Dear families,

It's hard to believe that we're at the end of week 4! Our Think Links program will soon begin, so we hope you have all made payment so your children can participate ($10, now due). The skills that are developed through such programs are invaluable.

After introducing the ‘sh’ blend in Phonics last week, this week saw us introducing a new blend – ‘ch’. The children have done an amazing job learning how two letters can come together to make one sound. They have worked on hearing and identifying words which include these blends. We discovered that they’re not always at the start of a word either – so very clever! You might like to ask your child to show you these blends on the blends sheet sent home last week. We have also been doing lots of work on saying words slowly so we can hear all the sounds from first to last (like when we use our ‘Stretchy Snake’ reading strategy). We even learnt how we can change the first sound of a word to make a new word!

In Numeracy, we have been doing lots of work on measuring length. The concept of length is first introduced informally, where children are given lots of opportunities to measure, compare and order objects according to their length, without the use of tools such as a ruler. Rather, they might measure an object using unifix blocks, maths counters or even their hands!

Perhaps you could ask your child some questions about what they have explored at school this week. Children are usually excited to share and these conversations help build on their understandings.

Kind regards,
Foundation Teachers
Bree Rowe, Kira Green, Fiona Jacobs and Tania Hente 😊

Winter clothes!!!!

Please make sure you send your child in appropriate clothes and footwear for the cold, wet weather.

Wishing all of our Foundation mums a very happy and enjoyable Mother's Day this Sunday 😊

Important Dates:

Monday 9th May
Final day for permission slips and payments to be returned for our Toys Incursion. Please contact your child’s teacher if you have misplaced your permission slip.

Thursday 12th May
Foundation Toys Incursion

Wishing all of our Foundation mums a very happy and enjoyable Mother's Day this Sunday 😊
A spotlight on education…
Education Week 2016
May 15 – 21

Please stay tuned for school-wide activities being planned for Education Week 2016 😊

Toys Incursion

We are all very excited about next week’s incursion! As mentioned in the important dates section, permission slips and payments must be returned by Monday 9th May.

This incursion is a fantastic opportunity for children to extend their understandings of toy design and construction through hands-on exploration. They will then apply these skills to their own toy design and construction as part of our Inquiry unit on toys.

It would be fantastic if you could please collect the following items for the children to use in the construction of their toys:

- Cardboard (boxes, sheets)
- String
- Egg cartons
- Cotton reels
- Rubber bands
- Polystyrene
- Pipe cleaners
- Icy pole sticks

We thank you for your support and can’t wait to see what toys the children are able to design and construct! 😊

Home Reading

It is inspiring to see so many children maintaining consistent home reading routines. These are so important to their reading development, not to mention it being highly enjoyable!

When you are listening to your child read, we would encourage you to help them work out tricky words by reminding them of their Reading Helpers/Buddies (see above). Taking this approach means that they will be developing vital reading strategies that they will be able to apply to any future text they encounter. Asking lots of questions is a great way to gauge your child’s understanding of the text too.

Happy reading! 😊

Reading Helpers/Buddies

**Eagle Eye** – Look at the pictures for clues.

**Lips the Fish** – Get your mouth ready to make the first sound.

**Stretchy Snake** – Stretch the sounds out s-l-o-w-l-y and then blend them together.

These are only three of the important reading strategies we will introduce to the children this year. Teachers will soon be sending home a list of all reading strategies in your child’s reader cover.