Welcome back for Term 3. In our first week back we reread the story of “The Three Little Pigs” to kick off our topic on houses and where we live. It also reinforced some important lessons related to what makes a good friend. The children interviewed the Big Bad Wolf and tried to give him ideas to help him become a better wolf.

We are now moving into our topic where we look at the Community in which we live. We have started off with our houses concentrating on what they look like, what they are made from and how they are similar and different to other people’s houses. We will also be looking at and trying to remember our house number and our address.

In week 5 we are moving out into the local community with an excursion to the Hillarys Police Station and Hillarys Shopping Centre. Fingers crossed for a sunny day. The children will be walking down to the shops. Some of them seem a little concerned about the distance but believe me we have never had anyone who didn’t make it. In the past it has been a very enjoyable morning out with all of the local businesses making us feel very welcome. We will require the help of a few mums on the day but it will have to be without siblings because we need the mums to be totally focused on the kindy children. We can’t take too many mums either or else it just becomes another shopping outing with mum.

The children will be involved in making a “Thankyou” poster for the shops we visit. If you do NOT wish for your child’s photo to be displayed on the poster at the shops then please email us or see the kindy staff.

In the following weeks we are learning more about the role the Police have in our Community and we are touching on some basic road safety. We will also learn some fire safety awareness and learn a little bit about the role of fire fighters in our community. With so much talk of these valued emergency services we are also teaching the children about the 000 emergency call procedures. You may like to reinforce this at home. We encourage the children to learn their address, full name and if possible start to learn their phone number. We do stress that 000 is for real emergencies only.
During week nine and ten we will learn about the roles of health professionals and hospitals and what might happen if we ever need to go to hospital. We will have a visit from the Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital. They will read books, show a dvd and provide great fun dress ups and props for learning about a visit to hospital. The children will have a chance to bring one of their teddies to kindy to look after in the kindy hospital. I will not be at kindy during this time as I have to use three weeks of Long Service Leave before the end of the year so in weeks 8, 9 and 10 Mrs Wanda Davison will be the teacher in charge of running the program. Michelle Kalma will also be on leave for these three weeks so on a Friday the children will be taught by Mrs Rachel Evans.

We are going to spend some time in week seven celebrating the role of our wonderful dads in the lead up to Fathers Day. It is fabulous that so many dads have already made it to kindy for a turn on roster. We welcome you whenever you can make it. On Wednesday 31st August and Thursday 1st September we will be inviting our dad’s to kindy for breakfast and so that they can join us for a few fun activities. The breakfast will commence at 7.45am until approx. 8.45am or for as long as the dad’s can stay depending on work commitments. We will provide the breakfast (nothing too flash!). I will be asking for numbers as to who can attend prior to the date.

This term we will be sending the ‘Kindy Pets” home for a play and a sleepover. Don’t panic they are not real they are a stuffed pet. We have Katie Cat, Snowy Rabbit, Bananas the Monkey and Cuddles the Dog. The toy pets get to live with your family for a week. Your child will be encouraged to draw a picture, take a photo and write (with your help) about the fun adventures that they have with the kindy pet. When the pet is returned to kindy your child will show any pictures and tell the group about the fun times they had. The pet stays for a week. The page in the pet diary will become part of your child’s portfolio so it would be good if you could assist with the completion. All instructions re this activity are in the front cover of the pet diary.

Kindy photographs will be taken during week 6 on Monday 22nd August and Thursday 25th August first thing in the morning. There is no obligation for you to purchase these of course but hopefully the photographer does do a fabulous job and the collection she puts together is a wonderful keepsake.
The Reading Box will be put into circulation this week, week 3, for eight weeks and then we will change over to a recall/retell activity for the remainder of the year (more details to follow). I think that one book per week is adequate and then you child chooses their own stories for the other nights (you are of course welcome to do more if you wish). There is a question card inside each book which just gives you an idea of the type of questions we would be asking the children to determine comprehension. It is NOT homework and it should not create stress. I know you will all be reading to your children every night so this is just another source for you. There will be a file with the Book Box each day and you must fill in the date, the name of the book you have taken and then the return date. PLEASE look after this very valuable and expensive resource.

FAMILY DANCE NIGHT (Thursday 25th August) - please but this date in your calendars now. We will be collecting rsvp’s soon for catering purposes. We will need some helpers with this night so please stay tuned.

As you can see it is going to be quite a term. I have already sent home a list of some of the important dates so hopefully they are already in you diary.

As always feel welcome to contact us at any time,

Alison, Michelle, Julie and Sandra.