

NEWSLETTER Term 1 Week 1 2017



Welcome to Term 1

Welcome to our new year! We have had a great start to the year. As the term gets underway we look forward to getting to know the children and embarking on a wonderful learning journey with them. We have lots of exciting things planned for the term, as we follow the children's interests and support them to create a rich learning environment.

Building trusting and caring relationships with your child is our focus, and their well-being is always our priority. Please feel free to chat with staff about your child and if needed, a convenient time can be arranged if more time is required.

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

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.

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, please ensure you pick your child up on time, as staff are required to attend a whole staff meeting at 12:30.

Staffing We welcome Jane Thornton and Alana Weir to our teaching team this year. Jane will be our full-time teacher and Alana will be working in the IPP. We welcome once again Silvia Lodge who runs the engaging interactive German program each Friday- sharing German culture, customs and language with the children.

Dates to Remember

Annual General Meeting Wednesday 15/2/2017 You are cordially invited to attend the kindergarten Annual General Meeting which will be held on Wednesday, February 15th at 7:30 pm.

Kindergarten Closure Day Monday 20/2/2017 Our preschool will be closed on this day to enable all staff to participate in a Hills Heysen Partnership training day. The day will focus on research by John Hattie on ways we can make learning visible for our children. We look forward to sharing with you our new knowledge and implementing it in our kindergarten.

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

Children explore volume through water play. Planned learning stations include sorting and classification and number songs *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).

Collecting your child from kindergarten

At the end of the day we are aware that many parents arrive before 3:15pm to collect children, due to co-ordinating school pick up or other commitments. If you require your child to leave early, please make sure they remain on the floor (if they have seen you), the teacher will then make eye contact with you, asking if you would like to sign out straight away. Staff will then farewell your child. We require the children to remain with the group and discourage children running out the door to meet a parent in the foyer. This routine is for their safety, so we can observe who is collecting the child and ensure no child is left unsupervised out in the yard. We appreciate your support in helping us establish this routine.

If you have arranged for someone else to pick your child up, please leave a note in the diary in the kitchen, or phone to let a member of staff know.

Borrowing We have literacy packs and books from our library available for children to borrow. Literacy packs are kept near the entrance and we ask that you borrow one at a time. There is a card lending system to record what you have borrowed. This can be found on top of the cupboard in the foyer. Please advise us of any damaged or missing pieces.



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

Term Fees

Fees are \$120 per term plus a \$10 fundraising levy. Invoices have been placed in your communication pocket, which are near the sign in sheets.

Staff Team

Director: Beryl Barnard
Teachers: Jane Thornton, Alana Poletta,
Lis Chapman and Silvia Lodge
ECWs: Sue Tapp, Libby Wells and Alana Weir
Preschool Support: Tanya Secomb
Finance Officer/ Preschool Support:
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 placed 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.