



DECEMBER 2019

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our Children's Christmas party is this **Friday 6th December 4pm – 6.30pm** – we have sausages, bouncy castle and a special visitor coming. We look forward to seeing lots of you here.

Children who are usually picked up at 5pm – parents **MUST** be here by 5pm as your children will only be supervised until then.

All children are the responsibility of their parents once parents turn up.

Parents – you are responsible for your children's safety on the bouncy castle etc

Raffle tickets will be on sale at the Christmas Party so bring along some money! Great prizes to be had. 😊

CHRISTMAS SHUTDOWN - reminder

We will be closing for Christmas on Friday 20th December at 5pm and reopening on Monday 6th January 2020 at 7.30am.

OUR DRIVEWAY

Please **slow down** on the driveway as we have had a few comments from people walking or riding their children to preschool that they feel unsafe as cars speed past them. Also, please remember to **STOP and LOOK** when you are leaving and get to the corner when going out of the driveway into Cardale Street as there have been a few near misses when people forget to stop! Traffic on Cardale Street has the right of way.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can take your child's profile book home whenever you like? In addition to Educa, stories are mirrored in their profile books and are kept in the classroom.

All books will be available to go home from 13th December but if you are leaving before then and would like to take it please let a teacher know.

CALENDARS

Calendars etc have arrived and will be ready for collection from tomorrow. Please make sure you have paid for your order.

STAFFING

Teacher Leigh will be leaving us at Christmas to start a new adventure as they are moving farms to North Canterbury. We wish Leigh and her family all the best and we will miss her. Many thanks from our children for all the fun activities, stories and games they have shared with you.

We are currently interviewing for a new teacher and will let you know as soon as we find that awesome person to join our team.

Sara will be going on maternity leave at Christmas, we will let you know when we have news of the new arrival.

FOUR YEAR OLD TREES

If you have a 4 year old don't forget to collect a tree to plant in your garden. These have kindly been donated to our 4 year olds by Elizabeth Forest. Please see Clare or Lou.

WATER BOTTLES

On hot days we are constantly encouraging the children to drink water and re-filling their drink bottles for them so please don't be concerned if they come home with a half or nearly full bottle – this would have been re-filled by us, not that they haven't had a drink all day.



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.

IN THE NURSERY THIS MONTH.....

Kia Ora Whānau!

November in the nursery has been a fun filled month! Our group learning focus around physical exploration is continuing and a lot of the tamariki have had some amazing leaps in their natural progression of their gross motor development.



We have some children who have learnt to pull themselves up to standing and have been enjoying using the furniture and resources in the environment to practice this clever skill. Other children have learnt to walk and are discovering how rewarding it is now they can quickly and independently get to where they want to go. Some of our older learners have enjoyed



challenging themselves on the yellow slide and the hill this month too. We have loved supporting each individual child recognising their hard work and celebrating with them their achievements.

We had an awesome display at the Courtenay A & P show showcasing the learning from our group focus. It was great to see so many nursery children and their whānau at the show, enjoying the animals and machinery. Thank you to those people who helped us on the day at the tent.

As Christmas approaches the children are enjoying decorating the environment. The Christmas tree has been a new focus and it's been lots of fun hanging all the decorations (and then taking them off and rehang again!). Keep an eye out on our new Christmas wall display to see some of the fun things we plan to get up to this month.

In November we celebrated Effie and Hazel's 1st birthdays, our friend Arlan turned 2 and is now having fun over in the Preschool, and we welcomed



Seth back from his family holiday in South Africa.

December can be a very busy month, so don't forget to take some time out for yourself! We look forward to sharing in the excitement of Christmas with your family.

Ngā manaakitanga/best wishes from your Nursery Team, Mel, Janice, Netty, Sara, Chelsey, Kate and Pietta.

PRESCHOOL HAS BEEN SO BUSY.....

This month in the preschool we welcome new tamariki who have joined our centre. New friendships are being formed and the children and teachers are getting to know each other.

We have been experimenting with varieties of water play from running under the sprinkler, constructing lakes and pipe systems in the sandpit, whilst extending our science knowledge, as well as working together. Music and movement outdoors has been a great



favourite, this has included forms of dance and yoga and has kept our bodies and minds active. Many festive experiences have started to take place after we learnt a few Christmas trees went up early at home! This has sparked rich conversations being shared among our tamariki.

Out in our wonderful community we have visited Westmar Retirement Village where tamariki took along play dough and made creations alongside and with the residents. We are visiting again soon to sing some Christmas songs with them.

We set off to Glentunnel Primary School for their pet day. Some of our four year old tamariki have participated in transition to school excursions by visiting Darfield and Greendale Primary Schools. In partnership with the nursery tamariki we completed a representation of our emotions which was displayed at Courtenay Show.

We are looking forward to the rest of the year engaging in planned and spontaneous experiences. Have a wonderful Christmas break, we look



forward to seeing you in 2020 and hearing about your holiday adventures.

From the Preschool Team; Samm, Abby, Alexe, Ariana, Kara, Kristina, Kylie, Leigh and Melissa.

BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER

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

Sheena Butler-Chapman (4)

Isabella Boulton (5)

Dawson Cavanagh (3)

Ollie McGregor (2)

Fletcher Monk (5)

Maddison Aarts (3)

Pip Bedford (3)

Claudia King (3)

Georgia Pearce (1)

Zione Limbe (5)

Angus Scollay (3)

Greer Butler-Chapman (1)

Aidan Lenssen (4)

Jed Warman (4)

Ivar Bakalich (1)



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 ☺

****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 per minute as per our fees policy.****



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Some important dates for you to remember....

Children's Christmas party – Friday 6th December

Christmas Shut Down – Friday 20th December

Re-open - Monday 6th January 2020

Have a great Christmas and New Year

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

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

An Activity to try at Home...

We have Tara (Finn's mum) coming in to make Salt Dough decorations with us this week so here is a recipe if you would like to make your own.

Ingredients

4 cups flour

1 cups salt

1 and a half cups warm water

Paint/glitter/ribbon for decorating



Instructions

Preheat the oven to 120c.

In a large bowl whisk the flour and salt together.

Slowly pour in the water whilst still whisking.

Knead the mixture until a soft dough is formed.

Roll out the dough until it is about 1/2cm thick.

Cut your desired shapes and place on a baking tray.

Use a straw to create a hole for the ribbon to go through once it is cooked.

Bake for 1 hour or until the dough is hard.

Cool then decorate as you wish.

Thread the ribbon through and hang on the tree!

