

Hello to all our families,

We hope that you have enjoyed time with family during the break.

We are all looking forward to 2021 and teaching your children.

Term 1 begins on Wednesday the 27th of January.

This email has lots of information and reminders that you will need to know before Wednesday, so please read carefully. 😊

Kindy times are:

	Start time	Finish time
Morning session	8.30am	11.30am
Afternoon session	12 pm	3.00pm
Full day	8.30	3.00pm
Lunch Care	11.30	12 pm

Covid-19 has changed many routines of the kindergarten. While there's currently no community transmission of COVID-19 in South Australia, it's important we remain prepared to respond to the fast changing nature of the pandemic. We all have to be alert, aware and prepared for change all the time.

Last year we adopted some new and very effective structures, some of which we will retain this year.

At this stage parents may enter school and preschool grounds, however we must ensure that social distancing is in place at all times.

Last year children adapted very well to quick drop offs at the gate and the parents, especially those who needed to get to work found it a very efficient way to start the day. As Educators we were able to get on with our teaching, facilitating children's needs much earlier in the day.

This year we request that drop off at start of session time is short, sharp and shiny with a maximum of 15 minutes staying time for parents. We realise that it will be an anxious time for everyone, but we know that it works and that the children learn quickly to adapt.

- At arrival an Educator will sign your child in.
- You can enter the kindergarten via the side gate, help your child to put their kindy bag, lunch and drink bottle away and perhaps do one outside activity with your child before you leave the kindy.

- Inside access at this stage will be restricted to staff and students to reduce the risks of COVID and to comply with Government advice.
- The department is currently working on QR codes to be allocated to all public schools and preschools, but in the meantime we will need you to sign in at arrival. A table will be set up for this.
- At collection time, after your child's session, we ask that you wait outside in the front garden. A member of the staff team will bring your child out to you with all their belongings. This process worked very well last year. (Please name everything)

It is very important that children stay at home if unwell. If showing symptoms of a cold, flu, coughing, diarrhoea or temperature children will need to stay at home until fully recovered. This will avoid you having to come back to kindergarten to collect your child.

We will be teaching the children about hygiene practices and will also reinforce the importance of letting adults know if they are feeling unwell.

To reduce the anxiety that you and your child may be feeling at this time of year, practice some of the above routines at home with your child. Do some role play or use dolls or lego figurines to dramatise the drop off and collection routines.

Reinforce that they will have lots of fun and kindy, make new friends and that the teachers are there to help out and to have fun as well.

Sun Safety

Broad brimmed or legionnaires hats need to be worn. A SunSmart Centre will be set up to reinforce Sun Safety. We would like to trial children leaving their hats at kindergarten this year. Each child will have a special pocket, set up outside, into which to put their hat. This will be implemented from the very start of the year. Please clearly name your child's hat. You can take your child's hat any time to launder it.

Remember also that loose fitting long sleeved, light cotton shirts offer great UV protection.

What to wear to kindergarten

Please dress children appropriately in clothes that won't cause concern if they get dirty. In addition, dress your child in clothes that they can manage themselves. Tight fitting pants, belts and buckles make it difficult for your child to be independent when using the toilet or getting changed.

Have a spare set of clothes in your child's bag each day in case he /she needs to be changed. In summer wear loose longer sleeved tops that cover shoulders as these offer the best UV protection.

Flat closed shoes are most suitable for climbing. (No thongs please)

At kindy we have lots of FUN!!!

Your child will get sandy, wet, muddy and dirty!!

Lunch and Snack

You will need to pack **lunch, morning snack and afternoon snack** for your child. We promote healthy eating and are trying to reduce the landfill footprint. Pack lovely fresh food that doesn't need wrapping. More information about 'Nude Food' will be sent out at a later date.

Go through the lunchbox with your child and discuss with them what they can eat for snack and lunch, so that your child knows what they will need to eat at the designated time of day. Practice opening and closing lunch boxes so that they can do this independently before they start.

NO NUTS Kindly do not pack nuts as a snack, no peanut butter or nutella sandwiches.

Only water in drink bottles please. We can refill bottles as needed with filtered water and will be reminding children to drink lots during the day.

Kindly talk to a staff member if your child has dietary needs.

PLEASE NAME EVERYTHING 😊

VOLUNTEERING

Please consider some weekly volunteer jobs such as taking laundry home, construction kit washing and sweeping or blow vacuuming around the sandpit. Rosters will be on the front veranda wooden table for you to fill out in week one.

If you would like to be on the Governing Council this year to help with decision making and supporting the staff please let us know. We will need to form our new Council after the AGM (date to be confirmed).

Remember to refer to your information booklet, received at orientation sessions last year (or our website) for any other clarification.

Weekly Parent information will be displayed at the front of the kindy.

Much thanks and see you all in week 1; week 2 if you have Monday Tuesday sessions..