What’s happening in Levels 1 and 2?

The Term 4 newsletter already! How quickly the year has gone! The children have already settled back to work eagerly and have enjoyed catching up with their friends and settling into familiar routines.

This promises to be a very busy term. As well as our classroom activities we have a wonderful excursion, whole-school events such as Oktoberfest and Carols Night and reports. There are so many things to look forward to!

Our theme this term is Australian Animals and Level 1 and 2 classes will be finding out about what makes them unique and about their life cycles. One of the highlights for this unit will be an excursion to Healesville Sanctuary. This will be a whole-day outing leaving at 9am and returning by 3pm and is intended to be both educational and enjoyable.

This year we have been encouraging independence and responsibility in the children. For this reason we will be asking once again for all children to bring their own small backpack on the excursion. This will hold a snack and lunch, a drink (preferably water so that it can be re-filled) sunscreen if necessary and a raincoat, depending on the weather. They will also need to take their hat.

TESTING
October is a very busy time in the classrooms with assessment being carried out throughout the month, often on an individual basis. Please keep this in mind when planning holidays or family outings and let your child’s teacher know if he/she will be absent.

No Hats No Play!

Remember that our Sun Smart policy was re-activated on the first day of spring. It is compulsory for all of the children to wear hats in the playground. Please check that all hats are clearly labelled and that children remember to wear them to and from school each day.

You may choose to send sunscreen to school with your child. If so, they must be able to apply it by themselves. Applying a strong sunscreen before leaving home is a good idea when we have very sunny days.

We encourage the children to drink lots of water in the hotter weather. For this reason, they need to have a labelled drink bottle to bring into the classroom.

This is probably a good time to check labels on windcheaters and bomber jackets too. As the weather warms up, these are more likely to be left somewhere and they can quickly be returned to the owner if they are labelled clearly.

Dates to remember!!
Saving Lil and Archie incursion – 26th Oct
Oktoberfest- Thurs 27th Oct
Count Us In performance- Thurs 3rd Nov
House Sports – Fri 4th Nov
Healesville Sanctuary excursion – 10th Nov
Carols Night – Wed 7th Dec
Christmas incursion – Fri 16th Dec
Last day of term – Tues 20th Dec
REMINDERS:

**Take home books**
Some of the children are forgetting to bring their take-home books to school *every day*. Please sign the Reading Record book when your child has read to you and remind your child to put them back in their schoolbags when they have read them.

**Reading for meaning**
The children are being encouraged at school to re-read to improve their reading fluency and to discuss what they've read to check comprehension. This needs to be continued when they are reading at home in order to maintain the improvement they're all showing.

**Spelling books**
Spelling books are sometimes neglected during this busy term. Make sure they bring them back to school on Tuesday. Children need to be working on at least some of their words each day in a variety of ways – not just writing them out, but using magnetic letters, magna-doodles or play-dough, or finding letters and words in newspapers and magazines, using the home computer, etc.

It's very important that these routines are kept up during this final term in order to consolidate this year's learning before progressing to the next grade.

**iPads**
Please remember to keep sending your child's iPad to school every day, **fully charged** as they are used in many different facets and during different times throughout your child’s school day. Could you please delete any photos, apps that are no longer used or old work from your child’s iPad as finding space for new work can be a challenge at this time of year.

**Appointments**
Please remember that you are free to make an appointment with your child's teacher to discuss any concerns you may have.

THANK YOU
Again, a big thank you to the band of classroom helpers who help us with Literacy and in particular to our Class Parent Reps. We really appreciate your help.

We’re looking forward to a productive and very busy Term 4.

Enjoy Term 4 from the Level 1 and 2 Team

Marguerite Laing, Melissa O'Brien, Linda Giardino, Melissa Dann, Margaret Goulding, Tania Balderston, Carmel Brown, Marita Horvath and Marianne Kehoe.