



June 2017



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Well today is the first official day of winter but I'm sure it sneaked in early this year!

Keep warm and enjoy reading this edition of our newsletter.

Reminder – we are closed Monday 5th June for Queen's Birthday holiday.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees thought it would be a good idea to introduce themselves and let you know a little about each member on the board, so each month we will introduce a member to you.

Hi, my name is Jane Thwaites and I am the current Chairperson of the Board. I have been involved with the preschool for around 10 years. I did my placement here in 2006 when I was studying as an Early Childhood Teacher and then went on to get my first teaching job here once I graduated in 2008. I now work part time in Christchurch as a Hospital Play Specialist on the Paediatric wards.

I have 3 children, two of whom are now at school, but attended Darfield Preschool and my third child is currently attending Preschool a couple of days a week.

I find my role as Chairperson very rewarding. I enjoy working with a team of dedicated teachers, all willing and able to make a difference in our children's lives. As an early childhood teacher myself I understand the importance of socialisation and play, both areas which I think the preschool can pride themselves on providing.

Our annual AGM is coming up in July so if anyone is keen to join the Board of Trustees or just wants to know a little bit more about it please don't hesitate to contact me. My phone number is available through Clare.

I look forward to meeting you at preschool, preschool events or our next AGM (we do provide drinks and nibbles).

PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Please understand that our teachers need to keep a professional relationship with parents/caregivers and children at all times. This means we discourage them becoming 'friends' with parents on Facebook so as not to put them in any uncomfortable situations that might arise around discussions about children. We understand that you may have already been friends or family members with them before your children started at Preschool but please don't ask them questions that they may be unable to answer due to our confidentiality rules.

STARTING SCHOOL

Children usually start school when they turn 5 and our system is set up to account for this and their preschool space will finish once they turn 5.



If your child turns 5 before the end of 2017 and you haven't already let us know they will be staying the likelihood is that we won't have a space for them. If your child is turning 5 in

2018 and you are thinking of keeping them at preschool after their birthday please see Clare now.

ACCIDENT FORMS

If 'accident form' is written next to your child's name on the enrolment form please see a teacher so they can explain what happened and get you to sign the accident form acknowledging that you have been advised. This is a requirement from the Ministry of Education and may help you to understand the bump on their head at bedtime ☺

SIGNING IN

Please, please, please remember to sign you child in and out each time they are here. The sign-in sheet is a requirement of our licence with the Ministry of Education as well as being very important in the case of an emergency as this is how we check who is and isn't here at that moment in time. If they aren't signed in or out and there was a fire we would not know if they were here or not and someone might have to go looking for them!



FROM THE NURSERY

It has been a chilly month, but this has not stopped us from rugging up and exploring what our outside environment has to offer. The tamariki have been enjoying the lovely crunchy autumn coloured leaves, especially when there is a pile of them at the bottom of the slide which they can land in when they slide down!



It has been an exciting month for our non-crawling babies as they have now developed more control of their bodies and have started to crawl. They are now using their new skill to explore everywhere and everything! Gaining control of their bodies is such an important part of their development; all of the Kaiako/teachers are here to support them on this exciting new journey.



A huge thank you to Kaiako Sara and husband Dean for installing our new water pump located in our water play area outside. It is such a fantastic way to reuse water! All of the tamariki from the Nursery and Preschool have been very intrigued as to how it works and have helped water the plants with the pumped water.

On that note, this month we said farewell to Sara as she went on maternity leave. We wish her and her family all the best for their new adventure. We also said goodbye to Olivia as they have moved to a new house.

From the Nursery Team Sara, Mel, Emily, Netty, Pietta, Janice and Chelsey.

HAERE MAI FROM THE PRESCHOOL

We've been very busy as usual in the Preschool. The children have loved having the new Wendy house to play in. We have picked potatoes and leeks from our veggie garden and made some delicious soup that was lovely to eat on a cold afternoon. Some children also got to visit the community garden last week and help with the planting.

Alissa brought in a drum set in and the children had a great time making music! Jake's mum brought in their new puppy, Zoe, to meet all the children, she was lovely and soft. Matariki is coming up this month so we



have been learning about the meaning of this with stories and a song that Bee has been signing with the children, we also made some yummy star biscuits.

Looking forward to another great month, from all the Preschool Teachers

Wendi, Corita, Janice, Jo, Hayley, Barb, Alissa, Ann-Clare, Amy and Belinda



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

We wish the following tamariki a very happy June birthday.

Harley Cooper-Blackburn turns 5 and is off to school

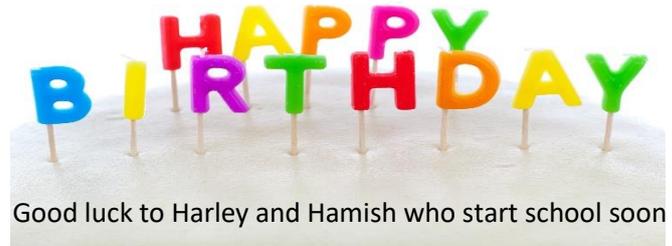
Bonnie Dennis turns 4

Hamish Flynn turns 5 and is off to school

Tyler McCorkindale will be 4

Faith Wendover turns 2 and comes through to the Preschool

Fraser Hughes will be 4



Good luck to Harley and Hamish who start school soon

FROM TEACHER JANICE

Thank you! I am really grateful to all the parents who have returned their consents and questionnaires in relation to my research project. A friendly reminder to anyone who still has forms to complete – I would love your input so please return any questionnaires when you are able to – again, thank you so much.

4 YEAR OLD SLEEPOVER

Exciting news - On Thursday 15th June the four years olds will be having a "sleepover" here at Preschool. More details will be coming out soon for those children involved.



INVITATION



This Friday (tomorrow) you are invited to join us from 1pm to come and join in with the children be making Poi.

DO YOU HAVE?

Do you have any largish pieces of fake grass we can have for our toys animals.



NAPPIES



We are using an increasing number of preschool nappies. We do remind you and ask for nappies to be sent in before they run out either in person or by writing it on the sign in sheet. If we continue to use so many preschool nappies we will start charging \$1 for every nappy that is used.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Last year's Entertainment Book finishes today!



We still have a number of the new, shiny books available for purchase – the digital version is constantly being updated with new places and offers. The new café in Farringdon, Rolleston called Pedal Pushers has been added with 25% off your bill.

Either click on the link below or see Lou to get a book.

<http://www.entbook.co.nz/9a27754>

CLOTHES DURING WINTER MONTHS

As the wet and cold weather is here please make sure your child has a **named** jacket and gum boots as we will still be exploring outside when we can. We are trying to get the children to leave their wet muddy gum boots outside when we come back in so if you would like to bring in a pair of slippers (**named of course**) for them to change into, that would be great. Parents, be a good role model and please leave your boots outside too! Thanks.

****Remember to name all tops, bottoms, socks, slippers, jackets and gum boots as children do take their own clothes off and leave them everywhere and sometimes we have trouble trying to match items with their owners (hence the many things in the lost property box).**



WORKING BEE

Thank you to all those parents that came and helped, we managed to tick off a number of jobs. We may look at having another one in the summer.

STAFFING

We said farewell to Sara as she went off on maternity leave and await more news!

Jane Thwaites has joined us as a relieving teacher so please make her welcome when you see her.

We also welcome Jasmine to our team part-time. She will be working mainly in the Preschool and is a first year student completing her Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood). The children have already had a chance to meet her and play.

MISSING

We are missing one of our full booster seats with Bananas in Pyjamas material on it and does have Darfield Preschool written on the bottom of it. If you have borrowed it recently please could you return it to the seat shed as we use these for trips, thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 5th June Queens's birthday – we are closed

4 Year old Sleepover – Thursday 15th June

AGM meeting – Tuesday 4th July at Library

School Holidays – 10th - 21st July

Have a great month / Mā te wā

CLARE AND THE TEAM



Don't forget to like our Darfield Preschool & Nursery Facebook page. This is where we post news, important reminders and even closures due to snow etc. so please go and like the page and keep informed. We will of course still send out newsletters, emails and put important messages on our answer machine if needed.