

10 February 2017

Dear Families,

KINDY HOME READING PROGRAM

To support your child's learning in Kindergarten we will be sending home reading texts daily. Your child will have a book that best meets their next steps as a reader and a self-selected interest book. Each morning from 9-915 students will be engaging with reading tables where they will read their home readers and self-selected books with their classmates and families. To make this successful families are invited to come in to class each morning and share a story with your child and other children and support them in selecting new books to take home.

Reading at home is a special time for you and your child. It is a time where you can share a book together, listen to your child read and talk about the story. Choose a quiet area at home that makes this time special. Please make the time to read with your child for **10-15 minutes per day**.

At school we will be learning different strategies to use when reading; and your child will begin to gain confidence as a reader and develop reading fluency by reading a variety of different texts. Young readers become better readers by listening to good readers read and by reading themselves. You may choose to:

- Read to your child while he/she listens
- Read with your child (alternating who reads)
- Listen to him/her read to you
- Don't be surprised if your child asks to read the same book over and over- it's because they're enjoying it!

Most importantly, make reading together the most fun and enjoyable part of your and your child's day. Read the books together with funny voices, or take turns to read different characters. Talk about your favourite parts of the books when you are finished with them and which authors you like the most. As suggested by Mem Fox, a cherished Australian author, **"don't teach the book – enjoy it!"**

Please continue reading your favourite books that you have at home!!!

We keen to run a workshop for parents about how to best support your child as a reader and writer. We would love to find out what families would like to know in regards to developing early literacy skills (reading and writing). A discussion post is available on our google Community or email your child's teacher, so we can structure a workshop to best meet your wondering.

Looking forward working in partnership with you,
Murrumbidgee Teaching Team



SOME HELPFUL TIPS WHEN READING WITH YOUR CHILD:

- Ask your child to predict what the story will be about by looking at the title and front cover
- Use the pictures to tell the story- it assists with comprehension
- Draw your child's attention to words on the page and/or individual letters, count how many words are in the sentence or how many letters make up different words, e.g. the word 'me' has 2 letters, the word 'come' has four letters
- If you are focusing on letters, choose one letter as a focus for the evening. Talk about the name of the letter and the sound that the letter makes. If that letter is in your child's or a family member's name, talk about this – it will add additional meaning to the experience. Ask your child to find all of those letters on the page
- Always be sure to ask your child questions about the book before, during, and after reading to better judge if they are understanding what they are reading
- Question your child about their favourite part, or share your own!
- Ask your child to draw his/her favourite part or character.
- Draw a comic of the story, including all the main parts