Term two is rapidly drawing to a close and finally we are starting to see some cold, winter weather. Hopefully, the children are so busy that they don’t feel the cold too much because I very rarely put the heater on inside. The reason being is that it is an old, gas heater that seems to blow out fumes that make everyone feel very sleepy. Maybe if you are on roster it would be a good idea to dress warm – hopefully that suits everyone instead of slowly being gassed as the day progresses.

Miss Burn is well into her Practice now and is doing a wonderful job running the program and has added some ‘young’ energy and different ideas to the program. With her the children have been working hard on their rhyming words and we are really noticing a difference in their grasp of this concept. She has also introduced the sound S and now this week we will look at the A sound. The final sound for the term will be T. Please let me reassure you that this initial sound work is just a basic awareness for those that are attempting to write and recognise their letters. Some children are not at that stage of their development so they will have just as much fun playing around with the rocks on the sound mat and hissing like a snake etc. but will not be able to use or identify them.

Next week we will be starting our dance lessons on Wednesday and Thursday. Our dance instructor is Phil Pierce and in the past the children have had a lot of fun with Phil. Please remember that Thursday 2nd July will be our Family Bush Dance so please mark this date in your calendar. The dance runs from 6-7pm and then in the past we have had some food (as organised by the Parent Committee – stay tuned for details.) We will be asking for attendance numbers soon for catering purposes so please have a think about it. Of course siblings are welcome.

I will soon be putting the children’s name cards out in the morning instead of their name rocks just so that they have a little more practise writing their names and using the correct letter formations. It also allows you to see how their name should look and how your child is going. Yes it sounds a little formal but it really is just a means of providing opportunities for those children that are ready. Please don’t stress if your
child is still struggling with pencil control and finger strength. They are all at a different stage in their development and we will continue to work on all aspects of this skill.

Next week I will be introducing the Home Reading Box. I know that most of you read a lot with your children so again this is just a little bit extra for those that want to. Please don’t refer to it as ‘homework’ the mere term sends shivers down my spine. It is special time for you to spend with your child and encourage them to express their ideas orally. I would still rather see them outside building mud pies so please don’t stress if they aren’t always very keen about it – again the name of the game is enjoyment. Each book is in a plastic sleeve and contains a sample of comprehension questions at the four levels of Blank Questioning that I discussed at the meeting. One book per week is more than enough but please look after them as it was quite an expensive exercise to collate the collection. If you missed the meeting and have any questions please see me.

We have been doing a lot of counting throughout the term and so some children are ready to progress to recognition of their numbers greater than 10 so we are starting on the teen numbers. The most effective way to learn these are seeing them in the environment and simply pointing them out ie house numbers – oh look a 1 and a 5 that says fifteen etc. Natasha has also been working on their shape names as well as the characteristics of each shape. Here again spotting them around the house and in things they use is the best way to reinforce the information.

At the end of the term (in just over three weeks) it also marks the end of our first semester. This means that we will be sending home a small social development report and your child’s portfolio for you to have a look at. In the past I have also provided a short interview for each family to discuss each of the above. Once again at times we have found it a little difficult for workers etc to make an interview time during the day. It seems unnecessary to reorganise your whole day for a short 10 minute interview. This year I am going to make the interview optional. I will send portfolios home on the Mon/Tuesday of week 11 to be returned on the Wed/Thursday. The report will be inside the portfolio. If after you have read both you have things that you would like to discuss with me then I will make myself available.
on the last Thursday and Friday of term for 10 minute interview slots. If you would like an interview time but you can’t make it on the Thurs/ Friday we can organise a time after kindy. Please don’t feel that you have to have an interview if you don’t have any concerns. PORTFOLIOS must be returned to kindy before the holidays because they are a work in progress – please try to avoid damage to them. Reports are yours to keep.

Term three commences on Tuesday 21st July for the Dolphins and Wednesday 22nd July for the Seals (Monday is a PD day for staff). The first Friday in Term 3 is the Seals. There are no public holidays in Term 3 or any more PD days for staff so we shouldn’t have any interruptions just 10 weeks of fun and learning.

Of course Term 3 will see a change in teaching staff as I am away for long service leave. I am happy to announce that Michelle Kalma will be taking on the full time teaching role and Mrs Lisa Gorman will be taking over on the Friday and the extra Admin time. Lisa is a wonderful teacher so I am very happy that we have on board next term. More changes I know but the children actually enjoy meeting new faces with new ideas.

Thankyou again for your support throughout the term and your friendship. It is always a pleasure coming to work.

Alison, Natasha, Asleigh, Julie, Sandra and Sian.