



October 2017



Isn't it lovely having lighter evenings now, makes the days seem so much longer.

This edition of our newsletter is packed full of information including a summary from the answers to the parent survey we sent out a month or so ago, so grab a cuppa and take the time to read it thoroughly. We welcome any feedback or questions about our newsletter.



Christmas Closure

We will close at 3pm on Friday 22nd December
and

We re-open 7.30am Monday 8th January 2018

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

My name is Cat Mulligan and I've recently joined the Board of Trustees.

My husband, Tom and I have lived in Coalgate for 5 years now and we have Lily (3) and Joe (1).



Most of our family live in the North Island but we have made ourselves a wonderful home here in Canterbury. We love the lifestyle here, the stunning scenery and the warm community feel of the area.

I grew up in Wellington and Auckland and did a Physiotherapy degree in Auckland before studying to become a mat and equipment trained Pilates Instructor, which I did for 12 years before starting a family.

Becoming a board member appealed as I really value the role of the Preschool in Lily & Joe's development and education and want to show my appreciation in any way that I can. I'm very much learning as I go but hope I can give something back to the Darfield Preschool Whanau: staff, children and their families.



SUNSCREEN – Important information

- From the beginning of October to the end of April, sunhats & sunscreen are compulsory.
- On bad weather days, Head Teachers will decide, based on forecast & UVR indication from the UVlens app, whether sun screen needs to be applied.
- For children who arrive at the centre before 8.30am, staff will apply sunscreen before 10am.
- **All children who arrive at the centre between 8.30am & 12.30pm, it will be the responsibility of the parents/caregivers to apply sunscreen to their children. The centre will make available sunscreen for parents to use. This will be placed at the sign in desk in the foyer. If your child arrives after the application times, please apply sunscreen before you arrive.**
- Sunscreen will be applied at approximately 12.30pm & 2.30 pm to all children.
- UVR levels will be checked by the UVlens App between May and September. If the UVR levels are 3 or above, after 10am and before 4pm, we will apply sunscreen.
- On the days specified above, children and staff will wear hats when outside. Children not wearing hats will be asked to play indoors.
- The centre will supply appropriate sunhats. These will be washed after each use.
- Children and adults will be encouraged to wear 'Sunsmart' clothes, i.e., t-shirts rather than singlet tops.
- The centre will have available a broad spectrum reputable sunscreen for use. Children under 1 year of age will not have sunscreen applied unless parents request this and provide their own sunscreen.
- **If a child is excluded from using the Centre's sunscreen then their parent /caregiver / whānau will be required to provide a named sunscreen for their child and a sunscreen form completed and signed.**
- Staff and Management will work together to provide a 'Sunsafe' environment.

We do provide sunhats for the children but if you would like to bring a hat for your child it must be named and we are not responsible if it goes missing.

If you have any queries or questions please see the Head Teachers, Emily or Wendi.

STAFF PROFILES

Following feedback from our survey, we thought it would be quite nice to do the profiles of our staff too, so this month we are introducing Emily – Head Teacher from the Nursery.

Hello everybody, I am Emily Baker, and I am the current head teacher in the Nursery. I completed my bachelor of Teaching and Learning (Early Childhood) in 2014 through the University of Canterbury and have worked at Darfield Preschool and Nursery since 2015. I have always loved children, and with both my grandmothers being Early Childhood Teachers, it became a dream of mine to also pursue this career. I grew up in Loburn, slightly North of Rangiora on a small lifestyle block with my family. I have recently moved back to live in Loburn with my family and my dog Tia.



I love sports, and play basketball for North Canterbury. Last weekend we won the top grade in the Canterbury region! I also paddle for the Waimak Dragon boat club.

STAFFING NEWS

We are pleased to welcome Kari back to Preschool, she will be doing some relieving work for us and we also welcome Sarah Aarts to the Preschool who is also going to be doing some relieving when we need it.



NEWS FROM THE NURSERY

This last month we have been very lucky in having our very own Pietta completing her first teacher placement towards her teaching degree! It has been lovely for the tamariki and Kaiako to have Pietta with us every day of the week. This has allowed us to enjoy an extra teacher on some days so we could take advantage of being able to get out and enjoy our nature and vegetable garden more often. The tamariki loved going out the gate and walking around to the garden to explore. There are many exciting bushes and trees to walk in between. Kaiako Chelsey took a few children on a bear hunt through the nature walk!



The tamariki love looking around the veggie garden and in the upcoming months there will be more vegetables and fruit to try, yum!

With having many hot days recently it has been a lot of fun getting lots of water play out! We have a lovely water area outside and the tamariki have been busy figuring out how to use the waterwheels and also our water pump. Water is a great way to cool down, play alongside your peers, and also allows the tamariki to explore and develop their persistence and perseverance when given a challenge.



We would also like to welcome Kate to the Nursery. Kate will be working a Monday with us. I am sure that everyone will make her feel welcome.

Reminder -please provide us with many spare clothes as there will be more water play with the warmer weather ahead.

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

WHAT BEEN HAPPENING IN THE PRESCHOOL?

Hasn't it been great to see the sun out and the weather getting warmer? The children in the Preschool have sure enjoyed it. We welcomed spring in with lots of discussions on spring flowers and the new lambs. We were lucky enough to have a visit from a lamb that has been rescued. The children are continuing to build and explore on their ideas about the world around them.

The warmer weather has meant lots more water play outside. The children have enjoyed exploring with water in the sandpit. They have been using their imagination and have been creating lots of wonderful different creations like rivers and lakes. This has led to lots of splashing and getting our feet wet.



We have also been doing a lot of investigating around worms and worm farms. We are now the proud owners of our very own worm farm. This is a great opportunity for the children to learn more about what they do for our environment and how they can help with the growth in the vegetable garden.



We look forward to seeing what next month will bring.

Have a good month from the Preschool Team

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

We wish the following tamariki a very happy October birthday:

Monique de Ville (5)
Emma George (5)
Harry Batstone (2)
Keegan Blacklock (4)
Tyler Blacklock (4)
Hannah Grenfell (3)
Ruby Lee (5)
Ryan de Ville (2)
Macleod King (3)
Oakley Cole (2)
Emily Batstone (5)
Georgia Cracknell (1)
Lachlan Inch (5)
Declyn Pink (5)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Wow, so many birthdays in October!

Also, farewell and good luck to Ruby, Emma, Monique, Emily and Declyn who are all off to school, we will miss you all.

WORKING BEE

Our next working bee will be on Saturday 11th November so mark this date in your diary – more details to come.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Party time is coming to Preschool so keep Sunday 10th December free – more details to come.



OLIVER SPENCE UPDATE

Just a quick update on Oliver's health, he has 2 chemo sessions left and as these chemo's aren't quite as harsh as the others he is recovering quicker and feeling better after each one. He has started coming along to Preschool for short visits which will start increasing in between his chemo's. He has lost his hair and has a feeding tube and the other children have accepted this and we have answered their questions if they have asked.

MOBILE PHONE NEEDED

Do you have an old mobile phone that is still working that you could donate to Preschool as we would like to trial this as another way of parents communicating absences and give us a way of letting you you're your child has settled if they come in upset? We will buy a new SIM card for it. This is only a trial to see if it is something that works and parents like, you can of course still phone and email absences to us on our land line, email address.

SEPTEMBER CHALLENGE

Clare, Lou, Wendi and Janice – 'The Preschool Primadonnas' and Corita, Ariana, Amy & Jo 'Team Crackers', have finished the Steptember Challenge. The 2 teams walked a staggering 2,383,451 steps over the month and raised \$244 for Cerebral Palsy.



Well done girls ☺

MOVING HOUSE

If you have moved to a new address, have a new phone number or email address please remember to let us know as we will need to update our system with your new details.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Some important dates for you to remember.



School holidays – 2nd October – 13th October 2017

Labour Day – Monday 23rd October – we are closed

Working Bee – Saturday 11th November

Canterbury Day Friday 17th November – we are closed

Kirwee A & P Show – Saturday 25th November

Children's Christmas Party – Sunday 10th December

Christmas Holidays - we will close at 3pm on Friday 22nd December and re-open 7.30am Monday 8th January 2018



Parent Questionnaire Summary

Firstly we would like to say a big Thank you to all the parents that took the time to fill in the parent survey, it has provided us with some very useful information on which we can strengthen our practice within the centre. The results have been very positive with many of you believing that you have a good partnership with your child/ren's teachers. Some very valuable comments have been made about what these partnerships look like, mostly around communication with many comments being made on having a shared interest, authentic concern, and teachers being there

to chat. It has been noted that parents are aware of the busyness of the centre at drop off and pick up times and know that it can be a struggle to talk then, suggestions have been made that we have times that we can talk or even a parent/teacher evening where parents can come and talk with their child's key teacher. There were a few parents that noted that they wanted to get to know more about the teacher with one suggesting that we highlight a teacher in newsletter like we have been for the board members. We think that this is a fantastic idea and will start doing that this month. Parents have also noted that they would like to more involved in their children's learning and have more feedback on what has happened during the day at Preschool. There were a few comments made about the profile book and how often parents look at them. We would like you all to know that you are able to take these books home as often as you like, please feel free to add pictures and stories of your own. There were also some comments of concern to us as some parents felt uninvolved in their child's learning, this is an area we will be working hard to correct. We also want to continue to develop your understanding of why we plan for your child/ren's using the process that we do and making sure that you feel fully involved in your child/ren's learning journey. Here is our action plan so far

- Having a daily feedback pin board about what is happening that day from both Nursery and Preschool
- To make sure that all parents are welcomed when they arrive and said goodbye to when leaving.
- Introducing staff through our newsletter – starting in October
- Possibly looking in to holding a mini parent/teacher interview type evening
- Look into having a parent information evening – teacher lead
- Letting Whanau know our methods of communication between us as staff
- Making sure we are involving whanau in decisions about their child/ren's learning
- Letting parents know that they are able to look at and take home profile books at any time.

Have a great month / Mā te wā

CLARE AND THE TEAM

Website: <http://darfieldpreschool.co.nz/>

Phone: 03 318 8836



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.



FUNDRAISING **CORNER**

FROOZE BALLS FUNDRAISER



We still have a supply of Frooze Balls if you would like to buy some. They are \$20 per box or \$2.50 per packet. The boxes contain a selection of flavours. Come and see us in the office if you would like some. We are hoping to purchase a new wooden train set and another large black tray with the funds raised from this.

LABELS FROM STUCK ON YOU

Stuckonyou Labels supply a huge selection of personalised labels, lunch boxes, drink bottles, clothing etc. If you order via the link below we will get a percentage back as a fundraiser.

<https://www.stuckonyou.nz/affiliate/fundraiser/DARFIELDPRESCHOOL>

When ordering please put **DARFIELDPRESCHOOL** as the fundraising code. Thank you.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS



Only **3** books left so get in quick if you would like one.

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

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

Thank you for your ongoing support with all our fundraising ventures.