

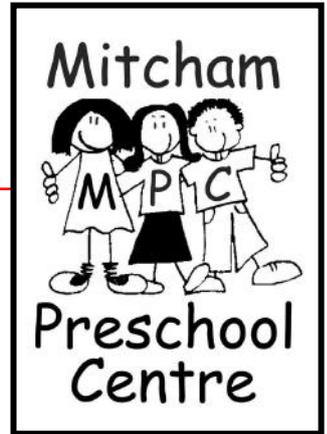


Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

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The start of term 2

What a wonderful start we had to term 2. It was so lovely to see so many families back at kindy. The children were super excited to be back and there was definitely a happy, excited "buzz" all week despite the weather!

Week 1, we saw 87% of blue group children return and 78% of gold group return to kindy.

Week 2 we are expecting 95% of blue group back and 91% of gold group return to kindy.

We are so happy to have so many families back.

Families are welcome to return when they feel safe and comfortable with the situation.

With so many people returning, it did pose some challenges in terms of social distancing but I am

grateful to our community for their support in adhering to the changes we implemented in week 1.

For example,

- Children are supported by the teachers to put up their name card, rather than parents. This created a bottle neck of adults and social distancing was difficult to adhere to
- Whilst we still need to be practicing social distancing we will use the front door to exit through. Parents will enter via the door to the main room to collect their child and exit through the front door. This alleviates adults having

to social distance when entering / leaving the site. Don't forget to pick up your child's bag from outside, before you enter the main room.

Leaving through the front door is not ideal as you head straight into the carpark. But these are different times and we need different strategies. Once we no longer have to social distance, we will resume our normal process of leaving from the main room.

Just a reminder, there are multiple hand sanitiser stations, for you and your child to use as you enter the centre. These are located

- On the gate as you enter kindy
- Hanging from the lattice work, near the toilets
- On the top shelf of the sign in table.

Please do not let children handle the bottles. All you need to do is squirt some into your hands and transfer it to your child.

COVID-19 has made us continually reflect and review our processes. Unexpected things pose problems but we are continually finding new solutions and are grateful for your ongoing support.

Term 2 Newsletter 2

Baby photos for Guess the Baby are due by **Monday May 11th**. Please send a photo of your child as a baby so they can be part of our special activity. You are most welcome to email me a photo and I can run it off.

For families continuing to self-isolate, we would love your child to join in, so don't hesitate to send me a photo.

Don't forget to look at our baby wall.

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Term 2 Curriculum / This week at kindy

In a "normal year" we would start our focus of learning in week 1 of term 2. However, we felt the children needed time to settle back in after a long break, reconnect with friends and teachers and familiarize themselves with routines etc.

So after a lovely week 1, and with most children back at preschool, we will commence our focus of learning this week.

Our focus of learning for term 2 is

"All about me and people in my world" underpinned by the Child Protection Curriculum.

A copy of the term plan, term overview and calendar has been distributed via the email and App

So to start our focus of learning this week we will be brainstorming on Tuesday and Wednesday

"Who is me?"

(this is such a difficult concept for children to grasp. It refers to themselves)

"Who are the people in their numeracy table world?"

We will then begin to explore the first important topic of the Child Protection Curriculum on

"What are feelings?"

Children can generally identify feelings such as happy, sad, angry. These feelings will often be the first ones they describe. However, we want the children to understand and describe other feelings such as excited, worried, anxious, nervous, jealous, proud, frightened etc.

Feelings will be explored through stories, discussions, looking at photos and participating in role play over the next two weeks. We will also use everyday occurrences at preschool to discuss feelings (eg being excluded from play by friends—how does it make you feel / it's your birthday—how does it make you feel / it is Mothers Day—how does it make you feel)

To support our focus of learning we will have inside this week

- Numeracy table—2D shape sorting (numeracy)
- Roller painting & stamping (creativity)
- Block building with kids on the block & cars (dramatic play)
- Small world table with Wild Animals & habitat (dramatic play)
- Writing table—alphabet mats, number mats, feelings words (literacy / fine motor)
- Light table—coloured transparent shapes with insects, leaves (numeracy)
- Feelings & faces—with mirrors, coloured stones, faces (numeracy / sense of self)
- Threading activity on palette (fine motor)
- Colourama shape game on palette (numeracy)
- Story table—emotions pebbles & adjuncts (sense of self / literacy)
- Sorting buttons (fine motor / numeracy)

Outside there will be

- Sandpit with loose parts—image of bridge to build (sensory / problem solving)
- Construction set on mat (problem solving)
- Insect hunt with clip boards (challenge task)
- Leaf cutting (fine motor skills)
- Mud kitchen (sensory)
- Potions table (sensory)
- Black tray with mud, twigs, leaves, trucks (sensory)
- Soccer (gross motor)
- Dolls, prams, chairs, tables, cups etc (dramatic play)
- Trapeze & ladder swings (gross motor)
- Hammock (relaxation / sensory)

- Numeracy activity—2D shapes from paper black textas, glue sticks—create 2D designs with shapes (numeracy)

In our small groups this week we will

- Draw a picture of themselves and wrote their name (literacy / fine motor) - we will do this each term to monitor their fine motor skills development and drawing / mark making skills
- Continue with our focus on recognising 6 common 2D shapes—triangle, square, rectangle, oval, circle, diamond (which has a mathematical name of rhombus)
- We are looking at the geometric properties of shape eg sides, corners, edges, curves, points, angles.
- Commence our discussions on feelings.

We have 2 very special visitors at kindy for the next 2 weeks. We have 2 guinea pigs from the Nature Education Centre, who we will take care of.

It's another busy week at kindy. There is always something special happening at preschool.

Online learning

On the 4 pupil free days, prior to the school holidays, staff began to put together our online learning resource for families self-isolating. At that time, it looked highly likely that most people would be learning at home in term 2

How the situation has changed in that time. Now most families are back at kindy.

On Wednesday of week 1, Maddie and Suzi put the "final touches" on our online learning webpage. You can check it out on

mitchamprehl.weebly.com

On the webpage you will find activities that support

- The Curriculum focus, literacy, numeracy, challenge tasks,

Whilst this was designed to support families learning at home, all families can access it. There are some fun activities to support the above areas for everyone.

As most people are back at kindy now, we will just upload activities from "time to time". I will let you know when this has been done.

Take a look at the webpage. Look at all sections. However on the "Challenges" tab, there is an activity to do **"Calling all mathematicians"**. We were going to have this activity on the verandah this term, but with social distancing and the issues around touching surfaces, it would be a bit difficult to manage safely.

So look at the picture under the "Challenges" tab and send me your child's answer to the question we posed. We will look at the picture at kindy in week 3, to check our answers.

We will add further "Calling all..." challenge tasks to our webpage throughout the term.

Have fun!

Funtastics

From term 2, we offer a program called "Funtastics". It is a program which is run on Mondays, usually 3 times per term. All children at kindy on a Monday participate in it. In a "normal" year, we would have 5 activities, 5 groups of children, and the children would rotate around the activities. The activities would include fine motor, gross motor, literacy, numeracy, sensory, listening skills. Parents would support the program if available.

We want to start Funatstics but cannot use parent help. So we are planning a modified program, starting from next Monday May 11th. We will have 3 groups and 3 activities, just run by the teachers. I will have Sara (regular relief teacher) to support us.

We are looking forward to starting Funatstics. It is a great program and ensures that all children access all areas of skill development. (It's a non negotiable program. Everyone who is here participates). Each time we run funtastics, we change the activities, to ensure a variety of skills are included.

We look forward to the day, when we can offer a full funtastics program.

RAN-EC training / WWCC

To enable parent volunteers on excursions and in helping with activities such as funtastics, at preschool and schools, parents must have attended RAN-EC training and obtained a Working With Children's Check.

Our evening training on RAN-EC was cancelled last term, and we cannot as yet meet in groups. If coronavirus remains at low levels such as it is now in South Australia, the premier and Education Department officials will start allowing us to have increased capacity to have excursions etc. This of course, wont be for a while, but may happen over the course of the next couple of terms.

If you wish to volunteer and have not as yet, participated in RAN-EC training or obtained the WWCC I encourage you to do so. The RAN-EC training can be done on line. It only takes about 60-90 minutes. If you would like the information, please see me.

If you haven't obtained the WWCC as yet, please see me for details. Both these requirements are needed for supporting your child at preschool and school. So by doing it this year, means you have it ready for next year, when your child is at school. The WWCC lasts 5 years and the RAN-EC has no time restrictions—it is long term unless DFE change the course content.

So send me an email or come and see me about the RAN-EC training on line and details for the WWCC.

Term 2 Fees

Our treasurer Mark Anders and I spoke last week about term 2 fees. For term 2, we are going to issue a fees invoice for \$180.00. We are not going to include the excursion levy or fundraising levy for term 2. It is highly unlikely that we will be going on an excursion / have an incursion in term 2 due to the current restrictions. However, if we are allowed to, we feel that the preschool can cover the cost just for this term.

The fees for term 3, will be reviewed later in term 2.

If you are experiencing financial hardship, please do not hesitate to come and speak with me. We can work out a solution for paying fees. I personally have been through unemployment, a few years ago, with my husband having lost his job and being out of work for 2 years, through the GFC. I know how hard it is to financially struggle. So please do not hesitate to come and speak with me, if you are experiencing financial hardship. All conversations will be held in strictest confidence, between you and myself.

If you are not returning for term 2, you will not be charged fees but you will still maintain your child's place at our centre.

If you return partway through the term, (after week 2) we can work out a percentage of the term cost, for you to pay.

Fees invoices will go in the note pockets this week. Thankyou

Grant

On Thursday last week The Minister of Education, announced a new grant, of \$20,000 per site, for all preschools and children's centres in our State. The purpose of the grant is twofold - to give us the opportunity to enhance our site through minor works, maintenance, painting, shade structures, or whatever will best serve our site, and secondly to support local tradespeople and small businesses.

The Hon John Gardner MP, stated in his letter that

"Many of those local businesses and tradespeople have been doing it extremely tough lately - as have so many people throughout our state and our nation this year - so I hope you will be able to act quickly to use this new funding (which will be transferred to your account in the coming weeks) to help keep those local workers and tradespeople in employment in the coming months".

I am yet to discuss the grant with staff and Governing Council, but earlier in the year, we had added to our budget, a store room upgrade as it is a work health and safety concern. There is also some other projects that come to mind such as new carpet for the literacy room, additional vegie garden beds. I will need to find out the scope of the works and then we can plan how the money is used.

It is great to have this grant rather than having to spend the money from our accounts! I will let you know our plans once we have worked through some processes.

Pupil Free day

Earlier in the year, the Governing Council gave the staff permission for a pupil free day on **Friday June 5th**, to participate in professional development. The date was placed in a newsletter in term 1.

So there will be no kindy of Friday June 5th (this the day before the June long weekend)

CaFH Screening

Please find attached a Parent Information letter from Child and Family Health Services. Normally, we have the health assessments at preschool each term. With the COVID-19 regulations, we cannot have the health assessments.

Please read the attached letter so that you know how this can proceed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak with me.

Governing council

At this stage, Governing Council meetings cannot go ahead due to COVID-19 restrictions. At this point, there is nothing pressing to make decisions on.

Hopefully it won't be too long, before we can meet. Until then, I will liaise via email re the grant & spending / about updating policies etc.

School Information

The schools have started contacting me about enrolments for 2021 as they are starting their planning for the new school year. (It seems hard to believe when term 2 has only just commenced). However, this is always the case, collecting information on numbers of children and names. It doesn't mean that you have already needed to make a decision on schools. It is just an early indication. Some families wait until they have done a tour of the schools, later in the year before a decision is made.

Over the next 2 weeks, I will talk with you at drop off or pick up to get this information.

Here to help.

I sent out an email on Friday to let everyone know, that Maddie, Suzi or myself will make contact with you sometime this week, via email, to see how you are all going.

It is so difficult not being able to have conversations as in the past, due to social distancing restrictions. But please, anytime you need help or support, no matter what the reason, don't hesitate to call on me. Send an email or phone. We can chat via phone or email or make a time for a face to face conversation, remembering social distancing protocols.

I am here to help.

How we played "online"



before the internet

Finally

The children have enjoyed sharing their scrapbooks with us. It has been lovely to see what they have been doing. If you haven't bought them in yet, there is still plenty of time over the next couple of weeks.

Thankyou for your continued support.

Have a wonderful Mother's Day on Sunday.

Kind regards

Chris, Maddie, Suzi, Lyn, Robbie, Karen, Jan