



# Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

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## Welcome back to the start of term 3

Term 3  
Newsletter 1

Welcome back to the start of term 3. We hope your holiday was restful and enjoyable.

Do you know that your child now has only 19 weeks of preschool until the end of the school year. Amazing!!

### Term 3 Curriculum

Our focus of learning for term 3 will explore

"STEM—science, technology, engineering and mathematics" through an inquiry on

#### ***"What do you know about measuring?"***

Measurement is a very important aspect of numeracy. It involves describing, comparing and ordering attributes and quantities such as length, size, mass and height. Measurement also gives purpose to number, spatial awareness and data.

We will focus on 3 areas of measurement

- Length
- Weight
- Capacity

The term of learning will include special events such as

- Mobile junk and Nature play day (in week 2)
- Excursion to the

Adelaide Central market

- Funtastics
- Walks to the creek
- have campfires
- Celebration day

The term calendar, term overview and program will be in note pockets at the beginning of week 1. (and sent to the APP / email)

Of course, we will also have our term calendar of events in the main room, which you can check out with your child.

We are looking forward to a wonderful term of teaching and learning on our STEM focus that will have us involved in numerous measurement activities.

### Mobile Junk and Nature Play Day

A note about Mobile Junk and Nature Play day, will be sent to the APP/Email early week 1.

- Blue group - Nature Play day Thursday July 30th
- Gold group - Nature Play day Friday July 31st

### Measurement Wall

In the last 2 weeks of term 2, we interviewed each child to find out what they already know about measurement. We asked them ***"What do you know about measuring?"***

There were a variety of answers, with some children said "I don't know".

This information, will help us guide our teaching and learning throughout term 3.

Everyone is at different levels of understanding about measurement, but will build many skills over the term.

Towards the end of this term, we will ask the children again, What they now know about measuring, to see the distance they travel in their learning.

Maddie has set up a display of photos and children's ideas on measuring.

Come and have a look.

The next  
Governing  
Council  
meeting will be  
**Monday July 27th**

7.15pm for a  
7.30pm start.

Everyone is  
welcome to  
attend.

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## COVID Reminders

Whilst we have been on school holidays, Melbourne has endured increased COVID-19 cases which has meant some areas of the city, have gone into lockdown. And of course, the Victorian borders have been shut between SA & NSW.

It is a timely reminder to all of us, to continue to be vigilant in our hygiene practices and social distancing. Ensuring the health, safety and welfare of children, families and staff is paramount so to this end, we are continuing to implement the following strategies everyday.

- The gates are opened each day by a staff member and kept open until everyone has arrived (this avoids you having to touch the gate)
- The gates are opened at the end of the day and left open, until everyone has left
- Parents / carers drop the children quickly and leave
- Please be mindful when chatting to other parents at kindy, at drop off and pick ups, that you maintain social distancing
- Any child who arrives at kindy with a cold / cough / unwell will be sent home
- If a child becomes unwell during the day, a parent / carer will be called and asked to collect their child.
- Children wash their hands before eating snack and lunch. The children count to 20 / sing happy birthday whilst washing their hands
- Staff monitor the bathroom at snack and lunch and other times during the day
- Children have been taught to cough into their elbow
- When a child coughs into their hands, they are reminded to wash their hands
- Staff sign children in and out everyday
- The children are asked to leave their toys and books at home
- At lunch times the staff hand the children their lunch box from the lunch contain-

ers, rather than the children touch other lunch boxes

- Surfaces are wiped down frequently during the day including door knobs & light switches
- Toys etc are wiped down at the end of each day
- We have signs up to remind adults about social distancing eg at drop offs and when waiting to collect their child
- Drink trolleys and lunch crates are located in different areas of the verandah to spread the load of people as they arrive
- At pick up time, parents enter the building through the main doors, collect their child, then exit through the front door (leading to the carpark)
- When lining up to collect your child, please remain 1.5 metres apart
- Educators will help your child find their name card. We ask that adults do not congregate at the name card board, so that social distancing can be maintained

As we commence term 3, I will be guided by the information from the Department of Education / Health Officials as well as continuously review our practices and procedures. As further information and / or instructions are issued by the Department, these will be implemented.

We will all look forward to the day, when COVID -19 doesn't take up all our thoughts and we can return to life as we knew it.

## WWCC & RAN-EC training

In week 6, we will be going on an excursion to the Adelaide Central Market, to support our focus of learning. We will need a few parent volunteers to support us on the excursion.

However, to help out you will need to have

- Working with children's check (WWCC)
- RAN-EC training for volunteers

If you would like to attend an excursion with us, and haven't completed the above requirements, please email or see me for the information.

## Friendship lists

Most people have now informed me, which school their child will be attending in 2021. I have now added this updated information to the friendship lists. I will soon put a copy of the friendship list in your note pockets so that you can see which children are going off together to school. It could be a way of having play dates and forming friendships, prior to starting school

## Proposed family night

Please note, that last term the staff and Governing Council planned family evenings for early September. They are on the term calendar that you will receive week 1. But the events are to be confirmed. Whether these events can go ahead and how, will be dependent on the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. Whilst they have been a tradition at our centre for many years, we will need to look at the restrictions and see if they can fit in the guidelines. I will keep you updated.

## Kindy photos

Kelly Champion will be taking our kindy photos again this year. The photos will be taken this term. Kelly takes beautiful photos of the children, (one at a time) whilst outside playing. Kelly usually takes the photos over 2 days for each group.

Blue group— September 8th & 10th

Gold group— September 9th & 11th

There are up no front fees, but you will need to complete a form prior to week 6. Watch out for further details out soon.

## Groups for drink bottles and lunch boxes

Please check the lists when your child puts their drink bottles & lunch boxes in the containers. They may be in a different group for term 3.

## Term 3 Fees

You will soon receive an account for your term 3 fees in your child's name pocket.

*Fees are due for payment by Friday August 7th*

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.

## Assessment and reporting

In term 1, you may recall that staff assessed each child on literacy & numeracy and fine motor skill development, to gauge their level of development at the commencement of preschool. Following the informal assessment, a teacher provided feedback on their development in these key areas.

Over the year, we have continued to observe & monitor your child's progress in all areas of their development and in line with our curriculum "The Early Years Learning Framework" and the literacy and numeracy indicators

Now in term 3, we will reassess your child's progress in literacy, numeracy, fine motor, gross motor, etc.

We aim to have all children assessed by the end of term 3. (latest week 1 of term 4) Once your child has been assessed, a teacher will make a time with you for an interview to provide feedback on your child's progress. Interview times will generally be scheduled for the beginning or end of the day.

This information (and any information requiring updating in term 4) will then be written in a report, with a copy being for families and a copy for the school your child will attend. You will receive the reports in the beginning of week 7 of term 4.

We look forward to sharing your child's learning journey again with you in term 3 / 4.

## Important reminders

Term 4 is only 12 weeks away, so wanted to remind you of 2 special events / dates.

As mentioned in previous newsletters there are 2 very special events in term 4 to keep free.

Our celebration days (end of year concerts)

- Tuesday November 24th for blue group &
- Wednesday November 25th for gold group.
- We will finish by 1.30pm on those dates

Graduation mornings—

- Blue group Thursday December 10th
- Gold group Friday December 11th.
- This is the last 2 days of term 4 and we will finish at 12noon.

Please put these 2 important dates in your diary and keep them free.



## Holiday work



In the holidays we had some work done, by the landscaper, who carried out our outdoor area re-development in 2018.

We had the

- soft fall replaced to ensure it is the correct depth for safety reasons
- Mulch replaced throughout the garden areas
- The digging patch has had new mud added to it
- Sand replenished in the sand pit.

The yard looks "fresh and rejuvenated", ready for our return. The work also ensures that we maintain the necessary safety requirements.

In the October holidays, we will have all the wood in the outdoor area (platform / wooden poles around verandah & veggie garden) sanded and stained to keep the equipment in good condition.

I am sure the children will love playing in our wonderful rejuvenated, outdoor environment, when they return from holidays.

I thought they may like to see some photos so have included them in this newsletter.



## A game of hopscotch

A game of hopscotch helps children develop gross motor skills (hopping, jumping), counting skills (counting forwards & backwards, counting on), number recognition (numbers in order, what number comes before, what number comes after, what number comes first, what number comes last) special concepts (on, next to, between, in front etc) and social skills (listening and taking turns). So once we experience some beautiful spring weather, help your child to draw a hopscotch course with chalk on cement. You can make the course as long as you like, but it usually has about 8 or 10 squares. Draw a set of single and double squares - like a ladder, but with extra bits. Write a number on each square of the course.



*"Let's write 1 on the first square and 2 on the next square. What number comes after that?"*

Once the hopscotch course is set up you're ready to go. Talk about the game with your child as they play.

***"First we need to find a little stone"***

Gently toss a stone or beanbag onto the first square and hop over it. Keep hopping to the end of the course. When there's a pair of squares you can jump instead of hop. Try to land with a foot in each square.

At the end of the course turn around and hop and jump back again. Don't forget to stop and pick up the stone along the way.

***"You made it all the way there and back again. That's great! Now can you get the stone to land on number 2?"***

**It is a fun, physical game that will support your child in developing numeracy, literacy and gross motor skills.**

## A poem

### THERE'S NOTHING IN MY BAG TODAY

Today I did my Maths and Science  
I toasted bread,  
I halved and quartered, counted, measured,  
Used my eyes and ears and head.  
I added and subtracted on the way,  
I used the magnet blocks and memory tray.  
I learnt about a rainbow and how to weigh.  
So - please don't say  
Anything in your bag today?"

You see I'm sharing as I play,  
I learn to listen and speak clearly when I talk,  
To wait my turn, and when inside to walk,  
To put my thoughts into a phrase,  
To guide a crayon through a maze,  
To find my name and write it down,  
To do it with a smile and not a frown,  
To put my pasting brush away.  
So please don't say  
"What! Nothing in your bag today?"

I've learnt about a snail and a worm,  
Remembered how to take my turn,  
Helped a friend when he was stuck,  
Learnt that water runs off a duck,

Looked at words from left to right,  
Agreed to differ, not to fight.  
So please, don't say  
"Did you only play today?"

Yes, I played the whole day through.  
I played to learn the things I do.  
I seek a problem, find a clue,  
And work out for myself just what to do.  
My teachers set the scene and stay nearby  
To help me when I really try.  
They are there to pose the problems  
And to help me think;  
I hope they'll keep me floating  
And never let me sink.  
All this is in my head, and not my bag.  
It makes me sad to hear you say  
"Haven't you done anything today?"

When you attend your meetings  
And do your work today  
I will remember not to say to you  
"What, nothing in your bag? What did you do?"

Anonymous  
Reprinted from "Communication Child Care"  
July 1989

## Finally

We look forward to the wonderful  
term of teaching and learning  
ahead.

As always, thank you for your con-  
tinued support. It is very much ap-  
preciated.

Kind regards

Chris, Maddie, Suzi, Lyn, Robbie,  
Karen, Jan & Nat.