Dear Families,

We would like to welcome you all to Kindergarten and we look forward to getting to know your child and you this year. We are looking forward to an exciting year and we will try to keep you as informed and up to date with the happenings in Kindergarten as we can. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask any of the Kinder teachers.

School Times – The times for Kindergarten students are altered slightly for the first week in order to ease the children into school life. For the first week of Kindergarten the students will attend school from 9.15am – 3.00pm. Our finishing time will revert to the normal 3.15pm from Monday 8th February.

Crunch and Sip – We will have a crunch and sip break every morning. Students are given a short amount of time (approx. 10 minutes) to have fresh fruit or vegetables and water. We ask that students bring fruit and vegetables in their natural form, not fruit sticks or fruit yogurt. Please send the fruit or vegetables cut up as this makes eating easier for the children.

Picking up your child - We are asking all parents/carers to wait outside in the Wattle quadrangle for your child each afternoon. The Kinder teachers will bring the children out to meet you when the second bell goes. Often if your child sees you before the bell they become unsettled.

Dropping off your child – When delivering your child to school they need to hang their bag on their hook and then go to the Wattle quadrangle. In the quadrangle they will find their hat and a supervising teacher (please note that children will only be supervised from 8.45am.

Homework / Home Reading – Homework and home reading will commence in Term 1 once the children have settled into school.

Buddies – This year all Kinder children will be in groups and they will share a buddy, who will be a senior student. This program enables the Kinder students to get to know older children in the school who can support them in the playground. Children will enjoy working with their buddy throughout the year.

Sport and Fitness - Sport will be held every Wednesday. We ask that your child wears their sports uniform and joggers on this day.

History Topic – This term our History topic is ‘This is Me’. It focuses on how we all share things in common as well as differences in our families and how we grow and change. We will also spend time looking around the school and learning school routines and rules.

Science Topic – In Science this term the students will engage in a range of experiments and will be required to predict what they think will happen using their senses. Following the experiments students will discuss and record their observations.

Best Start – Thank you for bringing your child to our Best Start assessments. The information collected ensures our teaching program fits each child’s needs.
Meetings – Kindergarten will be having parent meetings in Week 5 or 6. These meetings will be an informal chat so that you can get to know your child’s teacher and share information about your child. We will also hand out letters in relation to the Best Start assessment that took place in Week 1. More information will be provided closer to the time. If you wish to meet with your child’s teacher before this please make an appointment either through the office or by sending a note to the class teacher.

Classroom Equipment – Your child will need a paint shirt (this can be an old shirt from a family member) and a library bag. Please label these clearly with your child’s name. It would also be a wonderful help if each family could bring in a box of tissues for the class to share. All other school supplies such as pencils, glue, scissors and books are provided by the school.

Tips for a Happy Start –

- The school will let you know when you may need to pack items for activities such as sport, art or library.
- Children are often very tired in the first few weeks of school. Your child needs lots of sleep.
- Give your child a healthy breakfast to get them through the day.
- Try to establish regular morning routines.
- Try to maintain a healthy balance of nutritious foods in your child’s lunch box.
- Pack a water bottle for your child each day and remind them that they can also get water from the taps or bubblers throughout the day.
- Make sure your child and teacher know who will pick them up each day.
- Be on time to pick up your child.
- Check your child’s bag each night for school notes and lunch leftovers.
- Chat to your child about their day at school.
- Once they start school, it is very important that your child still has time to relax, play and do things that they enjoy.

Regards,

Kindergarten Team:

Kerry Little – Wattle 1
Jane Cummings – Wattle 2
Josh Alexander – Wattle 3