Welcome to Kindergarten for 2016! It is such an exciting time for our very youngest of students as they begin their educational journey. We have a busy term ahead, with plenty of time to engage in many activities that will give our young students the best possible start to their school career. We understand that beginning Kindergarten can be a very daunting time for some of our little people, which is why the first few weeks of this term we will focus predominantly on making sure that our Kindergarteners feel welcome and safe, so that school is a place they are excited to come to each day. While we settle into school, we will be busy making new friends, learning the classroom routines and joining in activities.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Our focus in Religious Education this term will be in developing our communication with God. We will begin by looking at how we can talk to God in the simplest of ways. We will then learn to make the Sign of the Cross and to use the correct words as we do the actions. Developing an appreciation for the gift of new life will be a focus this term and the students will be encouraged to look at the ways God is present in all living things through a variety of play experiences.

**LITERACY**

Developing strong oral language skills is the main component of our Literacy learning this term. We will be sharing and retelling stories, as well as learning how to be a good listener and speaker. The students will begin object-based news in week 4. We will also be looking at how sentences are made up of individual words and how words are made up of syllables and sounds.

**MATHEMATICS**

In Mathematics we will be learning about numbers. We will practise counting objects carefully and assigning a number value to each count. We will subitise - find ways we can recognise how many in a group without having to count each object. We will look at patterns in our environment and create patterns of our own. The students will also be given multiple opportunities to develop their understanding of measurement by describing, ordering and comparing different objects.

**SOCIAL SKILLS**

Our social skills will be developed through play-based experiences that focus on several key areas. To begin with we will learn how to greet people politely. We will learn about the importance of taking turns, this is important when speaking and listening as a part of a conversation and when we are playing. Sharing will be another major focus in our classroom this term. We will also look at the ways we can use our manners to ask for help when needed. Each of these skills will be explicitly modelled and discussed as a part of our daily routine, as well as being reinforced throughout each day.

We definitely have a very exciting term ahead and we look forward to joining all of our kindergarteners as they begin their very first year of school.