Welcome back to a very busy and ‘learning packed’ term two. We hope you all had a very enjoyable and not too stressed holiday!

Homework this term consists of a unit of work from the ‘Kinder Homework Contract Book’, sound and spelling words and a reader. The spelling words for this term are a mixture of sound words and sight words. There are usually 5 ‘sound’ based words and 5 sight words. During the week the children will engage in a number of spelling related activities in the classroom focused on these words. The time they spend at home practising these words is therefore a consolidation of classroom learning. Please note that the spelling sheet will state what unit is to be completed each week from the homework contract book, as these do not go in order.

In Kindergarten, children are learning ‘how to read’ in order to progress to the level where they will eventually read for comprehension and understanding. The focus is therefore recognition of high frequency words and the ability to draw on their phonic knowledge to read unfamiliar words. It is important to assist children to blend sounds when reading. For example: ch-at, instead of sounding ‘a’ and ‘t’ in isolation we model how these single sounds can be pushed together i.e., ‘at’ so the word can be heard more clearly. These readers should be initially kept for a week. It is important that students develop the confidence to draw on their knowledge of sight words and sounds to begin to read. Therefore positive encouragement is essential as well as quality time. Homework needs to be guided by a parent and away from distractions. Parental involvement and encouragement is paramount to student success.

Once again, please encourage your child to use lead pencil only for all written homework. Please also insist that your child takes care of their homework book and reader by not eating or drinking whilst completing homework.

This term as a part of our history and English unit of work, we are studying personal and family histories. We would like to collate information about the nationalities of our families. Could you please assist your child to complete the attached ‘Family Tree’ including information regarding the nationality of parents and grandparents. If you have a copy or a scanned family photo we would also like to include these in our displays.

As a part of their homework this term the children will need to prepare an oral report about what life was like for their grandparents or great grandparents when they were a child. We will send out ‘mini assignment’ task in week 4. This will not be a written task. It is an opportunity for the students to retell something they have learnt from hearing the ‘memories’ / ‘stories’ from their grandparents past.

We have not decided on a starting date for our in-school reading / writing program, as we feel the students need some ‘settling back in’ time. We will confirm in advance starting dates for these. Please note that a ‘prohibited Person’s Declaration’ must be completed if you wish to participate in any school activity. This is a legal requirement and the forms can be obtained from the office. If you have already completed this form because you assist with canteen then you do not need to complete the declaration.

We thank you for your on-going support and look forward to working with you this term.

Best wishes,

Cate Anderson and Gemma Pilley.