



Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

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Term 2,
Newsletter 1

Welcome back to the start of term 2

Welcome back to the start of term 2. We hope your holiday was restful and enjoyable. The time has certainly passed quickly and we are now back for another wonderful term of teaching and learning.

Curriculum term 2

Term 2 will be a busy one as we explore our focus

"All about me and people in my world"

Underpinned by the "Child Protection Curriculum" which is a mandated curriculum.

A term overview, a term calendar and a note explaining the Child Protection Curriculum, will be out early this week.

It will be a busy term, with many aspects to be covered, but it will be a term of fun activities including

- Walks to our local bush kindy
- An excursion to Kuitpo Forest

- Special person's morning
- A visit by Sam Wannan (artist)
- A special celebration to end our focus of learning.
- Challenge tasks

Look out for regular updates of what is happening at kindy through newsletters, articles and the outside white board.

It promises to be a wonderful term.

Baby Photos

As part of our focus of learning we are having a special activity, "Guess the baby". So we are asking that each child brings a photo of themselves as a baby. Please put it in an envelope with your child's name on the back of the photo. These photos will be placed on card using blu-tak (and returned to you later in the term), with clues about your child as

described by them.

We need all photos by Friday May 11th

Look out for our baby board and try and guess the baby.

(This experience helps children learn more about themselves, develop descriptive language skills, develop observation skills, plus is lots of fun)

Adults who attend special person's day later in the term, will love reading about. Start bringing them in from the beginning of week 1.

The Child Protection Curriculum information evening is this

Wednesday May 2nd

6.45pm for a 7pm start, finishing at 9pm.

Light supper will be served.

I hope you can attend this important evening.

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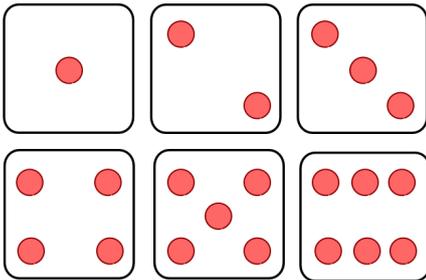
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"A Quote"

Work hard to create in your children a good self image. It's the most important thing you can do to insure their success

Subitising

What is subitising? Subitising is being able to recognise a pattern of dots and know its value without counting. For example looking at a dice and recognising the pattern of dots without having to count each dot. Playing dice games is a great way of developing this important skill.



Wheels day update

Thank you to everyone who has returned their sponsorship money from our wheels day in term 1.

To date we have raised \$3917.00

However, there is still a large number of donations still outstanding (20 families outstanding who attended on the day)

If you have overlooked returning your sponsorship money, can you please do so as soon as possible.

We appreciate your support.

Remember you can pay sponsorship money via BSB banking or by returning the cash collected, with the sponsorship form. If you pay via BSB banking, please return the sponsorship form to the brown box, to indicate the money has been paid directly into our account.

The money raised from this years wheels day will go towards the purchase of a new computer (to operate our interactive screen). This technology is used to support children's literacy & numeracy skills and researching information. Funds will also go towards purchasing equipment for the new playground eg new swing frame and slippery dip.

Term 2 Fees

You will soon receive an account for your term 2 fees in your child's name pocket. Fees are

- Kindergarten—\$210.00 (this includes a fundraising levy & an excursion levy)

Please pay the fees by the date indicated on the fees account. Fees can be paid by cash or cheque deposited into the brown box near the kitchen, or by direct debit

BSB 105084

Account 323231040

We appreciate your fees being paid on time to ensure that we can meet our running costs and expenses.

If you have any queries in paying the fees, please come and see me. All conversations will be in strictest confidence.

CHY Screening

The next date for Child and Youth Health Checks will be on **Monday May 21st** at our kindy. The screening checks children's eye sight, hearing & some developmental areas eg pencil grip. We still have spaces for children in both blue and gold group to have their check. An adult (parent or grandparent) must be present with the child during the check. Children must also be 4 years or older to be eligible for the health check. There will be a date in terms 3 & 4 for health checks. (However, with 85 children going off to school at the end of the year, there will not be enough spaces for all children to have their check at kindy. You can have the check at the local CYHS clinic)

If you would like your child to have their CYHS check on Monday May 21st please see me to book a time. Please remember there are limited spaces, so you need to "get in quick"

Groups Term 2

Please check carefully children's names on cards for drink and lunch containers, as you arrive at kindy this week. Each term we swap the groups around for lunch and story groups. This provides children with the opportunity

- to extend their social skills, working & eating with different peers
- work with a different staff member in a small group situation, experiencing different teaching styles
- build relationships with a staff member through group experiences
- develop confidence in managing change

So please check with your child for their name on drink & lunch container cards. Their drink bottle & lunch box may go in a different colour container this term.

Advanced notice

I want to give you some advanced notice of some very special dates in term 4.

We will have a celebration day (a concert followed by lunch) in week 7 of term 4. (**blue group Tuesday November 27th / gold group Wednesday November 28th**).

It is a wonderful day where the children sing a number of songs, give you the present they have made and then we share in a lunch. It is a busy day and we finish by 1.30pm. (No kindy after 1.30pm)

On the children's last morning of kindy we have a graduation morning.

(**Blue group Thursday December 13th and Gold Group Friday December 14th**).

We have a morning tea for children & family members and then a graduation ceremony. The morning concludes at 12noon. There is no kindy in the afternoon. Staff are on site cleaning the centre, but there are no programs for children.

I know these dates seem such a long way off. However, feedback from some parents in previous years, was they wanted more notice when finishing times of sessions varied.

During the year, we have 3 after hour events where children have the opportunity to attend, therefore they still access the required number of hours.

For now put the dates in your diary and keep them free for these very special events.

Dismissing children

Some parents have come in early to pick up their child, in order to get to school. People have come in "dribs and drabs" from 2.30pm onwards which has meant our end of day group times are very disruptive. Some parents have come in at 2.59pm / 3pm coming in through the bathroom door to avoid the line up on the verandah at the end of the day.

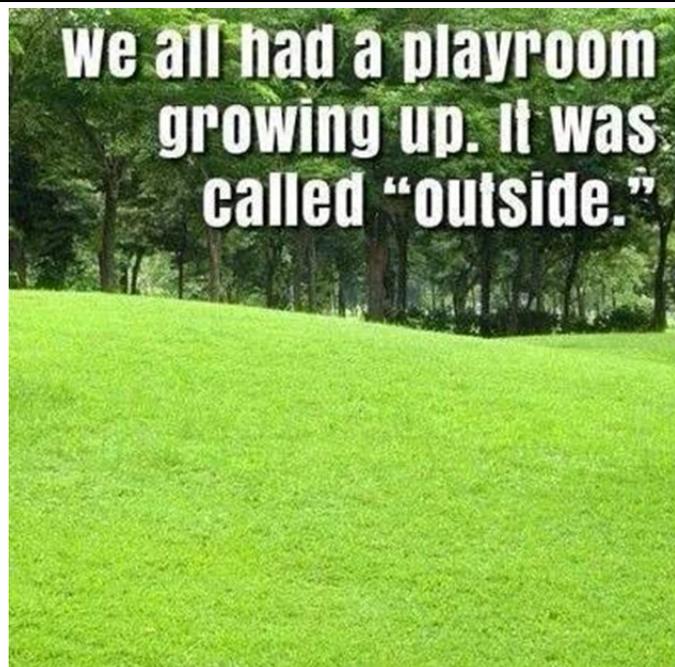
I know it is necessary to get to school pick ups but our end of day group time is a very important learning time. With the continuous interruptions it has been difficult for the children to concentrate.

To minimise the disruption to our learning, we are asking that children who need to be picked up earlier, are collected between 2.40pm and 2.50pm.

After 2.50pm we will close the passageway doors to minimise the noise and disruption.

If this is difficult for you to manage, please come and speak with me.

We are asking that parents / carers **DO NOT** come through the bathroom at 2.59pm / 3pm to collect their child as we will **only** dismiss from the main entrance door, to ensure that all children are dismissed safely. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to speak with me. Many thanks for your support.



Food for thought"

Our children spend less than 2 hours a day outside and 87 percent of children spend more time playing indoors than outdoors. In South Australia, children spend an average of 4.5 hours a day in front of a screen, exceeding the national average by half an hour!

Absences

If your child is absent from preschool, please ring and let one of the staff know. Staff are in attendance from 8.15am. Alternatively, you can email. Thank you

Children who require medication must have a health care plan signed off by their doctor. Staff can not administer medication

Administering Medication

without a health care plan. For example, if your child has an allergy to foods / bee stings etc and requires treatment via epi pen or medication, we must have a health care plan. If your child has asthma (even mild doses) we must have a health care plan. Also medication **MUST** be left at the centre for staff to administer, when required.

When your child has an infection and requires antibiotics for short periods of time, we do not need a health care plan. However, we must have a letter signed by the doctor indicating the need for antibiotics, dosage and time of administering eg before lunch.

We **CANNOT** administer antibiotics without this information from the doctor. The label on the bottle is **NOT** sufficient information for staff to give your child their medication.

With winter illnesses approaching please be aware of the requirements for staff in administering medication.

Regular attendance at preschool

Regular attendance at preschool is so important for a number of reasons.

- Children benefit from the maximum education opportunities by attending preschool for their entitled 15 hours each week
- There is continuity of learning
- Continuity of friendships—more time to form friendships
- They access all programs, experiences and activities. They don't miss out on valuable learning opportunities
- Good practices in attendance are established whilst at preschool, in readiness for school

Of course when children are unwell or a family holiday is scheduled this impacts on your child's attendance at preschool. Children do need to be at home when sick to rest and recover & not spread infections to other children and adults. Family holidays are important and there are times when they do need to be scheduled during term time. Sometimes children just need a rest day especially if you have had a busy weekend or they are "juggling" child care and preschool. However it is important for your child to attend regularly, even on the half days.

This will ensure that your child accesses all their entitled hours and benefits from all the learning opportunities available to them.

If you need any further information about attendance at preschool, please don't hesitate to speak with one of the staff.

Weeks 2 & 3

Weeks 2 & 3 of each term are our data collection weeks. That means we submit our attendances for weeks 2 & 3, to DECD. Staffing is based on our attendances. Last term we had high enrolments & attendances, which allowed us to have an increase in staffing. Again in term 2, we maintain high numbers in both blue & gold group.

For the additional staffing hours, it is important that we maintain high levels of attendance. So please make sure that your child attends regularly, unless your child is unwell, (or you are on a family holiday).

Not only does regular attendance support children in their learning & development, it ensures that we maintain high levels of staffing, which benefits your child.

Nutrition Policy

Each day your child comes to kindy for lunch,
PLEASE PUT THEIR LUNCH BOX IN THE CLEAR BOXES ON THE VERANDAH.

Please look for their name on the box.

Please **DO NOT** keep their lunch in their bag as the children tend to eat it for morning snack,

Keep their snacks in their bag, but not their lunch.

Foods that <u>are</u> suitable for lunch time	Foods that are <u>not</u> suitable for lunch are
Fresh fruit	Cakes & sweet muffins
Dried fruit	Sweet biscuits & flavoured crackers
Vegetables	Roll ups
Cheese	museli & fruit bars
Savoury sandwich (eg vegemite, ham, cheese) "Roll up" with mountain bread, or other flat breads	Chips, chocolates & lollies
Rice cakes, plain crackers (Eg plain sakatas)	Packaged & processed food such as cheese & biscuits (eg cheese & dip packets, apple chips)
yoghurt, (Yogurt is permitted for lunch when children are accessing a full day, to ensure they receive their daily requirement of dairy)	Apple chips and other freeze dried fruits

The above foods on the "suitable list" are also fine for snacks. However, we recommend that you do not send a sandwich for snack and lunch as it is too filling to have 2 sandwiches in a short period of time. Also we allow yoghurt just for their lunch (not snack). If you have any queries or want more information on suitable foods, please speak with one of the staff.

Copies of the nutrition policy can be found in the policy folder on the sign in table, in the handbook which you received when your child commenced preschool, on our website or come and see one of the staff for a hard copy.

Our nutrition policy supports children's learning through the philosophy that we eat everyday / healthy foods to support our learning. We acknowledge "sometimes" food is fun and enjoyable to eat but not to eat everyday at preschool.

The nutrition policy is approved by the Governing Council and is in line with the National

Quality Standards

Just a reminder about our "**NO NUT POLICY**". There are children who have life threatening reactions to nuts. In fact some children can die from an anaphylaxis reaction to nuts, by simply touching them. It is our duty of care to keep everyone safe at kindy. Therefore we **DO NOT** allow foods that contain nuts such as peanut paste, nutella, muesli bars. If you forget and put in a food into your child's lunch box, that contains nuts, we will ask your child to leave it in their lunch box and offer them an alternative.

In the interests of everyone's health & safety, please do not send foods that contain nuts.

Sign in & out

Please
remember to sign in and
out
everyday.

On the sign in table, you will
find a range of magazines,
pamphlets which you are
most
welcome to take.

Diary for pick ups

Last term, we found that on a number of occasions Grandparents and other carers collected their grandchild at the end of the day, but staff had not been informed of the change in arrangements. This made it very difficult for staff when dismissing children in to the care of adults we are not familiar with.

We have a several children that are involved in a number of programs such as child care at Hawthorn Child care Centre, plus children leaving with grandparents, carers etc. Therefore the end of the session can be very hectic as we send off children to many different people. Therefore it is important that staff are informed of any changes in care arrangements such as your child being collected by another adult other than their usual parent / carer etc.

Sun hats

Even though the weather is now cloudy & cool, the UV rating is still 5 and remaining at 5 from 9.40am to 2.30pm.

I rang the Cancer Council in the last week, of the holidays and they are still recommending that children wear sunhats for protection. So please send a sun hat every day, even if it looks cool and cloudy.

Beanies and woolen hats are not classed as sunhats.

The UV rating is gradually changing. I will keep you posted about when we can take off our sunhats!

Lending kits

Many thanks to Bec Richards who has volunteered to lend out & check the kits on Thursday mornings for blue group.

Blue group lending can commence **Thursday week 2, Thursday May 10th**. I will put a note in your pocket about the lending process

Are there 1 or 2 people who can help out with the lending and checking for gold group. Once we have volunteers, we can get the lending for gold group underway.

We have over 100 kits that support literacy, numeracy, gross motor skill development. They have always been a much loved over the years. It is not compulsory to borrow the kits. It is totally up to you.

No more boxes

No more boxes for the box construction. We have plenty at the moment. I will let you know when we are in need of more boxes.

Many thanks

Information

This term, I will provide information through the newsletter on

- Growth mindsets
- Challenge
- Risk taking
- resilience
- Language of persistence
- the benefits for children in their education, by developing these positive skills and dispositions for learning.

I hope you will find them useful.

Finally

Finally, thankyou as always for your continued support. It is very much appreciated.

Kind regards

Chris, Laura, Amber,
Carol, Lyn and Robbie