

March 2019

The beginning of March brings the beginning of autumn with the sun going down earlier and darker



mornings with a chill in the air. Luckily we still have lots of sunny days to be able to be outside exploring our amazing 'backyard' here at preschool.

Have you seen the new adventure set hung between the poles with different attachments for testing our climbing and swinging skills? This was purchased with money raised through selling the Entertainment books last year.

You can pre-order this year's Entertainment Book by clicking on the link below.....

<https://www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/9a27754>

STAFFING

Unfortunately we have another member of staff leaving. Hayley will be leaving us on Friday 22nd March to take up a role nearer to her home. With Maddison now at school in Rolleston the travelling is proving difficult. It also means we say a goodbye to Kaden. You will both be missed.

Some good news, we have Barb Wilson coming back to us as a reliever, you will see her this week on Friday.

We are still advertising for a full-time teacher and will let you know how this process is going.

Jane Thwaites is the current Head Teacher for both the preschool and the nursery. Please see her if you need anything.



STAFF PROFILE

Kylie Schnell will be starting with us this week as a voluntary teacher in training.

Hi I am Kylie Schnell, I am 19 years old and have lived here in Darfield all my life. I am really looking forward to being part of this wonderful local preschool and I can't wait to get involved and also begin my training.



I live on a local sheep and beef farm with my family and my interests are being in the outdoors and exploring our beautiful country.

KIWI TIME

At the moment there is going to be no set time for Kiwi Time but you will see the teachers doing more Kiwi Time activities out in our environment, this gives every child a chance to be part of Kiwi Time activities no matter what time they arrive. We will be monitoring this over the next few months to see how it's going. Check out the Message Board on Educa.

SHEFFIELD SHOW Saturday 23rd March

It's nearly show time again. To enable us to continue to offer the tent with changing and feeding facilities to show-goers, we do ask our parents to please take a turn for an hour to 'man' the tent if you can. If we don't get enough support doing this this year we may not be able to offer this service for future events.

There will be a sheet in the foyer if you would like to help. As a thank you we will offer anyone who helps out on the day a free hot drink from Meccanno Coffee (Lou's coffee cart) who will be there on the day.



WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO RECENTLY.....

Kia ora e hoa

Wow March already, the months are certainly flying by and before you know it, it will be December!!!!!! (For those that love to be organised it is only 296 days until Christmas)

This summer is certainly making us think daily, which can cause much confusion for teachers deciding on whether we need summer or winter hats out! Even on a very cold and overcast day last week, our weather station was still recording the UV rate as 5.



For those that may be new to the centre or perhaps don't know - we sunscreen all children from the beginning of October until the end of April. After those months we are able to check the UV rate on our weather station and if it reaches 3 or above we will be sun screening all children.

We ask all parents, whose children start after 8.30am to please sunscreen their children when they drop them off and then our current routine is to re-sunscreen them at 10.30, 12.30 and 2.30pm. As we have now started trialling rolling kai we will be monitoring other routines to make sure everything still runs smoothly. We will keep you updated through emails and the newsletter if anything changes.



Both the preschool and nursery have been busy outside exploring lots of different water play. There has been plenty of rivers, lakes and dams being made in both sandpit areas and often the river from the nursery is then joined to the river in the preschool. Both nursery and preschool children love watching the water flow through the fence posts and the nursery children love to watch as the older children dig to make the river longer.

The blue slide has been made into a waterslide and on one occasion the children were zipping down with the help of dishwashing liquid. Water play provides such important learning opportunities for children from many different aspects.

We have decided that water is also going to be our theme for the up and coming Malvern show, in Sheffield, on the 23rd of March. Watch this space for more info on how you can help out with this.

Over the coming weeks you will see some new play equipment arrive in the preschool outdoor environment. The playground committee girls have been working hard to find equipment that will challenge and engage children while being fun and rewarding. Our children are already so capable and confident at climbing, swinging and balancing that I am sure that they will embrace the new equipment with ease.



I hope those that are linked into Educa have been enjoying the new way of seeing their children's learning at preschool. Please if you are having any problems or concerns see any of the teachers and they will be able to point you in the right direction. The teachers are enjoying the process and being able to post relevant stories on the day

We are wanting to get our collage and creativity table back in action so we would love any cereal boxes, egg carton, smallish boxes and magazines that you have spare for our area.

We are also going to be getting our carpentry area back into action so we would love any untreated wood and other carpentry items you may have spare.

We would love to welcome all of the new families to our preschool community. We are sure you are going to love it here and fit in perfectly!



Kia ora rawa atu

The Darfield Preschool and
Nursery Team



WET & SOILED CLOTHES

We have no plastic bags here for wet or soiled clothes. Any wet clothes will be put in the front pocket of your child's backpack unless another bag is provided. We still have lots of wet bags available from the office for \$10 if you'd like to purchase one.

Did you know.....

Your child's key teacher will work with you to set a learning focus/priority for your child's learning. This priority is based on what your child is currently showing an interest in learning about. It acts as a focus, an area that is given special attention and is interwoven in all aspects of our curriculum.

Each child's learning priority is displayed in both areas.

UPDATING YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Please remember to give us any new phone numbers, email addresses or home addresses if you have changed any of these over the Christmas break so that we can keep our system up to date. We often don't find out people have changed numbers until we need to

contact them!! Also, please check that the people you put down as next emergency contact (grandparents, friends etc) still have the same contact details too. Please check with Lou if you're not sure we have the correct details. Thank you.



PROFILE BOOKS

Profile books are always available for you to take home and share with other family members. Feel free to add pages with photos of any adventures you had over the holidays as we'd love to see them and talk about them with your child.

BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

We would like to wish the following tamariki a very Happy March Birthday.....

- Ethan Lenssen (1)
- Lily Mulligan (5)
- Alice Devereux (1)
- Lilly Devereux (3)
- Hunter Flynn (3)
- Zara Lee (4)
- Grace Grenfell (3)
- Yamen Khatib (5)
- Jack Redmond (5)



We say a sad goodbye to Lily and Yamen who are both off to school, we wish you all the best.

APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Although it seems a bit far away to be thinking of it – please could you have a think and let us know if your child will be away from preschool for those 2 weeks. The dates of the school holidays are Monday 15th April – Friday 26th April and does include Easter and Anzac day in the middle of them. Many people are taking the few days off to allow them a long holiday period. We would appreciate knowing if this is your plan so that we can plan with our teachers. Thank you.

LATE PICKUPS and ABSENCES

Please remember if you are going to be late picking up your child or if they are going to be away you can phone **03 318 8836** or email darfieldpreschool@xtra.co.nz or text **027 594 8423** thank you ☺

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Some important dates for you to remember.



Sheffield Show – Saturday 23rd March

School holidays – Mon 15th April – Friday 26th April

Good Friday – Friday 19th April - closed

Easter Monday – Monday 22nd April - closed

ANZAC Day – Thursday 25th April - closed

Queen's Birthday – Monday 3rd June - closed

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.

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

Phone: 03 318 8836

Mobile: 027 594 8423 (text only)