



OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

PO Box 1287 ESPERANCE WA 6450

Phone: 08 9071 5195 Fax: 08 9071 5201

Email: admin@starseaespswa.edu.au Web Site: www.starseaespswa.edu.au

Kindergarten Newsletter #2

Week 5 Term 1

4th March 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is astounding that it is over half way through the term and I am happy to report the children are settled and coping well with our routines and timetable. We have been exceptionally busy. This is an opportunity to inform parents of some of the work and activities completed up to date.

We have commenced our Peggy Leggo sessions, which involve activities and gross motor exercises to assist children in their understanding of basic literacy skills, pencil hold and at a later stage letter formation when learning to write their name and other letters. Our first session involved learning about Thomas the train, who travels 'Sideways, Sideways' along the railroad track. This is an essential understanding of how we read and write words from left to right along a page.

We have also covered 'Tall Man, Tall Man' which deals with the starting point for letters such as 'P R T l l h' and 'Small Man' for letters such as 'p i j'. 'Jack and Jill' ^^^ helps the children with the formation of letters such as 'W V X'.

Up to date in literacy we have covered three sight words 'I; to; in'. Each fortnight I will introduce the children to a new sight word. During our big book whole class readings the children will be encouraged to identify the particular sight word of the fortnight. Please refer to the end of this email to see the sight words covered. They can be printed off, cut out and put up at home to remind children. You might also like to print these in different font types to get children used to the idea that words are not always presented in the format of 'Victorian Modern Cursive'.

In literacy, we will also discuss

- what a full stop looks like and where it appears
- what a word is and that it has its own 'bubble of space'
- letter sounds 's; m; p; t; i' and how they look when they are written (linking this with Peggy Leggo and our STARLIT programme).

Up to date, we have covered

- where we begin to read and write i.e. reading and writing orientation left to right
- syllables, initially of their Christian names but now for other two/three syllable words
- vocabulary extension within learning areas and as situations arise

I will be covering capital letters and lower case letters for the initial letter of children's Christian names as these will be familiar for the children e.g. Aa; Dd; Ff; Ii; Ll; Mm; Nn; Pp; Ss; Xx.

In library sessions, we have talked about the book spine and the purpose it serves. We compared this to our spine and what it allows us to do. Characters within books have also been identified and discussed. We will continue to investigate book titles and authors (what they are and what they do). A strategy I will be employing during shared reading time is 'thinking aloud'. This is where I verbalise my thoughts, questions and links I am making about the book while I read. This is a modelled strategy to allow children to see what a reader does internally to make sense of a text.

During our STARLIT programme, we do our tongue exercises to the story of 'Mr Tongue'. This assists the children with letter sound production. We will move onto categorisation activities, sound identification and 'I Spy' based on oral clues given for visual prompts presented.

I am able to print off a chart detailing expected sound production by children at various ages. If you would like a copy please see me and I can arrange a hard copy for you.

During Term 1 am pre-testing the children in Mathematics and with the commencement of Term 2 we will be involved in cross setting Number work sessions with the Pre-Primary children. Children will work in groups according to current ability, with groups being fluid allowing for children to be moved between groups according to their developing understanding of number concepts. I will also be carrying out other maths activities catering for other maths strands within the Kindy class.

We have looked at three personality books 'It's All About Me' and the children are very interested in learning about each other. The children presenting have shown great confidence when sharing their booklets.

In PATHS we have learnt about giving compliments and each week a new child will be chosen as the PATHS person. The PATHS child is given compliments during our PATHS session. A copy of these compliments is displayed in our classroom and a copy is sent home with the child with an accompanying parental letter. Future sessions will involve understanding 'happy' and 'sad' as emotions and how they are expressed on a person's face. During these sessions we also learn about circle / mat rules as well as meeting our PATHS puppets, especially Twiggie the Turtle, who introduces the children to many social concepts with the assistance of his puppet friends.

In gross motor we have covered a range of ball skills. We will be moving onto balancing and jumping to complete our first term. Gross motor sessions are conducted in our school hall where there is a huge area in which to practise our skills.

In science the children have grown wheat from seeds. The progress of their growth is being observed by the children and as they grow the seedlings will be transplanted into larger tubs. This is a valuable lesson for the children as it demonstrates growth in living things. These activities were initiated through a reading of our shared big book 'The Little Red Hen'. The children also made damper as part of their experiences during this period.

Sonya, our school grounds person is assisting us with our Religious Education topic of Easter by supplying us with her personal incubator and some fertilised eggs. We will be

looking at how the incubator acts as a mother hen to keep the fertilized eggs warm during their growth period. As a group we will look at picture sequence cards displaying the growth of the chicken inside the egg. This also fits in well with our science study 'Living things have basic needs'.

In Religious Education, our topic 'I Am Me' is progressing well. I will be progressing towards stories about Jesus commencing with His birth. I will be progressing in our discovery of Jesus as a person, sharing biblical stories of His early years and miracles leading up to Easter celebrations. As part of our secular celebration of Easter, we are having Easter Bunny making an appearance on the last Tuesday prior to Easter i.e. Tuesday, 22nd March. This will be a surprise for the children. I am aware that some children may feel uneasy about meeting Easter Bunny. If you feel this may be the case with your child, please see me to discuss.

Thank you so much to all of you for your involvement in your children's education. I encourage you to participate in parent help if you are able. Thank you to parents who have been able to participate in our sessions. I also appreciate your consistency with library book returns and likewise the return of any forms requiring completion.

See you all at Kindy. God bless!

Kind regards
Mary McCulloch
(Kindergarten Teacher)

PLEASE NOTE I HAVE REPRODUCED THE SIGHT WORDS WE HAVE COVERED

Sight Words To Cut Out And Display

I

to

in