What’s happening in Levels 1 and 2?

The Term 4 newsletter already! How quickly the year has gone so far! 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 and a wonderful excursion, a move for Level 2 classes, and whole-school events such as Oktoberfest on Wednesday 22nd October, and the Carols Night on the 10th December to look forward to.

Our theme this term is **AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS** and Level 1 and 2 classes will be finding out about what makes Australian animals unique. The highlight for this unit will be an **excursion to the Healesville Sanctuary** on Friday the 23rd November. 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.

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.

### Tips to encourage independence in your children:

- Remember to drop children off outside and let them be responsible for bringing their own bags into school when the bell rings.

- Encourage resilience by remaining positive when discussing school issues and suggesting strategies that will help them to approach difficult social issues with confidence.

### REMINDERS:

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.

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 are sometimes neglected during this busy term. 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, magnadoodles or playdough, or finding letters and words in newspapers.
and magazines, using the home computer, etc.

These activities serve to increase familiarity with the letter/sound patterns being focused upon. Most children need to practise using some type of manipulative materials so that words can be broken into parts and put together again.

The Spelling books need to come back to school as soon as the list has been copied to keep at home, so that they are here ready for testing.

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.

No Hats No Play!

Remember that our SunSmart 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 for easy access.

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.

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.

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

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

Your Level Team
Marguerite Laing, Melissa Dolphin, Natasha Hale, Linda Giardino, Marita Horvath, Margaret Goulding, Carmel Brown, Tania Balderston.