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# NEWSLETTER

Dear Families

What a great start to the year! The children have come with varied experiences and are all managing the routines really well. There have been many special connection moments enjoyed together already.

We look forward to sharing with you their learning growth, development and joy of exploration at our beautiful site this year.

Juls is excited to be back at this truly wonderful learning environment and is relishing the opportunity to take on the teaching role alongside Julie. She brings a continuity for the children in already building connections from last year's pre entry visits. Thank you too for the warm welcome as it has been lovely meeting many of you again as you have supported your child in their transition into kindergarten life.

We said a sad farewell and do wish Donna Buckley all the very best as she starts a full year contract elsewhere. However we welcome Jaime Goodenough as an early childhood worker who is supporting the children in their learning a few hours each day this year.

This is a wonderful community to work within and we all look forward to an amazing year.

Please see Julie if you have any questions and if you ever need a lengthy chat she is always available to find a convenient time.

Regards  
 Julie, Juls and Jaime

### Governing Council meeting

The Annual General meeting will be on Wednesday February 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm at kindergarten followed by a short general meeting

with the newly elected Governing council for 2021. You received a letter earlier this week explaining this in further detail. Have your say and be a part of the kindergarten governance. Please continue to bring in those response forms or contact us here at kindy. Thank you to the parents who have already responded, we look forward to working with you this year in managing and improving the learning outcomes for all our children.



### Communication

We will often share information with you about the curriculum (all the experiences that support your child as a learner) and your individual child's development, verbally and in their Learning Journals. Please check emails, texts and our private facebook for general information. Child-care children may have notes placed in their bags at times too.

Sometimes you will receive community organisation's leaflets as we love to support our local community. We also have a Community folder about local services and events for children under the bench of the parent sign in sheet.

### Communication / Storypark

Please note that this forum will be initiated sometime soon and will be used to share community posts and announcements as well as individual / group learning stories. Your feedback/ comments helps us to enrich and further extend children's learning. Further details to come.

## Toys

We ask that children do not bring their own toys e.g. matchbox cars, dolls etc to kindergarten. They can be lost or broken and sometimes cause conflict. We have fantastic resources here so please explain to your children that they are best left at home.

## Birthday's

Birthdays are very exciting occasions when you turn four and five. If the children would like to celebrate here with their friend's we would love them to bring in something healthy to share, rather than a cake, to be in line with our Nutrition Policy. Examples of what you could provide include home-made fruit muffins, fresh juice iceblocks, a cheese platter or fruit kebabs.



## Parent help

We often have small jobs that need attending to. If anyone is available to do this on a regular basis please let us know.

On Thursday (even weeks) and Wednesday (odd weeks) it takes time to pack away/ clean and prepare for the following week. We would love a parent to come in and assist - clean paint and glue brushes, wash dishes etc. Please let Julie or Juls know if you can help on a regular basis.

If anyone has chooks at home we can supply a daily bag of our food scraps for recycling for your chooks.

We will sometimes have a washing bag near the parent sign in sheet - so if you see it and are able to take it home to wash and return the following week with the clean items, we would appreciate it. Thank you!

## Playgroup

Playgroup started on Wednesday Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:30 - 11:30. This service will run in conjunction with kindergarten session time. It will give our caring

children the opportunity to be leaders in the play environment. Please consider coming along if you have younger children. The cost is \$2 per family each visit to cover costs. Please let other families in the community know about this wonderful opportunity.

## Curriculum News - What we are learning

Educators plan a fortnightly program that is led by the emergent ideas of the children, as well as the strengths, needs and interests of each child. It is continually being modified and adapted each day based on observations and responding to teachable moments. We strongly believe in listening to the children's voices when formulating our focus for learning.

We will be recording the children's learning through photo's / children's drawings or words each fortnight in the 'Big Book of Learning'. This is found on the entry table. We encourage you to share their joyful discoveries with them. We welcome any parent input on ideas or involvement to further enrich our program.

In our first week of kindergarten it was wonderful to see the children engage in a range of experiences independently. E.g. Making interesting recipes at our mud kitchen area/ mud flavoured cuppa tea's for the staff?! We have some keen construction problem-solvers and budding artists - evident in our many paintings.

The children have managed relaxation time well - straight after lunch they lay or sit and we encourage them to calm and still their bodies as they listen to quiet music and/ or stories. Sensory additions, like candles and soft squishy objects, to hold help the children to focus.

After this we have implemented a whole group activity time together where we focus on fine motor strengthening activities, listening to instructions, learning how to paste / cut etc and providing the time and place to be creative using a variety of materials.

We are now going to begin our family tree display. We ask children to bring in a family photo which they will talk about at 'Sharing Time'. We will laminate it and keep it on this tree display board all year. It is a great discussion point and children can also take the photo down when they are sad and missing their family and hold on to it until they are ready to play. So please send one along or email one and we will print it off here.

For mathematics/numeracy the children have been enjoying some finger-play songs (such as 5 Little Ducks and 5 Cheeky Monkeys). These allow children to grow in their mathematical understanding of concepts such as 1:1 correspondence, measuring and representing data.

This year we will have a strong focus on literacy development. Staff have already been amazed at the level of engagement of children in our whole group activities. We have had a great start to the year and are excited to see where this year's learning journey will take us.



## Fees

Fees have been sent out today, they are due by Thursday March 4th. If you pay on line please key in your invoice number and your child's name as the reference. Payment envelopes are on the bench if you are paying by cash. Please place them in the fees box on the staff office door. Receipts are only issued for cash payments.

We also now have credit card payment facility onsite, let us know ahead of time if required. Thank you

As we do not receive funding from the Dept for Education for resources for our children, we rely on fundraising and do value the prompt payment of these fees to help us.

## Please remember

- Arrive at 9.00 am and pickup at 3.00 pm. Staff need time in the morning to set up the day's experiences and discuss issues that may be confidential. Then at the end of the day we walk some children to childcare. Thank you
- Sign in and out each day
- Apply sunscreen to your child before arrival - if you forget please use ours
- Provide a bottle of water each day
- Ensure your child has a broad brimmed hat.
- Pack an ice brick in your child's lunch box
- Pack extra set of clothes in child's bag
- Name label everything
- Family Photo

## Diary Dates

- **Wed Feb 17<sup>th</sup>**  
Julie at a leaders day  
AGM 6:30pm
- **Wed March 31<sup>st</sup>** Bush Kindy visit for a Clean up Australia day event
- **Easter 2<sup>nd</sup> April - 5<sup>th</sup> April**
- **Last day of term Wed April 7<sup>th</sup>**
- **Holidays 19<sup>th</sup> April - 30<sup>th</sup> April**
- **Term 2 starts Tues 4<sup>th</sup> May**

