

NEWSLETTER Term 1 Week 1 2016



Welcome to Term 1

Welcome to our new year! We look forward to a happy and exciting time with lots of fun and learning. This year the children all start at the same time. Settling will vary according to each child. Please be patient during this big step in the life of your child(ren). We want to work in partnership with you to ensure the best outcome for your child(ren) so that they become comfortable and develop a sense of belonging to the kindergarten environment.

"When children feel safe, secure and supported they grow in confidence to explore and learn" (DEEWR, 2009I).

Sessions Monday to Thursday 8:30 am to 3:15pm. Please collect your child by 3:15pm (unless prearranged, or there is an emergency) to allow staff time to plan and prepare for the children's individual and collective needs and to set up the kindergarten for the next day. We understand many parents also have school children to collect, and we encourage you to drop your school children off first in the morning and pick up your kindergarten child first in the afternoon. **Friday 9:00am to 12:00noon.** This 3 hour session on alternate Fridays enables the kindergarten to offer 15 hours per week universal access. Once again collecting your child promptly at the end of the session will help staff.

Staffing In the first two weeks of term we welcome Lis Chapman to a full-time teaching role. For the remainder of the year she will be teaching each Wednesday. Mandy Smith will be returning as full-time teacher in week 3. Each Friday we welcome once again Silvia Lodge who runs the engaging interactive German program - sharing German culture, customs and language with the children.

Dates to Remember

Annual General Meeting 17/2/2015

You are cordially invited to attend the kindergarten Annual General Meeting which will be held on Wednesday, February 17th at 7:30 pm.

Term Fees

Fees are \$120 per term plus a \$10 fundraising levy. Invoices will be placed in your communication pocket during Week 1. Current fees include lunch care. Direct Debiting is available.

Curriculum Focus

Identity

The first couple of weeks will have a strong focus on getting to know the children and developing positive, respectful relationships with the children and their families. This begins as we greet each child on arrival and make them welcome, and supporting them to develop a sense of belonging to their kindergarten. Intentional teaching will focus on children's identity and family, exploring familiar themes about themselves and their home context. *The Australian Years Early Learning Framework [EYLF]- Outcome 1: Children have a strong sense of identity.*

Literacy

Educators will further develop and begin to extend children's oral language through planned and group-time stories and activities; initiating and sharing conversations with the children; and modelling appropriate language to support interactions between peers. Visuals will be used to help the children interact with and understand the expectations of routines such as group time. *EYLF - Outcome 5: Children are effective communicators.*

Numeracy

Planned learning stations include sorting and classification, first by one attribute (such as colour or size); along with exploring volume through water play (weather permitting). *EYLF - Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners.*

Understanding and Managing Separation

Helping manage separation distress

Parents and carers can help reduce their child's distress by:

- Supporting your child to develop helpful thinking and reminding them of what usually happens when you are away from each other. "When I leave you, you are ok and I'll come back for you."
- Give your child some ways to cope when they are apart from you - "here is a photo of us together to remind you we will be together again soon" "Let's take some deep breaths to calm us down."
- Being calm and helping your child to be calm too - "Mummy seems happy and relaxed, everything is ok. I feel safe."
- Call the service about half an hour after learning to see how their child is going.

Source: Understanding and managing separations distress (Kids Matter).

Snacks and Lunches

Snack

Please leave your child's fruit snack and drink bottle in their bag. This helps develop their independence during the snack time and allows free access to their drink at any time during the day.

Nutritious snacks include fruit, cheese or vegetables.

Lunch

In the morning help your child to place their lunch box in the tubs under the adult sign-in. Staff will relocate them to a cooler area during the morning. This also helps children manage and understand the different eating routines. Please put cold packs in lunch boxes.

Summer - Hot Weather

Sunscreen

For best results please apply **before** coming to kindergarten. We have sunscreen to reapply in the afternoon - please let us know if your child is allergic to any brands.

Drinks

Please ensure your child has a named drink bottle - we can refill with filtered water as required.

Hats

All children must wear a named hat to play outside for Term 1 - preferably a bucket, legionnaire or broad-brimmed style.

Please ensure hats and all belongings (including bags, clothes, shoes, lunch boxes etc) are clearly named.

Staff Team

Director: Beryl Barnard

Teachers: Mandy Smith, Alana Poletta,
Silvia Lodge and Lis Chapman

ECWs: Sue Tapp and Libby Wells

Preschool Support: Tanya Secomb

Finance Officer: Deb Montgomery

Vounteer: Rosalie Kowald

Session Times

Pre-School

Monday - Thursday

8:30am to 3:15am

Friday

9:00am to 12:00pm

Playgroup

Afternoon (Friday only)

12:30am to 2:30pm



Washing Roster

A washing roster can be found on the notice board. A gentle reminder will be place in your communication pocket when it is your turn We thank you for helping in this way - by washing items such as smocks and cloths once in your child's kindergarten year.

Thank you.