Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Kinder! The children have had a great start to the year, settling in beautifully and adapting to the rules and routines at school. We are looking forward to a very productive and fun filled term. If you have any concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Mrs Belinda Barry-Cupples, Mrs Tess Lewis, Mrs Claire Ryan & Mrs Cecily Hankin

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**Kinder News!!!**

**Subject Areas**

**Religion**

In Religion this term we will be completing two units, “Welcome” and “Lent and Holy Week”. There is a special emphasis on the importance of prayer, making the sign of the cross and listening and responding to numerous Bible stories about Jesus.

We ask that you provide opportunities for your child to practise praying, whether at home or in attendance at Mass.

**English**

In English, all children will participate in the Pre-Lit Phonemic Awareness program. This is a fantastic research-based program that aims to develop early Literacy skills.

During Modelled and Guided Reading the children will begin to understand the concepts of print and start to make connections with letter-sound correspondences. Comprehension strategies will focus on asking questions and making connections.

The focus for Spelling and Handwriting will be single sounds and CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words.

Sight words will be a major focus for Kindergarten. We ask that you practise these words with your children each week at home so they begin to recognise them instantaneously.

**Maths**

Maths will have a “hands on” approach in all areas and the children will focus on developing the correct written formation of numbers and one-to-one correspondence when counting objects. Maths bags will be sent home regularly, with each child having the opportunity to take a bag home approximately once a term.

**Science**

Our Science and Technology topic for this term is “Staying Alive” in which we will investigate what living things need to survive and how animals survive in their environments. This will be delivered through a variety of experiments and guided investigations.

**HSIE**

The focus in HSIE this term is “School Life”. The children will examine classroom rules, routines, roles, rights and responsibilities. They will also investigate recognisable Australian and school symbols.

**PD/H/PE**

Kindergarten will participate in many forms of exercise including Yoga, fitness runs, relays, skipping and games. This term’s Health and Personal Development unit is “Me and My Mates”. Mrs Cec Hankin will teach this unit of work to all of Kindergarten.

**Creative Arts**

Art will be covered in individual classes employing a variety of skills and resources. Work will be displayed in classrooms throughout the term, so please pop in to see your children in action! Children will also have fun with Music, Dance & Drama lessons. These areas will be completed on a rotational basis each term. This term KR will be completing a Dance unit, KL will be doing Music and KBC will be participating in Drama lessons.

**Learning as a focus at St Edward’s**

In every classroom, you will see ‘Learning Intentions’, ‘Success Criteria’ and ‘Evidence of Success’. These aim to direct students towards their learning and assist them in being able to articulate their understanding of the curriculum. We encourage parents, to ask specific questions about what their child learnt during the day.
Absences
If your child is absent from school for a full or part of the day, we need a written note explaining his/her absence for legal reasons. Please make sure you send a note in on the first day of your child’s return to school. Thank you.

Labels
Could you please make sure that all of your child’s belongings are clearly labeled, including lunch boxes, drink bottles, hats, jumpers and school jackets. This will help to prevent items from being lost or misplaced.

Things children will need for 2015:
Could you please ensure that your children have the following items, clearly labelled:
- Paint Shirt
- Library Bag
- Crunch & Sip each day (Water only, fruit—fresh/dried or vegetable pieces.

Library Borrowing Times
KL—Tuesday
KBC—Wednesday
KR—Thursday
Please ensure your child brings his/her Library bag & books to change each week.

Bus/Car/Sherpa Tags:
Please send your child each day with the bus, car or Sherpa tag, (different teachers are on afternoon duties and the little ones can’t be relied upon to remember)- we do encourage you to be very clear about who is collecting them or which bus etc – especially important for children who may have varying routines; if you need any more tags please ask.

Homework
We will commence homework in Week 3 this term. Please be aware that the Homework Policy at St Edward’s is called ‘Eddies Endeavours’.

Children will bring home information regarding Eddies Endeavours in Week 3, however further details will be given at our Kinder Grade Night on Wednesday 11th February in Mrs Barry-Cupple’s room (KBC) at 6:30pm-7.15pm.

Canteen:
The canteen is open during lunch time at the Infant’s Campus. A maximum amount of $2 is allowed to be spent each day. Students are unable to buy food for their friends.

If your child has a lunch order please remind them to place it in the red coloured esky outside KR when they arrive at school.
Helpful Hints for Developing Your Child’s Literacy Skills...

Talk about letters and sounds
Help your child learn the names of the letters and the sounds the letters make. Turn it into a game: "I’m thinking of a letter and it makes the sound mmmmmm."

Point out letters in everyday situations (on shop fronts, in magazines, on cereal boxes etc)

Learn Nursery Rhymes
Sing songs, read rhyming books, and learn nursery rhymes. Talk about the words that rhyme (sound the same) and see how many other rhyming words you can think of.

Trace and say letters
Have your child use a finger to trace a letter while saying the letter’s name and sound. Do this on paper, in sand, or on a plate of sugar.

Talk to your child
Ask your child to talk about his/her day at school. Encourage him to explain something he/she did e.g. "What was your Learning Intention in Maths today?" Or "What did you learn in Maths today?"

Play sound games
Play ‘I Spy’.
Practice blending sounds into words. Ask "Can you guess what this word is? m - o - p." Hold each sound longer than normal.

READ, READ, READ with your child every day

Helpful Hints for Developing Your Child’s Numeracy Skills...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Math Aspect</th>
<th>Games and activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number sense</td>
<td>Count food items at snack time (e.g., 5 crackers, 20 raisins, 10 baby carrots).</td>
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<td>Use a calendar to count down the days to a birthday or special holiday. Help your</td>
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<td>child see the connection between a numeral like “5,” the word “five,” and five days</td>
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<td>on the calendar.</td>
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<td>Practice simple addition and subtraction using small toys and blocks.</td>
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<td>Geometry</td>
<td>Have your child name the shapes of cookie cutters or blocks. Arrange cookie cutters</td>
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<td>in patterns on a cookie sheet or placemat. A simple pattern might be: star-circle-</td>
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<td></td>
<td>star-circle.</td>
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<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Let your child help you measure ingredients for a simple recipe - preferably a</td>
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<td>favourite!</td>
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<td>Spatial relations</td>
<td>Play games where you direct your child to jump forward and back, to run far from</td>
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<td>you or stay nearby.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Use songs with corresponding movements to teach concepts like in and out, up and</td>
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<td>down, and round and round.</td>
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