



ST IVES PRESCHOOL KINDERGARTEN

What's Happening at Preschool.....Term 1 Week 2

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2023. We hope that you and your children are enjoying being part of our beautiful Preschool.

We are busy getting to know all of our new families as well as welcoming back some of our families from previous years.

The children are enjoying all aspects of our programme, getting to know their teachers, as well as exploring our beautiful learning environment.

Our main goal for Term 1 is always for all the children to feel safe, secure and supported. Some children settle quickly while others take longer to adjust to preschool. All of our educators are very experienced and our focus is to form secure relationships with the children as quickly as possible. If you have any concerns or questions about your child's transition to preschool please see your child's educators or drop by into the office and have a chat.

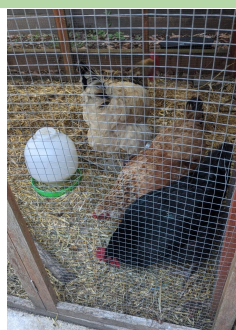
You should all have received the first Weekly Diary. These are emailed each week directly from your child's class and provide a wonderful summary of your child's week as well as being a great conversation starter with you and your child about what they have been doing at preschool.

You will receive two newsletters per term, to keep you up to date with all that is happening at the preschool, as well as information from our Management and Social/Fundraising committees. In order to be environmentally friendly these newsletters are usually emailed to you. Please let us know if there are any problems with receiving it electronically. The current newsletter is also uploaded onto our website, www.stivespreschool.org.au

We are looking forward to seeing you all at our Welcome to Preschool Bar-b-que on Friday, 24th February. This is a lovely opportunity to meet other families, chat to some of the Preschool staff, and for you to feel part of our Preschool community.

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March. This is an important night for our community preschool and it requires each family to be represented.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I am looking forward to a wonderful year ahead with all of our families. Julie



Welcome to Preschool BBQ and Picnic

Come along and join us for a sausage sandwich as we welcome everyone to our Preschool for 2023.

When: **Friday, 24th February, 2023**

Time: 5pm to 6.30pm

Where: St Ives Preschool Kindergarten

Cost: Free

BYO: Non-alcoholic drinks and snacks to share (no nuts)

RSVP: Friday, 17th February (return below slip to the blue box outside the Wombat room)



We will be providing a BBQ/sausage sandwich for everyone so please ensure that you return your RSVP (reply) slip. Siblings are welcome, however the playground caters for preschool aged children only and all children must be supervised by an accompanying adult.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We would like to invite you all to attend our Annual General Meeting (AGM) to hear about how the Preschool is managed. Please make a note in your diary for Wed 8th March at 7.30pm for our AGM.

Our Preschool has been operating as a not for profit organisation, and has been valuing children, families, and the community, for over 60 years. We really encourage families to be involved.

As members of the Association it is expected that at least one parent representative from each family attends, and following the AGM you will have the opportunity to chat to your child's teachers, and other parents.

Information will be sent out shortly about this important event and you will be asked to reply so that we can record numbers and attendance.

Sunscreen

As part of our Sun Safe Policy the children are assisted to apply sunscreen at least once a day.

The Preschool uses the Cancer Council Kids Sunscreen SPF 30+. Please advise your child's teachers if you do not want our sunscreen applied to your child and would prefer to supply an alternative.



Preschool Hat

Thank you to all of our families for purchasing a Preschool hat. This is the first year that we have made them compulsory. They look great on the children and help us to make sure that everyone is being sun safe. Please help us by ensuring that your child brings their preschool hat each day to wear. Preschool T shirts and jumpers are also available (these are optional). We will be ordering extra sizes and colours shortly, so please let us know if you would like another size or colour.

Did You Know.....

That the Preschool is rated EXCEEDING across all areas against the National Quality Standards.

The National Quality Standard (NQS) sets a national benchmark for the quality of children's education and care services across Australia. Services are assessed against the NQS by the state or territory regulatory authority and receive a rating for each of the seven quality areas of the NQS, as well as an overall rating.

The Preschool staff are very proud of our rating!!



Thank you to those who have already paid the Term 1 invoice. Helen will send out the Term 2 invoices in late March.

How we plan and programme for children's learning

We start the programming cycle by observing children within the preschool environment and collecting information from families about their child. This includes children's interests, needs, strengths, abilities and cultural background.

We then use this information to set goals for each child and to plan our weekly programme. At the end of the week, we come together as a team and reflect and evaluate our programme. This includes looking at what worked well, what could be changed or added for the following week, how we can extend the children's interests further, as well as how we can adapt and meet the needs of all children.

We then plan for the following week based on this information. The programming cycle then starts again.

As well as planned or intentional teaching, our programme also allows for spontaneous teaching moments depending on what the children are curious about. Our programme will also include project based learning which may extend over many weeks.

If you have any questions about our programme please just ask!

Laura, Educational Leader

A Few Reminders

- Please ensure that you wash your child's hands and face before arriving at Preschool if they have had peanut butter or other nut products, to minimise the risk of transfer of these allergens. Washing hands before going home is also strongly encouraged.
- Please ensure your child has his/her hat in their bag each day and that it is clearly labelled. As part of our Sunsmart policy children wearing strappy dresses must wear a T shirt when outside.
- Please apply sunscreen to your child before coming to Preschool each day. The staff will assist the children to reapply sunscreen each day before going outside to play.
- Please ensure that there are spare clothes in your child's bag each day.
- Please label ALL your child's belongings, including shoes and socks!
- Please ensure that your child wears comfortable supportive shoes at Preschool to enable them to climb and play outdoors safely. **Thongs and "croc" are unsuitable.**

Please leave the Preschool promptly or before 3.45pm to allow the educators to set up and plan for the children. Thank you!

Term Dates 2023:

Term 1: Tues 31st Jan- Thurs 6th April

Term 2: Mon 24th April- Fri 30th June

Term 3: Mon 17th July- Fri 22nd Sept

Term 4: Mon 9th Oct- Fri 15th Dec

Safety issues

Just a reminder to all families about safety issues specific to our Preschool. We are very lucky to be located at the end of such a quiet street but please always remember to:

- Drive very slowly in the street at all times.
- Hold your child's hand outside the gate.
- Never let another child out of the gate at any time unless authorised to do so.

• **Please observe the signage and parking restrictions in the street and respect the residents' property.** We rely heavily on the support of our neighbours, particularly to "keep an eye out" on weekends and in school holidays, so it is important to maintain a positive relationship with our local community.

Please consider others and ensure that you park correctly to allow for 3 cars in the first parking bays nearest to the Preschool.

We have a number of children enrolled at the Preschool who have serious allergies so please remember that St Ives Preschool is a Nut free zone

- if you have any questions regarding this please see a staff member.



Children's Lunches

Thank you to everyone who is providing their child's lunch in a compact, clearly named container.

Providing a piece of fruit and one healthy snack, (if necessary), for morning tea and a sandwich/ sushi/ salad, fruit and one healthy snack for lunch is all that is necessary.

Providing warm food in a thermos for your child is permitted, however a food storage waiver form must be signed by a parent before the food can be left at preschool.

Please do not send chips, chocolate, lollies or "Roll up" type snack bars as the preschool encourages healthy eating.

The children's lunches are refrigerated at Preschool so they DO NOT need to be in insulated bags.

In line with the Dept of Health, we recommend water for the children to drink. Please do not send juices, flavoured milk or nutrition drinks.

Preschool Rosters

The Preschool is very fortunate to have a beautiful outdoor learning area for the children to play in. With all the trees, there is a lot of leaf litter, so we have a maintenance roster to keep the playground clean.

We ask families to sign up twice a year for approx. 1.5 hours on a Saturday or Sunday morning to help blow and rake up leaves, rake the sandpit and clear pathways. 4 families will be rostered on together and children are welcome. It is also a great way to meet others or for a few families to sign up together.

Please click on the link below, and you will be taken to more information about the roster, and how you can sign up for it, or pay a levy of \$200 to be put towards the cost of a gardening company doing major clean ups each holidays.

Please sign up, or indicate to Helen via email, that you would prefer to pay the levy, by Friday, March 3rd.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EACA729A6F4C61-2023>

Our Washing roster has commenced. Twice a year, we ask if you can take home some towels to wash and return the following week.

Our Craft Clean up roster has also commenced. Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to assist.

Your assistance with these rosters is greatly appreciated and allows all of our Educators to have maximum time engaging with the children.

Immunisation Records

Please remember to provide us with any updates to your child's immunisation. Please bring in their updated Immunisation History statement as soon as any changes are made so that we can make a copy for our records. It is a legal requirement that we have a copy of your child's Immunisation showing that they are up to date.

Thank you.

Sustainability Corner

Did you know that we have a Native Beehive as well as a Native Bee Hotel in our playground? The children are encouraged to sit quietly, respect and watch. We also have 3 new chickens, with thanks to Willow (3 day Wombat) and her family. Families are encouraged to bring in food scraps from home to feed the chickens or to add to our worm farm or compost bins.

Have you seen our Community Produce stall? The children love picking herbs or vegetables to sell at the stall and collecting the coins at the end of the day. If you have a garden and have excess produce, you are invited to share it with the community and add it to our stall. All money raised goes towards purchasing new seeds and seedlings for the children to plant and grow.

We are always looking for ways to develop more sustainable practices here at Preschool and for help in looking after our Eco Garden, composting and worm farm. Please let us know if you would like to be involved or are able to help in anyway.

Staff at Preschool

Julie Harris - Director

Helen Jackson- Clerical Admin- Tues, Wed, Fri

3 Day Groups Mon, Tues, Wed

Wombat room

Michelle Fryar- Early Childhood Teacher

Sonja Atkinson- Early Childhood Educator

Fran Harrison- Early Childhood Ed. Inclusion

Liz Calvi- Early Childhood Educator

Koala room

Laura Pannaci- Early Childhood Teacher

Sue Mackaness- Early Childhood Educator

Corinne Bevan- Early Childhood Educator- crib
break relief 10am-2pm

2 Day Groups Thurs, Fri

Wombat room

Katey Nemes - Early Childhood Teacher

Soona Cho - Early Childhood Educator

Fran Harrison- Early Childhood Educator,
Inclusion support

Koala room

Yue Gu- Early Childhood Teacher

Sue Mackaness- Early Childhood Educator

Liz Calvi- Early Childhood Educator

Please let us know if you would like anything included in the next newsletter.

*Julie, Sonja, Sue, Laura, Fran, Michelle,
Katey, Liz, Soona, Corinne, Yue and Helen*



