Welcome to the first edition of our class newsletter. We have had a fantastic but extremely busy start to the year. It has been wonderful to watch all the children settle smoothly into the routines at Pre-Primary. Establishing familiar routines early on will help to create a safe, happy and positive learning environment for all.

We have begun the year with the theme ‘All About Me’, which is a great way for us to get to know our students, their interests and their families. Children have a natural curiosity to explore concepts about themselves and the world that they live in. Through this theme, we are encouraging the development of a positive self image and awareness of their individual capabilities and responsibilities.

A big part of Pre-Primary is working together as a whole class and in small groups. This term, a large emphasis will be placed on developing appropriate and positive social skills to work together cooperatively. We will be doing lots of class and team building activities to help foster a cohesive learning environment. The ability to cooperate and communicate effectively is an important life skill. We plan to work in small groups for approximately five weeks at a time to allow the children the opportunity to work with all of their peers, to form friendships and respect for everyone in their class. This supports our school’s Values Program too.

The development of strong phonological awareness skills is essential at this young age, as it is a vital tool for children if they are to experience success when reading and writing. It is the awareness of syllables, words in sentences, word segments (c/at) and individual letter sounds (phonemes).

During our daily literacy blocks, many of the activities will be based on:

- Syllables (beats in words = el/e/phant)
- Rhyme (house/mouse)
- Alliteration (words that start with the same sound - pretty pink pigs painting pictures)
- Segmenting the first sound and rime patterns (c/at)
- Blending and separating words (j-u-g = jug)
- Manipulating words (change the m in mat for h = hat)

Phonics knowledge is also a significant part of our literacy block. It is imperative that your child develops fluency with their letter recognition and formation, as this is the foundation for reading and writing development. Please refer to the alphabet chart provided at the Parent Information Session, during Week 3, to assist your child when practising at home.
Parent Helpers

The Parent Helper roster will be available soon. We would love a special helper daily between 8.30am-10.30am to assist with our literacy block and the general routine. Parents and grandparents are very welcome to help, just nominate a day on the roster. Please ensure you have completed a Confidential Declaration 2017 form prior to being our helper. You will also need to sign in at the office that morning and wear the Parent Helper badge.

Library

We visit the school Library on Friday afternoons. Each child needs to bring a library bag to borrow a book. This can then be exchanged for another book the following Friday. Visiting the library is a wonderful opportunity to stimulate a love of reading with your child. It may be nice to share some time together in the evenings or on the weekend reading the story. Reading to your child will help them to develop their language and listening skills and, motivate them to improve their own reading ability. It also assists in expanding their imagination and knowledge. Borrowing books teaches children to value these resources and be responsible. Remember to keep this experience enjoyable and have fun engaging in the conversations. Happy reading!

Reading Folders and Sight Word Readers

We are now sending home important notes in the reading book folders. Please return them daily along with the readers, so that the important information can be passed effectively between home and school.

The Playground

We have noticed a few children playing on the playground in the K/PP area before and after school. The playground area is for use at recess and lunch time only. If arriving before 8.30am, our school policy is to wait in the undercover area with parents until the bell rings.

Library Helpers

Our Librarian, Mrs Beed is always looking for volunteers to assist with library duties. Any assistance to help cover, repair and shelve books would be greatly appreciated.

Aussie Day Dress Up

On Friday 10th February, we celebrated Australia Day by dressing up. It was an opportunity to commemorate our beautiful country and celebrate what is means to be Australian. If you were lucky enough to stay for the assembly, you would have seen a terrific amount of effort was put into dressing up by many across the school. It was a sea of blue, white and red. Many thanks to those who were able to make a donation. The funds will go toward the Cancer Foundation of WA. The charity was selected by student nomination and we are proud to be able to support this wonderful cause.