:
Our Science inquiry based unit called, “Is the Grass Still Green at Night?” focuses on astrophysics of the dark. The aims of this module are to develop a greater understanding of day and night, explore shadows and the relationship between earth and the sun. The Kindy children will participate in another exciting Incursion this term, called “Journey To Mars.” This will be held on Wednesday 25th May 2016. To find out more about what the children will be learning via this Incursion, please follow the link below:


Religious Education Focus:
Our two main units of work are:

• 1. Creation: “God created the World” & Looking after God’s World – We will be planting in our garden bed and caring for God’s world in this way, also learning about sustainability.
• 2. The Water Cycle: Children will learn about how the Water Cycle works; the importance of water in our world; Holy Water and the Sacrament of Baptism.
• We will share Bible stories, engage in “Godly Play,” think about wonder questions posed and continue to experience prayer.

Ways to support your child at home: Talk about God at home and encourage Prayer in your family and daily lives. Promote positive relationships and interactions with others.

Literacy Focus:

• Fine motor & pre-writing skills: Peggy Lego & Line Creations
• Sharing of texts that are interrelated to our Science & RE themes
• Syllabification is the goal of our Phonemic Awareness Program this term. We will explore sounds and identify how many “beats” in words.
• We will begin name writing: The children will be taught the correct letter formation and pencil grip for writing and will practice tracing dotted letters of their own name.
• We will continue to promote oral language through the use of our sharing circle, rhymes, songs & games, speaking and listening, looking at & identifying the difference between letters, words & sentences.
• We will be introducing comprehension strategies and working on strengthening the children’s abilities to orally describe a sequence of events/activities.
• Letter recognition and identifying letter sounds through intentional and play based learning.

The following link will take you to the Jolly Phonics Alphabet Songs that we have and will continue to practice in class. You may like to support us by reinforcing this at home:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Djz82FBYiug
Ways to support your child at home: Alphabet games and songs are a fun way to help your child learn the letter names and sounds, eg. Playing "I Spy with my little eye something beginning with...”
Talk about all the letters in your child’s name, use magnetic letters on the fridge to spell his/her name and other words of interest, look at the shapes of letters.

Mathematics Focus:
- Oral counting: counting forwards & backwards
- Number songs, rhymes and games
- Continuation and consolidation of number skills
- Dice subitising
- Tracing, reading & recognising numbers in isolation
- Formation of numbers – writing practice
- Days of the week
- Matching, sequencing, ordering, classifying & sorting pictures & materials
- Measuring
- Positional language: eg. on, under, over, behind, next to, in, in front of etc
- Literature specific to number

Ways to support your child at home: Talk about numbers with your child on a daily basis in everyday, real life situations & encourage counting games and songs. Counting forwards and backwards from different starting points, eg. what comes after 11? Let’s count on from 7. Which number comes before 9? Looking at the shapes of numerals. Assist your child to differentiate between a number and a letter...this can be confusing for some children at this age. Play UNO or other card games!

Library:
Our library sessions will begin this term. Our Library day is Friday. Please encourage your child to read and look after his/her library book. We also ask that library books are stored safely in school library bags when not in use, to avoid damage. Your child will be permitted to borrow one book. If your child forgets to return the book the following week, he/she will not be issued another book until it is returned.
Please keep your child’s library bag and book for the whole week and only return library bags on Friday mornings. This will assist staff greatly. Thank you for your cooperation!

"Read! Read! Read!"
Please continue to read to your child at home on a daily basis. Discuss various texts with your child and ask him/her to retell some of their favourite stories to you. In doing so, you are setting your child up for success in future years because you are helping him/her to increase their vocabulary and develop good comprehension skills.
Children’s author, Mem Fox has often said, that “children need to have 1000 books read to them by the time they reach Kindergarten” to set them up for school success in later years. It is also a good excuse to spend time together and snuggle!

"Read to Me" Home Reading Program:
Every Tuesday, your child will receive their "Read To Me" home reading pack. Enclosed in the pack is a letter outlining the program goals and how it runs. Please ensure that all books are cared for well and returned to us in excellent condition so that others may enjoy and benefit from the program. As with library books, food and drink should be kept away from class books. Thank you for your cooperation.
"Read to me” packs should be returned to class every Tuesday so that we can issue a new book for the following week. There is a self reflection sheet in the pack with your child's name on it, to keep a record of the books your child has read. We hope your family enjoys this opportunity.
**Parent Helper Roster:**
Our roster will be up on our whiteboard and operating on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. A note was sent home regarding **confidentiality** whilst participating on roster, please refer to this for further details. We would love for you to come along and join us for some fun, if you are able to. Your time and assistance is appreciated!

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**MOTHER’S DAY PAMPER MORNING & PLAYDATE!**

**Save the date:** Wednesday 11\(^{th}\) May 2016
8.30am - 10am/10.30am

Come along and enjoy a morning in Kindy with your child! More details to follow. We hope mum or grandma can join us for some play, paint, playdough, fun and games, but… be prepared to be pampered!

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**Spare Clothes:**
Please continue to send in some spare clothes for your child and ensure **all** personal items are clearly labeled. It would be advisable to check that the spare clothes are appropriate for the cooler weather coming up in the next few months. Please also check our class “Lost Property Box” regularly…items found in the classroom without names/labels will be placed into this box and if not claimed within a reasonable time, will be disposed of.

**FRUIT:**
Please continue to encourage healthy eating habits. At morning tea we promote “fruit first” and then a **healthy** snack if your child wishes. Please bear in mind that many packaged and processed foods are high in sugar and salt. Please do not send lollies, chips or chocolates to school in your child’s lunch box. Water only in drink bottles, no cordials or flavoured water please. It is important to develop healthy eating habits at an early age. Please also remember that we are a **nut free** zone!

**Don’t forget CRUNCH & SIP!** Besides their fruit for morning tea, please send in one additional **fruit** or **vegetable**, cut up in a **small** container…this does not have to be a large amount. The children know to unpack this during morning transition.

Morning drop off times are very busy and aren’t always ideal to discuss your child’s progress or concerns. Please feel free to make use of our “Communication Book,” located on our message board. Please date and sign all your messages.

If you have any concerns throughout the term and wish to discuss your child’s progress, please feel free to make an appointment.

Thank you all for your continued support. I look forward to an exciting term ahead.

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**God Bless,**

**Mrs Tracey Poinen**

Kindergarten Gold Teacher
St. Emilie’s Catholic Primary School