Wow – is it week 4? I am constantly amazed at how quickly time flies in the classroom! I have really enjoyed the first three weeks of term. It has been a pleasure to get to know everyone just that little bit better. For me, the first few weeks are invaluable as I start to build up knowledge of your child, their personality, character traits and skill set. Of course, some of the children I already know so it has been interesting to observe whether they are willing to rise to the goals I have set for them this year. A great start.....can’t wait to see what the rest of the year brings.

In English we have been focusing a lot on the basics; primarily sentences and basic punctuation. Each week we have a sentence based on our Sound Waves sound focus (i.e. A crazy kite) and the children have been working to stretch the sentence by asking a series of questions about the subject. We have discussed nouns, verbs, pronouns and adjectives and will begin discussing how to proofread and edit our writing using a strategy called COPS (more on this strategy in later editions). In Spelling we have been undertaking Monday pre-testing of our words which allows the students to focus on words they have spelled incorrectly, or take on extension words. Each child has undertaken a reading comprehension test associated with the ‘Reading Box’ literacy program and has started completing reading activities that develop their reading comprehension skills along with their vocabulary and grammar development across a range of writing genres. I am listening to each child read one on one to get a grasp of their individual reading skills.

In Maths we have been exploring place value. Children have been using MAB blocks to make numbers up to 10,000; learning how to write these as numerals and in words as well as breaking the numbers up using expanded notation. For the time being Year 3s will be focusing on the 2 times tables whilst the Year 4s will be focusing on the 4 times tables. In the midst of our maths discussions we have explored such things as ‘Rainbow Numbers’, ‘Friendly Numbers’ and the ‘Part-Part – Whole’ strategy for regrouping numbers when adding and subtracting. As a parent, if you would like to discuss any of these strategies, please don’t hesitate to ask. Keep an eye on Edmodo as well as I like to put ‘Parent Friendly’ information on my blog from time to time.

In Science the Year 3s have been exploring the three states of matter (solid, liquid and gas) whilst the Year 4s are exploring the properties of materials.

In History, the Year 4s have commenced an inquiry into Captain James Cook whilst the Year 3s are exploring the ANZACs, commemorations and memorials.

In Religion we have been exploring concepts about developing a positive regard for ourselves and others which has included an analysis of our similarities and differences. This has tied in well with our exploration of rules and respecting others.

Our theme for this term is ‘Taking Care of Mother Earth Together’. We have had a number of really fantastic discussions about the environment – in particular with regard to the problem of plastic. If your children are questioning you about your use of single-use plastics you can probably blame me.....sorry! Incidentally, have you ever heard of the ‘Great Pacific Geyer’? Basically, this is a huge mess of plastic about the size of France (mainly drink bottles) floating in the Pacific Ocean. Perhaps you might start your own inquiry....

More later in the term.

Kind Regards – Mr A.