

November 2019

****IMPORTANT NOTICE****

Parents/caregivers, due to the number of nasty bugs and viruses that have been around, if you are sick yourself please don't come into the centre to drop off or pick up. Text or call us before you arrive and we will come out and collect the children from your car or bring them out to you.

Thanks for your understanding in this, we are trying to prevent germs spreading.

COURTENEY (KIRWEE) A&P SHOW

SATURDAY 23rd NOVEMBER. We will be having our baby feeding and nappy changing tent at the show this year, along with a display. We hope you will come along and support the local show.

We would love some help to man the tent through the day and will put out a timetable on the sign in desk. Please fill in a time slot that suits you.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year the Children's Christmas party is on **Friday 6th December 4pm – 6.30pm** – more details to come nearer the time.



HALLOWEEN

Thank you for coming. All that attended had a fantastic time eating yummy scary food, dancing and playing with their friends. The different costumes were great and everyone really got involved in the Halloween theme.

CHRISTMAS SHUTDOWN

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

CLOTHES SWAP

Thank you for coming. It was a great evening to mingle, without little ones pulling at your leg. Plenty of clothes were swapped and everyone enjoyed having a look at the Arbonne products.

CHILDRENS HOURS

There are a few spaces opening up next year in the preschool due to families moving out of the area. Please see Clare if you are thinking of increasing hours or swapping days as these will quickly be snapped up

ERO REVIEW

We were very pleased to receive our final review from the Education Review Office. They were able to see the great things about the centre, staff and children and reiterated the things that are important to us all. Here is the link to our latest ERO review for you to have a read of.

<https://www.ero.govt.nz/review-reports/darfield-preschool-and-nursery-26-09-2019/>

CALENDARS

The children have been busy doing their artwork for the calendars. We hope you have enjoyed looking at your child's creation and returned the order form if you would like anything.

If you still want to order but have not, speak to Clare before the end of the week. The calendars etc. will take about 4/5 weeks to get back to us (in plenty of time for Christmas) so we need to get them in.

Any questions please ask.

JACK n JILL PHOTOS

Thank you all for supporting our photo fundraiser – we have raised \$531.30 to go towards upgrading our outside space.

STAFFING

Melissa is currently on placement and will be returning back to work on 26th November. Lou is away in UK until 19th November any queries, please see Clare.

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!

Wow, another busy but exciting month flies by. During the past weeks we have been following the children's interest in exploring what their body can do. Most days we have had indoor obstacles set up which have proved very popular. Watching our tamariki is a great reminder of the great problem solvers they are as they

work hard and imaginatively to achieve their goals. The creative ways these obstacles have been used has been rewarding to watch and support. Each individual child has been challenging themselves, learning by observing others, practicing and refining their own skills and exploring a multitude of concepts such as balance, gravity and spatial awareness. Most significantly children are learning that taking risks in a supportive and safe environment is a fun way to learn. Ka pai tamariki!

Alongside supporting an interest in physical exploration in our indoor environment, our children have enjoyed lots of outdoor exploration and discovery. The sandpit, wheeled vehicles and climbing obstacles continue to be favourites. Arlan has also taken on the teaching role showing us all about the skills required to play rugby and sharing his knowledge of the haka with us. Thank you Arlan, your expertise is a great asset as we all benefit from you sharing your passion and skills.

A consistent highlight for the kaiako and significant for the children, is the beautiful relationships that are continually evolving and strengthening. With increasing mobility the tamariki are more able to follow each other, seek out a friend to share an interest with or just enjoy making independent choices about where to be and with whom. Relationships are so important to learning about communication, emotions and feelings. We will continue to foster these as they evolve and strengthen.

This month we celebrated Molly and Fynn's 2nd birthday. Ollie has also chosen to spend his days in the Preschool. While we will miss you in the Nursery environment we are truly pleased that you are enjoying new challenges and building new friendships. Don't forget Molly, Fynn, Ollie and whānau you are always welcome in the Nursery, please remember to visit!

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

PRESCHOOL HAS BEEN SO BUSY this month. The weather has certainly kept us thinking and there was a couple of days where we had the winter warm hats on in the morning and summer hats on in the afternoon. The School holiday adventures were successful once again and we have already planned more trips to Westmar Retirement Village as the residence just loved interacting, watching and talking with our amazing tamariki. It is so lovely to see their

confidence and communication skills blossom out in our community.

We are planning on attending some of the local pet days over the next month and have already visited Darfield and Hororata. We are also continuing to take selected groups of 4 year olds to visit the new entrants classes at our local primary schools. This month we are looking at Greendale and Darfield

The tamariki have had a busy time creating from lots of recyclable material this month. We have had children planning and then building at the carpentry table and cardboard creation from the collage area inside.

As the weather heats up the children will be engaging in more water based play. Please remember to pack extra clothing and even better long sleeved rash top/togs if you have them that the children can change into.

A lot of the tamariki are showing great independence skills and love to get changed themselves. This is fantastic but we are finding that sometimes the clothing is not getting back into their bag or sometimes getting put in the wrong bag. Could you please remember to name all clothing clearly and we will try our best to get them home safely to the correct owner.

BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

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

Alessandra Carroll-Pudney (5)

Effie Brown (1)

Brockton Kerr (4)

Titus Lamborn (4)

Grace Jenkins (3)

Arlan Robertson (2)

Hazel Gliddon (1)

Freddie Cox (3)

This month we say goodbye to Alessandra who is off to school. Have fun and enjoy your school days, we will miss 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 ☺

****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....

Canterbury Day – Friday 15th November – Closed

Kirwee Show – Saturday 23rd November

Children's Christmas party – Friday 6th December

Christmas Shut Down – Friday 20th December

Re-open - Monday 6th January 2020



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/>

Did You Know?

Children just love to play in cool water during a hot day but did you know whilst they play and cool down they are also learning so much:

- Fine and gross motor skill including hand eye coordination through pouring, squirting, scrubbing, squeezing and stirring.
- Problem solving skills, creative thing and imagination
- Language development through chatting with peers and listening to other conversations
- Social and emotional growth, where they learn to work alongside their peers, sharing resources and ideas and developing new friendships
- Water can also calm and relax children through it gentle movements and sounds

Recipe of the month

It nearly Xmas so here is a little something to get the taste buds started

Petite Christmas Cakes

Ingredients

125g butter

1 cup **Chelsea Soft Brown Sugar**

1kg mixed dried fruit

1/2 cup sherry

1 tsp mixed spice

1 tsp baking soda

2 Tbsp **Chelsea Golden**

Syrup or Chelsea Treacle

2 eggs

225g plain flour

1 tsp baking powder

1 Tbsp orange zest



Topping

200g dried fruit, roughly chopped (e.g. papaya, mango, apple, apricots)

240g nuts (e.g. pecans, almonds, walnuts)

1 cup **Chelsea Golden Syrup**

Method

Put butter, sugar, fruit, sherry, spice, baking soda and syrup into a saucepan. Cook over a medium heat for 2 minutes, stirring often. Allow to cool (at least 1 hour).

Heat oven to 150°C and grease muffin tray (regular or Texas muffin sized). Beat eggs and stir through cooled fruit. Sift dry ingredients then mix thoroughly with the fruit mixture and orange zest. Spoon into muffin tray then bake for 50 - 55 minutes (regular muffin tin), or 60 - 65 minutes (Texas muffin tin). Decorate once cool.

Topping

Heat syrup, mix in fruit and nuts then spoon mixture carefully on to cakes and allow to set.

Makes 16 regular muffin sized cakes or 12 Texas muffin sized cakes.

Tip: This delicious, moist cake mix is perfect for a large family sized Christmas cake - double the mixture to make 2 medium sized Christmas cakes (20cm) or 1 large, deep (26cm) + 1 very small (10cm) Christmas cake. Triple line the sides of cake tin with baking paper, ensure it extends above the sides. Remember to adjust cooking time and check cakes regularly.

Have a great month / Mā te wā

CLARE AND THE TEAM