Dear parents and caregivers,

We are about to start a new unit in science in which we will be exploring the invisible forces of static electricity and magnetism. Through a variety of hands-on activities and investigations, your child will be learning about such concepts as conditions that affect static electricity, what objects are attracted to magnets, which materials can be magnetized, and how a compass works. Your child will conclude the unit by creating a toy or game that makes use of invisible forces.

You can talk to your child at home about how static electricity and magnetism affect your daily lives.

- You might point out the helpful uses of static electricity (e.g., cleaning products such as electrostatic dusters and cling wrap to preserve foods).
- Invite your child to identify some of the negative results of static electricity and methods to avoid them (e.g., adding moisture to the air in your home with a humidifier, and using anti-static sprays and dryer sheets to reduce static cling in clothing).
- You might also discuss some common uses of magnets (e.g., in shower curtains and cupboard doors, in refrigerator magnets, and holding bags and jewellery closed). Encourage your child to identify the many different ways magnets are used in your home.

To ensure a wide range of experiences and make connections between this topic and your child's world, he/she may choose to bring one or more personal items to school for exploration during in-class activities. These items will be returned home once explorations are completed. To determine whether the item(s) is appropriate please contact me, your child's teacher.

Sincerely,