Week 6 - TERM 1

We have been amazed at how well the children have coped with their first full week at school. For some children, the longer day at school might impact on their ability to cope with after school activities due to tiredness. We do recommend that such activities be postponed until term 2 or if possible, minimise such activities and increase the time children are allowed to rest.

The Preps attended their first whole school assembly this week. They listened well and it was apparent that they were enjoying belonging to the school community.

In preparation for Harmony Day, we will be reading stories and sharing aspects of our heritage, to make children aware of the differences amongst us. If you could continue such discussions at home then this will help your child understand the significance of Harmony Day.

‘Investigation’ sessions started this week and the children are enjoying sharing their interests and talents with other children. To avoid disappointment, please check your class roster to see when your child is the ‘focus child’.

**HOMEWORK**

We have had a few parents ask us about homework. Our homework policy states that, ‘... homework will mainly consist of daily reading to, with and by parents’ for children in prep for 20 minutes every night.’

The reading program at Armadale Primary School is designed to be in line with AusVELS. Since Prep is the first year of formal schooling, we aim to instil healthy attitudes and habits towards reading to keep in line with the new curriculum. The books that children bring home are not referred to as ‘readers’. We encourage you to assist us in using this terminology and refer to the child as being ‘the reader’, and the books they bring home are referred to as books (e.g. take home books or library books).

Unfortunately there is a misconception that the books children bring home will teach them to read. In reality it is what we model and the strategies we can use that enable us to become successful readers. In our English sessions, we work diligently to make the children aware of strategies they must use to be successful readers. The English language is not phonetic so sounding the letters in words is not enough to promote success in reading. Using more than one strategy is essential and it is this that we will be emphasising in term 1.

Reading to and with your child is crucial to the reading process. We encourage you to continue to read to your child and with your child. Asking your child to retell the story, make predictions or make connections to what has been read are critical skills that you could assist in developing at home.
We anticipate that information presented at our Home Reading Session, which will be held early in term 2, will equip you with a better understanding to promote positive reading behaviours with your child at home.

**Children’s Book Festival**

This is a marvellous free event that is run by the State Library on the 22 March 2015, 10:00am–4:00pm. The Festival aims to celebrate the wonderful world of children’s literature and storytelling.

It’s a day for children and their parents to dive into the pleasures of books and reading, in as many different ways as possible. All you have to do is turn up and start roaming across the lawns and throughout the Library and the Wheeler Centre – there’s plenty to discover. For one big day, it’s all been turned into your very own children’s literary playground.

The link below offers more information about the festival and a program for the day:


**REMINDERS**

1. Notices
Besides the newsletter, Bulletin and tiqbiz, notices are also sent home as another form of communication. We will endeavor to send any notices home on a Friday. Please check your child’s red library bag for correspondence via such means as we will ask them to place any notices in their red bag.

2. Head Lice
There have several cases of head lice reported in the prep area. We ask that you check your child’s hair regularly and treat accordingly.

3. Amy’s Amazing Adventures Incursion
Please return notice and money to school as soon as possible.

4. We are not a ‘Nut Free’ school but we do have several children in the prep area who can have an anaphylactic reaction to nut and seed products. When packing your child’s lunchbox, please be mindful of children’s allergies and discuss with your child the importance of not sharing his/her food.

Enjoy your week!
Pippa, Angela, Connie