



Mitcham



Preschool Centre

# Mitcham Pre School Centre Newsletter

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Term 1, 2021  
Newsletter 1

## Welcome to the start of 2021

Welcome to all our families to Mitcham Pre-school. We hope the festive season was enjoyable and you have had a relaxing holiday with your family.

We are looking forward to working with you and your child. We hope your time at Mitcham Pre-school is fun, enjoyable and rewarding.

### Curriculum

Weeks 1 & 2, will be settling into kindy for children, staff & families. We will be focusing on

- Learning kindy routines and rules
- Learning cues for transition
- Coping with morning separation
- Packing up routines.

Once the children are settled we will commence our focus of learning for the term. (week 3)

Staff are finalizing the term curriculum this week and the

Term overviews and diary dates will be out later in week 2.

Look out for these notes via app / emails.

### This week at kindy

We will have inside in the main room

- Mark making table with a range of writing tools and paper (literacy)
- Home corner (dramatic play)
- Palette—with dolls house & people (dramatic play)
- Palette—with fairies (dramatic play)
- Construction set—magnetic tiles (problem solving)
- Numeracy table unifix cubes, black mats, number trays, number lines (numeracy)
- STEM centre—range of resources to explore (numeracy, literacy & science)
- Library area (literacy)
- Story table—Hungry Caterpillar adjuncts & story (literacy / language)
- Quiet / sensory area—range of items to explore
- Farm small world (dramatic play)
- Fine motor table—sorting bugs into colour groups using tweezers (fine

Motor / numeracy)

Inside in the Creative room

- Playdough (sensory)
- Craft table—cutting activity (fine motor)
- Easels—painting (creativity)
- Box construction (problem solving)

Outside we will have

- Black tray with dinosaurs & natural adjuncts (dramatic play)
- Construction set (problem solving)
- Sandpit (sensory)
- Nature play ground (gross motor / creativity)
- Junior Primary playground (gross motor)

Our numeracy focus will be number recognition / counting

Our literacy focus will include identifying our name cards & using our name cards to practice writing our name independently.

It is a busy week at kindy.

PLEASE  
REMEMBER  
TO SEND A  
HAT EVERY-  
DAY  
"NO HAT NO  
OUTSIDE  
PLAY"

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## Volunteering at preschool

To volunteer your time to attend excursions, help out with the funtastics motor coordination program, attend walk & talks, be a member of the Governing Council etc, parents and care providers must

- Obtain a working with children's check (WWCC) and
- Attend **RAN-EC training. That is "Reporting abuse and Neglect—Education and Care Training"**.

This is a requirement for all DFE schools and preschools.

Without attending this training / having a WWCC you **CANNOT** help out on excursions etc, where you will be supervising children.

This training can be completed on line. Please see me for the information sheet and booklet if you would like to complete it on line.

I am hoping to run a "RAN-EC Training" evening— mid, term 1 but of course, it will be dependent on COVID restrictions. More information will be out closer to the time.

If you have attended this training at your local school, in the last few years, you will not need to do it

again. I will just need a copy of your certificate.

**I have attached some information on how to apply for a Working with Children's Check.**

## Diary for pick ups Sign in & out

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. We have a diary on the sign in table where you can record that your child is being picked up on a particular day by someone different. It's also important to inform a teacher of the different arrangements. If something unexpected occurs which means your child is going to be picked up by someone else, then just give the kindy a call.

We appreciate your support with this as informing us avoids confusion for staff.

As part of the National Quality Standards introduced in 2012, all parents / care providers must sign in and out everyday they attend.

The Sign in table will be located for term 1, by our gathering place—the painted snake near our gates.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN YOUR CHILD IN AND OUT EVERYDAY.**

Last year I gave you some information about the "Skoolbag" phone APP for Android / IPHones. as a means of sending newsletters and notices to you. For those families without Android / IPHones, this information will be sent via email.

Can you please make sure the APP is downloaded to your phone to ensure that you receive the information.

Previous families found the APP / email a positive way of being informed, rather than hard copies. I hope you find it useful too.

As we don't have access to note pockets this term, fees accounts and events notes will be handed to you.

## Sending daily photos

Families have asked whether we have an APP such as Seesaw, to share regular photos of their child. The previous Governing Councils have preferred that we prioritise the every day curriculum and learning for each child, rather than spend time away from children, sending out photos to families. I realise that currently adults cant access the classrooms and therefore, cant check through children's work folders where photos and work are kept / see displays of children's work. Over the next couple of weeks, the staff will work through this issue to find a solution.

We do have the Skoolbag APP where I send out newsletters etc. Please keep an look out for information sent to APP & email. This information is not about specific children, but general in nature.

## Staff for 2021

Our staff team is

- Chris Catt (Director) full time

(Works both gold & blue groups)

- Maddie Hall (Teacher) full time.

(Works both gold & blue groups)

- Susie Westman (Teacher) - 0.5.

(Works with gold group)

- Lyn Kromer (ECW) full time

(Works both gold & blue groups)

- Robyn Hillier (ECW) 0.5

(Works with gold group)

- Karen Lord (ECW

(providing additional support as required)

Sara Dumican is one of our regular relief teachers and will support the staff and children for the first 2 days of term. But we will see Sara regularly throughout the year, filling in when staff are absent due to sickness or attending meetings etc.

We look forward to working with you and your child throughout the year.

## Friendship list

Each year we put together a friendship list for both the gold & blue groups. These lists become a contact list for parents who may wish to set up play dates etc for their children. **It's not compulsory to have your name on the friendship list.** It is only if you want to.

I will send home the friendship list note, next week.

## Term 1 Fees

At the end of this week you will receive a fees account in your note pocket. Fees for term 1 are

- Kindergarten—\$220.00 (this includes a \$20.00 fundraising levy per family per term and a \$20.00 excursion / incursion / special events levy per term)

You have 3 weeks to pay the fees. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to speak with me. All conversations will be in strictest confidence.

## A thought!

Before becoming a parent I never knew you could ruin someone's day by giving them the wrong coloured cup!



## BSB number / Paying fees

Payment of fees, excursions etc can occur through cash & cheque payments. We also have on line banking for your convenience in paying fees. You will also find the BSB number on your account

BSB no. 105084

Account no. 323231040

Whilst we have BSB for paying fees we prefer the smaller amounts for excursions etc to be paid to the centre (in cash) via the brown box. However, if it is more convenient to pay excursions via the online system, that will be fine. When making any payment via on line banking please make sure you record your name / the number on your fees account etc, and place the account in the brown box. This will allow easy identification by the treasurer.

**If paying by cash please make sure you have the correct money.**

**Please note we do not give out change.**

Place the money with the payment slip in an envelope, in the brown box located on the shelf near the kitchen. Please be aware that staff do not give out change, if you do not have correct money in the envelope,

# Nutrition Policy

Last year, you received a nutrition policy in a pack of information. Below is a quick guide to suitable / unsuitable foods for lunch. The guide can also be used for snacks. However, we do not recommend sandwiches for snack & lunch on a full day as they are very filling. We find children who have a sandwich for snack are unlikely to eat a sandwich for lunch.

**If you would like another copy of the nutrition policy, just ask one of the staff or I can send a copy via email. Alternatively a copy can be found on the website and phone APP.**

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

## Nut Free Policy

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 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.

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.

## Yoghurts

Due to choking hazards we **do not** allow yoghurts in the squeeze packs with screw top lids. We had an incident whereby a child removed the lid with their teeth, which resulted in the child choking. Please send yoghurts in the tubs with a spoon. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to speak with the staff.



## Clothing for sale

We have a range of clothing for sale which have the Mitcham Preschool logo as part of their design. It is not compulsory to wear the clothing. It's totally up to you and your child.

The range includes

- Navy t shirts with hot pink logo in sizes 4 & 6 (cost is \$10.00 each)
- Navy t shirts with white logo in sizes 4 & 6 (cost is \$10.00 each)
- Navy jumper (fleecy) with white logo in sizes 4 & 6 (cost is \$25.00 each)
- Navy bucket hat with white logo, one size fits all (cost is \$10.00 each)

There is a display of the clothing in the passageway above the lockers.

Clothing must be paid for at the time of purchase by cash or cheque. Please have the correct money as we do not have change.

Please see one of the staff if you are interested in purchasing any items of clothing.

## Boxes, Boxes, Boxes

We are in need of boxes of all shapes and sizes for the box construction. Children love making with boxes. It is an activity that develops children's

- problem solving skills (how will I put these boxes together / how will they stick),
- numeracy skills (what sizes will I need, how many boxes do I need, how long will it measure)
- Creative skills (what will I make with the boxes?)
- Social skills (sharing, turn taking, working cooperatively)

So please start collecting boxes for us as soon as possible. They can include cereal, biscuit, toothpaste, tea bag, packet mixes etc, etc. Please DO NOT send washing powder boxes, personal hygiene or medication boxes or milk containers. We can't use them.

Thank you. All our constructionists will love the boxes you bring in. You may get them back home again, in a creative masterpiece!

Just to let you know that there will be a coffee van at Mitcham Primary every Friday morning, for parents / carers / staff. He is usually at the school from 8am and will be located near the canteen (which is close to our building).

Feel free to stop for a coffee.

## Term Dates

### Term 1:

January 27th — April 9th

### Term 2:

April 27th—July 2nd

### Term 3:

July 19th — September 24th

### Term 4:

October 11th —December 10th

Each year, an Annual General Meeting (AGM) is held to elect a new Governing Council for the coming year. This year the Annual General Meeting will be held on

**Monday February 15th**

Being involved on a Governing Council is very rewarding. It is a way to meet new friends and find out what happens behind the scenes at kindy. You are also involved in making decisions and setting policies, that support your child's education. Without a Governing

Council, we can not make these decisions or operate financially.

Our governing council meets twice per term in the evening. We only have one fund raising event per year and 2 social events. Therefore time involved on the Governing Council, outside of meetings is limited.

You can be involved in a position on the Governing Council, such as Chairperson, secretary or treasurer, or as a social member.

Information about the evening, and the role of the Governing Council will be available soon.

If you are interested in finding out more or would be interested in joining the 2021 Governing Council, please come and speak with one of the staff.

## Please remember

- To social distance when at school
- To keep your child at home if they are unwell, even with a cold. If your child becomes unwell at kindy, we will call you / emergency contacts to collect them.
- Hand sanitiser is provided for your use

By following the regulations of SA Health, we will continue to keep our community safe and healthy

This has been a lengthy newsletter to start the year. Please keep newsletters, diary dates, excursion notes etc in a safe place so that you are aware of what is happening at kindergarten. It is going to be a busy but exciting year at Mitcham Preschool

Thank you as always for your continued support.

It is always appreciated.

Chris, Maddie, Suzie, Lyn, Robyn, Karen

