Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome you all back to school and hope that you had an enjoyable holiday. The children are settled and are working well in their classrooms. The teachers can already see a great improvement in all their work.

We are starting to see lots of children who are including initial letters and words in their writing. They are starting to listen to the sounds in words, write phonetically and are beginning to read back their own writing. The magic is starting to happen.

Our theme this term is 'Me and My World.' This will include work on my home and where we live, the seasons, toys in my home, my community, road safety and looking after our environment.

Throughout the term we will continue to meet the letterland characters, i, b, h, n, o, d, g, l, v, y, r. Some children are starting to learn to use the sounds to make three letter words.

In Maths we are continuing to look at the numbers up to 10 and we have been looking at all the different ways these numbers can be made. We will be learning how to make equal groups and comparing the size of groups using the concepts more and less. We will be playing dice and card games.

During computer sessions the children are learning how to log on and off the computer and how to open a computer program. We will be using the computer programs: Reading Eggs, Galaxy Reading and Maths and Sounds Great.

**Student of the week** will commence next week in the Prep classrooms. When it is your child’s turn, a special book will be made by his/her peers and brought home for him/her to treasure and share with you. The back pack will also accompany your child home on the weekend. There are instructions in the front of the book that explain what you need to do.

Parent Assistance
Parent help is required for Measurement and Problem Solving Maths, PMP and Literacy. Please put your name on the classroom notice boards if you are available to help. If we don’t get enough parent assistance we will not be able to run these programs effectively.

HOME READING:
Congratulations to the children who have completed over 30 nights of Home Reading.

Please remind your child to change their books every day. Remember that getting meaning from print is what reading is all about. Here are some helpful hints when listening to your child read.

**REMEMBER** it is very important that children gain confidence in reading. It should be a fun experience for you and your child.

**TALK** about the book before you read it. **Look** at the pictures, the cover, the title **ASK** ‘What do you think it is about?’ **GO** through the picture and words or ideas that might be in the book. Be patient. Give your child time to work out words: 5 seconds or more is reasonable after 10 seconds **ENCOURAGE** your child to use the following strategies when they come across an unknown word: ‘What do you think the word is?’ ‘Read the sentence again and see if you can work it out’ ‘Have a go.’ ‘Look at the picture.’ ‘What sound does the word start with?’

Your Prep Team
Pam Rowler (Prep Co-Ordinator), Lauren Braithwaite and Lena Papadatos

A Teddy Bear’s Picnic will be held on Friday 18th May. A notice will be sent out soon to tell you what to provide.

Parents will be required between 12.00 - 1.30 to help set up the lunch and clean up afterwards.