

# KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Dear Parents,

Thank you to the many parents who attended the Parent Information and 2019 Vision Evening on Wednesday night. It was so good to meet many of you for the first time and to have your support and partnership in your child's learning. We understand that a number of parents were unable to attend and there is a copy of the presentation on our website under the Kindergarten link in last week's newsletter.

## TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT

Student use of computers, iPads and other forms of technology is both a privilege and a responsibility. If you have not already done so, could you please read through the the technology contract in the front of your child's diary with your child and sign and date so that your child is able to continue using technology at school. It would also be a great opportunity for you to discuss with your child in age appropriate and child friendly language what this means for them.

## HOMEWORK

### Home Reading

Students have begun home reading this week. Students are placed on a reading level for Home Reading by their teachers following a one on one reading assessment. These levels are based on what they are able to read and comprehend easily and independently. This means when reading at home, students should be able to read their reader confidently. It is an opportunity to practice their reading and comprehension skills. This level will be different to the level they are reading in class, which will be a more challenging text to extend and develop their reading skills.

Students and parents, are often eager to move up the levels as quickly as possible. Please keep in mind that as students develop confidence when decoding their texts, it is also important that they are able to comprehend what they have read. As students begin to move through the levels, they often find the comprehension aspect of reading more challenging. This can be because they do not have the vocabulary or the background knowledge to understand the text.

It is important that children are discussing the texts they read at home with an adult. A few ways to support your child's comprehension of texts at home:

- Ask your child to make predictions about what the book might be about before reading.
- Ask your child to summarise the text that they have read. We suggest that you also ask students to retell what happened in stories that you read to them, such as their library books.
- Ask your child 'why' and 'how' questions about a book that they (or you) have read to develop their inferential understanding, eg. "How do you think this character felt in the story?", "Why do you think that?" etc.
- Ask your child if they know the meaning of unfamiliar or challenging words.
- Ask your child why they liked or disliked the book.

Also, do not underestimate how much reading with your child can help their reading. Even if students are confident readers, it is a great way to show them that reading can be for pleasure. Children love being read to and they can access more difficult texts and develop their vocabulary and comprehension with a wonderful role model!

This week your child chose two books on Monday to take home in their folder. In order for readers to be changed each week, children will need to return their books to school in their folders each Friday. They will then bring two new books home on the following Monday. Please set aside at least 10 minutes of reading with your child each night and make a record in the diary.

### **Sight Words**

Your child will bring home a list of words in their diary. The sight words given to your child are high frequency words. This list is designed to stay at home and be placed somewhere in your home where your child will frequently see them. You may make copies of the words and place them in different areas such as the fridge, their bedroom wall or the bathroom. Each week a teacher will test your child and if they are able to immediately read all of the words, they will be given a different set.

### **History**

This term, Kindergarten are learning about Personal and Family Histories. As participants in their own history, students build on their knowledge and understanding of how the past is different from the present. We have already received many adorable photos of the children!

If you have not already, please send your child in with a baby/toddler photo and a photo of them now so they can discuss what they think they were like then compared to now. You may also email the photos to the school office - [office@claremont.nsw.edu.au](mailto:office@claremont.nsw.edu.au)

For more information about what is coming up in History please see the note attached.

### **Speaking and Listening**

This term, in Weeks 5 - 9, students will be asked to recite their favourite nursery rhyme and why it is their favourite. Please see the roster attached to find out more information and to check when your child will be presenting.

### **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

To celebrate our birthdays in Kindergarten this year, students are invited to bring in one of their favourite books for the teacher to read to the class. We hope that this is a fun way to celebrate your child's birthday, as well as encourage a love of reading.

We hope you have a lovely weekend,

Miss Duff, Mrs Hitchen, Mrs Vula, Ms Tyson and Mrs Parker