



# February 2020

Welcome back to Preschool for another exciting year of fun, learning and friendships. We've been hearing all about the children's holiday adventures and it sounds like they've all had lots of fun. It's lovely to see them reconnect with the friends they haven't seen for a few weeks and chatter as they play. We have said goodbye to a few more children off to school and welcomed some new families to our centre.

Hope you enjoy the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of this year's newsletter.

**REMEMBER WE ARE CLOSED FOR  
WAITANGI DAY ON  
THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

## STAFFING

We welcomed Leza into the Preschool team, many of you will have already met her. The children have enjoyed getting to know her and showing her around.

Congratulations to Sara and Dean on the safe (but very fast) arrival of Lily Alice in January. Joshua is loving being a big brother.

Barb is back and covering some of the days our other teachers are off.



We are holding a Big Heart family fun morning to raise vital funds for the Heart Foundation's Big Heart Appeal. We would love you to join us on Sunday 23rd February at the **Darfield Rec Centre playground** from 10.30 - 11.30am for some heart pumping fun and games:

Details:

- dress in red;
- bring along your favourite red food for your morning tea;
- a donation

We are hoping to win some exciting prizes from the Heart Foundation and spread the message about looking after our hearts.

See you there!!

**\*\*NO PEANUTS PLEASE\*\***

We are a completely peanut free centre.

This means no peanuts, no peanut butter sandwiches and no bars with peanuts on.

Nutella is fine.

This is due to a child with an allergy to peanuts, so please be considerate.



Thank you for your cooperation.

## VACANCIES

We have Monday, Wednesday and Friday spots available **this term only** in the Preschool. If you would like any extra days for this term come and talk to us in the office.

Also in the Preschool we currently have a few permanent afternoons available. Please come and see us if you would like one of these days.

If you are thinking about extra days or hours for your child sometime this year or next, please come and tell us and we can put them on the waiting list as our list has already started growing for this year.

## LUNCH BOXES

We are continuing to strive for rubbish free lunch boxes this year. There are some great lunch boxes for sale with all the little compartments in that keep the food separate enabling you to remove snacks from packets at home. We will continue to send packaging home in lunch boxes if it arrives here. Yoghurt pots and pouches are ok as we can recycle them.



During this hot weather please remember to thoroughly wash out drink bottles as they can harbor

bacteria. Remember, only water or milk should be drunk at preschool, not fruit juice.

Thank you for your on-going support.



### CHRISTMAS 2020 CLOSURE

We have already been asked about our **Christmas 2020** closedown period so here it is:

We will be closing on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm and we will be re-opening on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – hope this helps with your holiday planning. 😊

### 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.



### NEWS FROM THE NURSERY.....

It's been so lovely seeing all the tamariki return after the holiday break and hearing about all their amazing adventures. We have loved being able to share photos and stories from home with the children and being able to revisit and reflect on their learning experiences.



Kaiako Melissa (from the preschool) has joined us in the Nursery this year and has been enjoying getting to know all of our littlest learners and meeting you all. Kaiako Kate has returned to us for one day a week (currently a Tuesday), Pietta returns from an extended holiday and our full teaching team is back on board –

we are all looking forward to a year of fun and adventure here in the Nursery!

We have had some new families join us this year – welcome to Sophie, Angel, Mae and their families and welcome to Boden and Dani who have older siblings in the Preschool. It has been exciting getting to know our newest learners and watching them settle into the environment and programme so happily.



As we settle into the New Year, the Nursery kaiako will be beginning a group learning focus for the children – to work alongside each child's own individual learning focus.

A group learning focus is an area of learning that we have observed a number of children interested in collectively and is often connected to learning that is happening at home. We then plan for how we can promote, extend and support this interest and learning further by our environment set up and activities on offer.

We will let you know when we set the new group learning focus and how we plan to support development in this area.



Summer in the Nursery means lots of water play, so please remember to include lots of NAMED clothes for your child. We do our best to return clothing to children's bags but it would be helpful if you had a little check before heading home for the day to make sure everything is in there. Let's aim for an empty lost property box for 2020! 😊

Enjoy the warm weather, keep hydrated and have fun!

Noho ora mai / stay well.

From your Nursery team Mel, Chelsey, Janice, Melissa, Netty, Pietta and Kate.



## IT'S BEEN BUSY IN THE PRESCHOOL....

Welcome back to 2020, another year filled with fun, adventure and learning. We hope you all had a fantastic break over the summer and spent time enjoying the warm weather.

As our Preschool friends have slowly returned we have had a lot of creativity in the sandpit, exploring the water with rivers, islands, baking, boating, and much more. This has been a large interest of many children



this month. The sandpit is an area filled with so many learning opportunities by allowing the tamariki to play in the sand by themselves and with others helps them to develop fine motor skills like those necessary to use a small shovel, pull a truck, and build a castle or moat. Many also enjoy burying themselves in the

sand or lying down, and feeling their body position within the sand, each child is engaging their proprioceptive sense, or the sense of their body relative to space. So as you can see there is endless learning happening in our sandpit.

We have also been busy exploring our new classroom environment with many role plays, imagination and doctor surgeries. This is so much fun and creates opportunities for communication, teamwork, listening to others ideas and also sharing ideas with others.



Our garden has been growing so much this summer and the tamariki have embraced the opportunity to be involved in growing their own kai and flowers. Our sunflowers were so tall that the children couldn't reach the top, how amazing.



We have been doing lots of planting and look forward to watching these grow over the next few weeks.

This month we farewell more of our older children as they head off to school, we wish them all the best with their next learning adventures. We know you are all brave, strong and confident young learners and will have a lot of fun.

Now that we are a month into 2020 already we look forward to all the fun ahead.

Have a great month from your Preschool Team



### 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 FEBRUARY

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

Harry Pooley (4)  
Cate Hughes (2)  
Wilbur Gallagher (5)  
Finn Keogh (5)  
Ellis Rudman (4)



Wilbur and Finn are both off to school this month. We wish them all the best on their next big adventure.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN 2020



Some important dates for you to remember.

**Waitangi Day – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February – we are closed**  
**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Big Heart Picnic at the Rec**  
**Sheffield A & P Show – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March**  
**School holidays – 14<sup>th</sup> April – 24<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Good Friday – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April – we are closed**  
**Easter Monday – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April – we are closed**  
**ANZAC Day – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April – we are closed**  
**Queen's Birthday – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June – we are 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.

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