A Warm Welcome Back to all Families!

Hello everyone!

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

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

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, while also learning about sustainability.

2. The Water Cycle: The children will learn 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. May is the month we honour Mary as Jesus’ mother and our mother too. Our class Rosary Bag will be sent home with one child per school day and provides a special opportunity for families to discuss and pray together.

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

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

- Fine motor & pre-writing skills: Peggy Lego & Line Creations
- Morning “Work” - Finger Gym (promoting fine motor strength)
- 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” there are 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.
- Modelled and Shared writing through our daily “Morning Messages.”
- We will be introducing comprehension strategies and working on strengthening the children’s abilities to orally describe a sequence of events/activities.

Ways to support your child at home: Alphabet games and songs are a fun way to help your child learn the letter names and especially letter 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.
Learning teaches us what is known, play makes it possible for new things to be learned. There are many concepts and skills that can only be learned through play.

David Elkind

There’s no such thing as “Just playing.”

This is how I learn.
MATHS 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

* 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!
Science Focus

Our Science Inquiry unit is called, “Is the Grass Still Green at Night?” and 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. We will also be learning about Australian Native and nocturnal animals.

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.

Ways to support your child at home: **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
NEW in Term 2!

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 and returned to us in **excellent** condition so that others may enjoy and benefit from the program. Our wonderful Librarian has also purchased and accessioned brand **NEW** books for our Kindy classes...so we are very lucky indeed! 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** with everything in tact 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 you and your child have shared...this should be filled out and remain in the pack please. We hope your family enjoys this special opportunity to develop a real love of books!

• I will learn to love reading
• I will succeed in school
• I will become a leader
• I will learn more about the world
• You will change my life
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 details of the expectations of those on roster.

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!

SPARE CLOTHES - LABELLING - LOST PROPERTY

Please continue to send in some spare clothes for your child and ensure all personal items are clearly labeled. It is difficult to return items to children, if belongings do not have names printed on them. 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 - CRUNCH & SIP

Thank you for continuing to encourage healthy eating habits. At morning tea we promote fruit and then a healthy snack, if your child wishes to have something more. 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 and egg 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 and place it into their blue boxes. In Kindy Gold, we consume our crunch & sip after lunch, during rest time. Thank you for your support!
### Important Dates To Note:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Wednesday 3rd May</td>
<td>Community Mass in Church - all welcome to attend at 8am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Wednesday 10th May</td>
<td>Kindy Mother’s Day Pamper Morning 8.30am - 10.30am</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Friday 12th May</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Morning Tea - after Year 2 assembly in the Hall</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Wednesday 31st May</td>
<td>Two Way Interviews Conducted (One Day Only) - School Hall</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Tuesday 6th June</td>
<td>PUPIL FREE DAY - Staff PD Day</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Wednesday 21st June</td>
<td>P &amp; F Soup and Pizza Lunch</td>
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**TUESDAYS** - “Read To Me Packs” returned and swapped at Kindy.

**FRIDAYS** - Library bags & books returned to Kindy so new book exchange can take place.
Save the date: Wednesday 10\textsuperscript{th} May 2017 from 8.30am – 10.30am  
Come along and enjoy a morning in Kindy with your child! Be prepared to be pampered...make-up and nails included! We hope mum, aunty or grandma can join us for some play, paint, playdough, fun and games!

\textbf{Mother’s Day Pamper Morning at Kindy!}

\textbf{Morning Transition}

Please continue to assist your child by allowing him/her to exercise their \textit{independence} when unpacking their bag and completing their daily morning jobs. Morning drop off times are very busy and aren’t always an ideal time to discuss your child’s progress or concerns. Please feel free to make use of our \textit{“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.

Don’t forget Two-Way Interview Day is being offered to families in Week 6. Thank you all for your continued support. We look forward to an exciting term ahead!

God Bless,  

http://www.stemiliescps.wa.edu.au/

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