Welcome back everyone! What a wonderful 3 terms we have had and we are looking forward to term 4. This year seems to have gone so quickly. Each day we are amazed at the new learning that occurs both academically and socially. We have an interesting term planned, one that will involve an exciting day at Bundoora Park Farm. This term, your child will also be involved in a transition to grade 1 program. Let’s make term 4 the best yet!

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 4**

- **Friday 10 October:** Swimming program begins
- **Thursday 23 October:** Bundoora Park Farm Excursion
- **Thursday 7 November:** Sports Day
- **Monday 10 November:** Chicken hatching program begins
- **Monday 17 November:** Opening of Writers’ Festival
- **Thursday 18 November:** Responsible Pet Ownership Program
- **Friday 5 December:** Mini fete
- **Friday 12 December:** Carols Night

Please ensure your child is at school on time. The teaching and learning in the Prep room starts at 9:00. It is important that your child is at the line up area on time to be ready to begin the day. Arriving late to class unsettles children and they are missing out on valuable learning time.

**LITERACY**

The Foundation children are improving daily with their reading skills. Thank you for continuing to return the Take Home Book to school daily. Sharing books with your child fosters their love of reading. Remember to discuss the pictures and ask your child questions about the book. This improves speaking and listening skills and increases their understanding of the book.

During terms 1-3, children have been involved in learning all the letters and sounds of the alphabet. In term 4, children will be learning about *sh, ch, th*, adding ‘s’ and *word endings ‘ed’ and ‘ing’*. We will also be revising our letters, sounds, letter formations and providing lots of extension activities for children.
We will be learning these words: where, had, have, with, one, but, of, off, they, by, be

Your child will be involved in daily writing activities. Make sure you look in their schoolbags, for some fantastic writing that they are completing at school. We are so excited about our upcoming Writers’ Festival. We can assure you that you will be amazed at what your child can write. We are so proud of the Foundation students and their writing. Please come and have a look at some of the writing displayed outside the classroom.

In the classroom, children will be reading and writing throughout the day. We read and write during Literacy time, Maths time and during our learning in Integrated Studies.

**SPEAKING AND LISTENING**

We have been practising how to ask a question and how to answer a question. This term we will continue to learn about rhyming words. We have been practising using describing words and being able to tell an interesting story. We have been learning how to use the Power of 3 in our stories. Please ask your child what this is. We have been expanding our oral vocabulary and then learning how to use this in our writing. Foundation students are so clever!

**FOUNDATION PARENT STORYTIME**

Thank you so much to all the parents, grandparents and siblings who came to join us and shared the joy of reading during our Foundation Parent storytime sessions. Our program continues during term 4. Please come and join us. We continue to add new quality books to our collection and they are a joy to share.

This article is taken from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Prep for Parents website:

*Telling stories to your child and having them tell stories to you is a great way of sharing experiences, ideas (imaginative and real) and can help form close family connections.*
Storytelling extends your child’s vocabulary, which can help them enjoy reading more. It can shed a light on the way your child sees things and help them understand other people. And it’s a great way to learn about their culture and family traditions.

Stories about your culture can help your child understand your family values and traditions. Telling stories in another language will help your child with reading and writing in English as well.

Talking about significant cultural events and what happens when your family celebrates these shows your child what is important to your family. It gives your child a sense of ‘history’ and ‘belonging’ and will help expand their vocabulary and understand how stories are structured. This is essential knowledge when learning to read and write.

**NUMERACY**

This term we will be looking at addition, subtraction and informal multiplication and division. We will be revising shapes and location of objects. We will also be learning about capacity and area. Here are some ways you can help at home.

**Subtraction:** Ask your child to count out some objects. Now take away some. Ask, ‘How many are left?’

**Division:** Share things between children

**Capacity:** Provide different sized containers in the bath. Talk about containers being full or empty. Ask them to half fill a container

Continue to count as many different things that you can. Which one is first/second/third? Find different shapes in the environment and discuss.

**SCIENCE**

This term, we will begin our unit on **Living Things**. In this unit of study we will be learning that living things have basic needs. We will be looking at plants and animals. We are excited to learn about the life cycle of chickens during our chicken hatching program. We will be planting some seeds and watching them grow. We will visit Bundoora Farm as an integral part of our learning.
EXCURSION TO BUNDOORA PARK FARM
On Thursday 23 October we will be taking the students to Bundoora Park Farm to learn about the needs of living things. This is an exciting day for the Foundation students and we would love all children to participate in this excursion. On the day Education staff from Bundoora Park Farm will be with us to teach the children all about the animals and plants on the farm. This is an integral part of term 4 learning. Parents are welcome to join us on the day but will have to meet us there.

CHICKEN HATCHING
During our study on living things we will be hatching chickens in the classroom. This is always an exciting way to further our study on the needs of living things. The chickens will arrive on November 10.

We will also have a visit by the Responsible Pet Ownership group on November 18. The educator will bring their dog and teach the children how to be safe around dogs.

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS
PHYSICAL EDUCATION – LARA ARSANA
In Term 4, the Foundation children will be assessed on the Fundamental Motor Skills they have been taught this semester. They will also continue to develop their skills by practising the overhand throw, catch and bounce during P.E. lessons. To finish the term, the children will participate in a Minor Games unit, where they will play games such as Kickball and Rapid Fire.

Foundation - 2 Swimming will run from Friday 10 October - Friday 28 November, at Thomastown Recreation & Aquatic Centre (TRAC). The Foundation children will also participate in the Annual House Sports day, on Thursday 6 November.

ART – KARREN MONCUR
All children, Foundation to Grade 6, will create a picture for the Writers’ Festival. The Foundation students will print with paint and various waste items. They will start by creating rubbings, using texture to make pictures. They will make an item out of plaster to keep and add colour with paint. The year will end with some glittering art to celebrate the end of the year.

MUSIC – LUIS RIOS GONZALEZ
In term 4, students will continue exploring some basic forms of music notation and how they can be applied to create new music. They will continue learning songs that involve actions and movement. Students will start experimenting with instruments such as the ukulele and the guitar. They will
continue playing the keyboard and experimenting with the different sounds it can make.

We are available to talk to parents about any concerns you may have. **Please arrange a time to come and see us, as we often have meetings before and after school.** We are looking forward to working with your child in term 4.

Francesca, Brad and Karen
The Foundation Team

Please have a look at some of our learning during Term 3 in these photographs. Enjoy!

**MATHS IS FUN!**
FREAKY FRIDAY
OUR FAMILY

VISIT BY THE FIREFIGHTERS