

# JULY 19

What a busy month we have had with so much going on. The tamariki have really enjoyed lots of new and exciting activities as well as the favorites they love. Science experiments at mat times are really fun where they get to predict what might happen next.



We are looking forward to July and the school holidays as we have more fun planned with outings and visitors coming to see us, let's hope



the weather plays ball and stays fine for us.

Please remember to let us know if your child will be away for the school holidays otherwise you will be charged full price.

## WINTER BUGS AND SICKNESS

We have had a few nasty bugs and viruses over the last few weeks that just seem to be going on and on. If a child has a temperature of 38 degrees or more we will phone you to come and collect them and they will not be allowed to return to preschool until they have not had a high temperature for 24 hours.

If your child is not right or has a very green snotty nose please keep them at home to prevent the bugs from spreading to other children and our staff, thank you.

## ERO VISIT

We will be having ERO (Education Review Office) visit us on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July to review our Centre. It will be business as usual for the teachers and children apart from having a few different people around. If you as a parent would like to talk with them please let us know and we can arrange this. An information sheet is attached to this email.



## 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.

## STAFFING

We are pleased to let you know that we have 2 new teachers starting next week, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July. They are Kristina and Alexe.

Kia Ora, my name is Kristina Henderson and I am really excited to be coming on board with the team here at Darfield next week. I live in Dunsandel with my partner and three children and I'm currently in my third year of study working towards a Bachelor of ECE. I believe children learn best when they have secure, respectful relationships with their teachers and peers, have lots of opportunities to explore, be active in their decisions about their own learning and I value the importance of learning through play. I'm really looking forward to settling in and getting to know you all.

Kristina

Kia Ora my name is Alexe. I'm originally from Whanganui moving to Christchurch in 2007. I've always loved caring for tamariki working as a nanny both overseas during my big OE and in Whanganui prior to moving to Christchurch to study for my degree in ECE.

I have two brothers one based in Christchurch and after many years living in Holland my younger brother, his Dutch wife and my beautiful nephew are now based in Taranaki.

In my spare time I love to keep fit to counteract my love of baking, spending time with family and friends and travelling.



I currently live in Christchurch but will soon be based in Rolleston living with my partner 😊

I'm really looking forward to getting to know you all. I feel it's a real privilege caring for and documenting the learning of the next generation of tamariki.

Alexe



We are very pleased to let you know that Teacher Sarah had a gorgeous baby boy last week. They have named him Toby and both he and mum are

doing well. Congratulations to Sarah, Simon and Maddison.

## WAITING LIST

We are currently running a waiting list for both our preschool and nursery. Due to the number of families already waiting for spaces, we may not be able to cater

for your child care needs straight away. We are implementing a fee payable when you want to guarantee a space at a particular date in the future. Please see Clare or Lou if you wish to be placed on the waiting list or want more information. We will provide the full details soon.

### IN THE NURSERY THIS MONTH.....

We have had a busy fun-filled month of June here in the Nursery.

Everyone has really enjoyed getting to know more about our new tamariki - it's been so awesome to see our older children take on such caring nurturing roles with our new and younger children. We just love seeing that here at DPN and feel it is so beneficial for all tamariki, both young and old!



Have you noticed our new Pikler Climbing Triangle? This has been a firm favourite of all tamariki. It has been such fun watching how differently it is being used. The older children have been busy independently practising and conquering the climb, carefully navigating their way up the rungs and concentrating hard as they move their bodies over the top and down the other side. There are so many amazing things happening as children do this - things that may seem so simple for us but are such awesome achievements for our little people.



The younger children have also been enjoying the triangle, using it to pull themselves up to standing and experimenting with stepping up onto the lower rung. Even our pēpi/babies have enjoyed lying next to it and exploring the lower rungs with their legs, feet and hands! The kaiako/teachers are really

excited about watching the achievements made as the weeks go by and the children's confidence, problem solving and physical skills grow and develop. A BIG thanks to **Henry** (a friend of Janice's daughter) for making this wonderful piece of equipment for us!

Our littlest of learners in the Nursery have been enjoying lots of rolling and moving about this month. Some are getting really good at rolling onto their tummies from their backs and have then been busy practicing rolling back the other way!

It's just fascinating watching these pēpi learn. The concentration and determination on their faces when

attempting to move an object from one hand to the other for example is just so beautiful to watch! We consider ourselves very lucky people to be able to observe and support children to learn such wonderful things every single day!

Paint continues to be a popular activity and experience for our tamariki and our new art easel has been a very popular spot. This alongside our new art table has meant that lots of painting and art experiences are available every day in the Nursery. It also means we may get quite messy! Please send old clothes which you don't mind getting mucky and plenty of spares to Preschool.



Kia ora rawa atu/ all the best.

From your Nursery team,

Mel, Janice, Netty, Sara, Pietta, Kate and Chelsey

### WOW, WHAT A MONTH IN THE PRESCHOOL....

This month we have been very busy exploring the world around us, the people, the places and things in our community. Lots of trips have taken place with our 3 and 4 year olds including the trip to the Isaac Theatre Royal to see the play Room on the Broom. This has led to a lot of creative play activities including some fantastic broom sticks, some curious kittens and a lot of puppet plays.



**Matariki** is celebrated at this time of the year and we continue to explore this vast topic, whilst it happens when the collection of stars rise in the sky the stories around Matariki and what it means to tangata whenua (people of the land), covers a range of topics which we have been exploring. Harvesting from our

vegetable gardens and creating soup and bread, just like Tupu-ā-nuku one of the Matariki stars who shares with us the knowledge of growing and tending to plants. When we see her shining we are reminded that we all have our own special time and place to spend time growing our pūkenga/strengths, as well as that of

our friends. Each of the stars has a special gift they share with us and we will be exploring more about these in the coming weeks.

We have also been creating our artwork for the community Matariki event. This involved many tamariki sharing their footprints and creating small air dry clay disks to attach to our multi layered creation. The theme for this year was *Aroha (Love)* and to show this we thought about the impression that whānau and tamariki have on our



kaiako (teachers) and tried to express this through our collaborative artwork. All our tamariki leave an impression on the hearts of our kaiako.

**Winter sports** - Some of our older tamariki have been involved in playing sports and have brought in their skills and interests into preschool. This has been so much fun practicing our kicking, catching, running and bouncing skills. Rugby, Netball and Football have all been big interests of the tamariki and we have also been exploring Hikatia te ha which is a Maori yoga type activity.



### Transition to school

There have been two visits this month one to Darfield Primary where kaiako Mrs Kennedy welcomed



our tamariki to spend the morning with her new entrant's class. The second one was to Sheffield school where kaiako Mrs Club and her class welcomed us. It is always beneficial for the older tamariki to visit the school and explore new



environments that they will soon be in. This helps create a smooth transition when they start school. They also reconnect with old friends and create new ones.

### 4 year old sleepover

The four year old sleepover is as exciting amongst staff as it is amongst the tamariki and is a much talked about throughout the year and years to come. There were some excited tamariki as we shared dinner, sang songs, listened to stories and toasted marshmallows over the fire before snuggling down next to our friends for a sleep. See the photos at the end of the newsletter.

Kia ora rawa atu  
The Preschool Team

### UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

Please let us know if you have changed your email address, phone numbers or emergency contacts.

### BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

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

- Lucia Dixon (4)
- Kendall Petrie (3)
- Mackenzie Blakemore-Willocks (3)



### PROFILE BOOKS & EDUCA



Profile books are always available for you to take home and share with other family members. Feel free to add photos to Educa of any adventures you had over the holidays as we'd love to see them and talk about them with your child. These will be printed to put into the profile books. They provide a talking point for the children about familiar things. We will put our stories onto Educa each month and then they will be printed too. Remember to check out the Educa noticeboards for daily photos and information.

### ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

We still have a few Entertainment Books in the office if you would like one, lots of vouchers in there that you could use in the school holidays! If you'd like to order one click on the link below or see Lou.

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

### 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](mailto:darfieldpreschool@xtra.co.nz) or text **027 594 8423** thank you ☺

**\*\*If you do not let us know you are going to be late picking up your child, you will be charged a late fee of \$1 a minute. \*\***



### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Some important dates for you to remember....

**School Holidays – 8<sup>th</sup> July – 19<sup>th</sup> July**

**Clothes Swap evening – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October.**

*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.

Phone: **03 318 8836**

Mobile: **027 594 8423** (text only)

Email: [darfieldpreschool@xtra.co.nz](mailto:darfieldpreschool@xtra.co.nz)

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

### ***Did you know.....***

**ERO (Education Review Office)** carries out reviews on every school and early childhood service in New Zealand on average every three years.

The review evaluates and reports on the education and care of the students and ensures that requirements and regulations set by the Ministry of Education are being met.

This month it is our turn to show ERO how fantastic we are!

You might notice some different faces around our centre during the first week of the school holidays as our review takes place.

We look forward to hearing what ERO thinks about the wonderful things we do here.

If you have any questions about this process, please come and see us in the office.

## ***This month's recipe is Jane's vanilla cupcake recipe.***

*You will need:*

*2.5 cups of flour  
2 cups of sugar  
3 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 cup of milk  
Half a cup of vegetable oil  
1 tablespoon vanilla essence or extract  
2 eggs  
1 cup of water*



*Frosting:*

*Half cup of butter  
Half cup of shortening  
4 cups icing sugar  
1 and half teaspoons of vanilla extract  
2-3 tablespoons of water or milk*

*Method:*

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (176°C) and prepare a cupcake pan with liners.
2. Add the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt to a large mixer bowl and combine. Set aside.
3. Add the milk, vegetable oil, vanilla extract and eggs to a medium sized bowl and combine.
4. Add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and beat until well combined.
5. Slowly add the water to the batter and mix on low speed until well combined. Scrape down the sides of the bowl as needed to make sure everything is well combined. Please note that the batter will be very thin.
6. Fill the cupcake liners about half way and bake for 15-17 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out with a few moist crumbs.
7. Remove the cupcakes from oven and allow to cool for 2 minutes, then remove to a cooling rack to finish cooling.
8. To make the frosting, combine the butter and shortening in a large mixer bowl and mix until smooth.
9. Add 2 cups of powdered sugar and mix until smooth.
10. Add the vanilla extract and 1 tablespoon of water or milk and mix until smooth.
11. Add remaining powdered sugar and mix until smooth.
12. Add remaining water or milk as needed and mix until smooth.
13. Pipe the frosting onto the cupcakes *Bake for approx. 15 - 17 minutes on 180 degrees*

<https://www.lifeloveandsugar.com/moist-vanilla-cupcakes/>

*Some photos from the sleepover...*

