

Bush Baby News

2 William Street, The Oaks NSW 2570. Phone: 4657 1327. admin@theoakspreschool.com.au

TERM 2 WEEK 7 2020



CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

With each passing week it feels as though things are returning to (close to) normal and I think that brings a sense of comfort to all of us. It has been so lovely to hear the daily reports from my preschooler over the past few weeks that more and more of his Wattle friends have returned to preschool - I am glad to see more students returning as families feel comfortable doing so.

For families yet to return to preschool, please be assured that rigorous and strict COVID-Safe protocols are being enforced at preschool and will be for the foreseeable future, and we look forwards to welcoming the return of your preschooler when you feel comfortable and ready.

As noted in the last newsletter, our wonderful staff are going to great lengths to provide a learning and play environment that is stimulating, engaging and above all else, hygienic and safe in the current environment. On behalf of the Board and the families of The Oaks Preschool can I once again thank our staff for all that they are doing to ensure the health and wellbeing of our little ones. The efforts of the staff do not go unnoticed and are greatly appreciated.

Our next Board meeting will be held on Monday 22 June. In the time since our last meeting the 'unknowns' around the COVID-19 pandemic have become a bit clearer and so we will start to lay some plans for the way forward in the second half of the year based on an operating environment taking in the current social restrictions, but assuming that these restrictions will continue to ease in the coming weeks and months. Please stay tuned to upcoming newsletter and

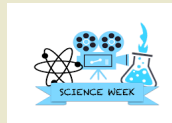
DATES TO REMEMBER Term 2

**Monday 27th April –
Friday 3rd July**

Term 3

**Monday 20th July –
Friday 25th September**

- 17th-21st August,
Science week



- 22nd – 28th
August, Book
week



- Sunday 6th Sept,
Father's day

Term 4



- Class photos 12th,
14th, 16th October
2020.

Kinderloop announcements regarding the various activities that will be planned for the latter half of the year.

As always, any questions or feedback can be directed to Mrs Downie, or via the Suggestions Box which is located at the Wattle Room Sign In area. Alternatively, please feel free to forward any questions or comments for Board consideration to bec_pollard@hotmail.com

I have everything crossed that the second half of our preschool year can run a little more smoothly and a little more like 'usual' than the first half has, and I look forward to sharing these special times with you all.

Finally, thank you so much for your ongoing support of our COVID-Safe procedures at drop off and pick up times - it is greatly appreciated :-)

Kind regards,

Bec Pollard

FAMILY THANK YOU'S

Lauren, our support worker for the silk flowers, jars, containers and key holder

The Burgess Family for the sanitiser and two large donations of antibacterial wipes

Grasso family for the donation of Glen 20

Cooper's Grandma for the continuous donation of books

Thank you to all families for adapting quickly and easily to our new arrival and departure procedures.

COLDER WEATHER

The weather is getting colder and the wind is around most days. The recommendations from our advisory bodies are that we spend as much time as possible outdoors to ensure the best possible hygiene outcomes. We will be going out each day, even if it is cold, so please send whatever clothing your child needs to play outdoors. All jackets and beanies must have names on them, and sun hats are still required every day. We monitor the "Sunsmart App" and follow sunsafety guidelines.

REMINDERS

- 1.No fees are payable for Preschool currently. As you will have heard on the news, things change regularly, and this may change for us in the future. Rest assured we will keep fees as low as possible and give ample notice of reinstatement, if it does occur. If you have an automatic payment coming regularly to Preschool, it would be a good idea to cancel it. Fees owing from term 1 are still payable.
- 2.Please ensure ALL items brought or worn to Preschool have names clearly marked on them.

OUR PROGRAM

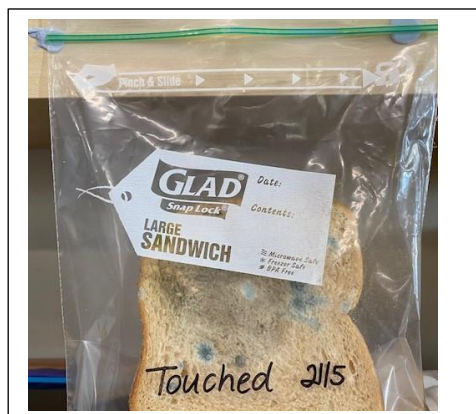
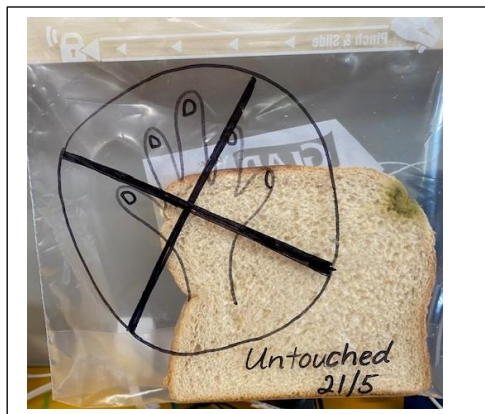
Week 5 saw the Preschool returning to mostly normal operations, and rooms have recommenced our usual programming with the exception of a few children who are continuing with the online learning sent by their educators. This communication has been very productive and we were encouraged by work, photos, comments and enthusiasm of our families. Please continue to send anything your preschooler does at home to Kinderloop. Educators love to see what they are doing at home and can extend on this at Preschool.

ROOM SUMMARIES

WATTLE ROOM

"It is lovely to see nearly all our friends back at Preschool. Everyone has settled back in quickly and enjoyed sharing their news from their time at home."

Our Wattle Room children have adjusted well to our changes at drop off and pickup and are doing an amazing job completing their own jobs on arrival- a great skill ready for big school. We have shared discussions and learning about germs and even conducted some germ experiments. Here is a photo to show the results. Very convincing!



Following children's interests we also been learning about bugs and insects. We have been discussing some amazing facts about insect life cycles and have created some amazing bug art. Since we spent so much time at home, we have been discussing families, and many children enjoyed drawing their family (complete with pets, motor bikes and houses in some cases. See images of all our creative work on Kinderloop.

We look forward to seeing where the children's interests take us for the rest of the term.

Mrs Fryer, Mrs Adams, Mrs Mills, Mrs Scott.

WILLOW ROOM

We are very happy to see most of our Willow Room friends back at Preschool. We are continuing with our sustainability practices and healthy eating by following the story of "The Hungry Caterpillar" which also incorporates colours, numbers and shape discovery. We will further develop this over the coming week. The story also shows the life cycle of butterflies, which the children have been very interested in. We have also been very interested in making our own hand puppets with paper plates and paper bags. We will see where this takes us.

PYJAMA WEEK

Last week of term 2 EVERY DAY

Monday 29 to Friday 3 July. The last week of term 2.



As an end of term activity, Preschool has a "Pyjama Week". Each day of preschool during the week children (and teachers) will wear pyjamas to preschool.

We will have pyjama activities and go to "The movies" (watching some educational type shows on our big screens) after fruit time, as a fun activity.

LOOKING FORWARD TO A FUN WEEK OF "SLEEPY ACTIVITIES"

Teachers suggest older pyjamas, as we will continue to paint, skivvies underneath for warmth and runners instead of slippers, as we will still have outdoor time.

CHANGE OF LOGO UPDATE

Last year we held a competition open to families and children to update our Preschool logo to reflect our current values and aims. The entry of Annabelle Lovell as well as the expert

desktop publishing skills of Brooke's husband Arthur were combined to result in a wonderful representation of our Preschool. It has been sent to the embroiderers for input as to what is possible. It will be revealed next newsletter after approval and investigation. Stay tuned!!

ANOTHER MOVE TO MORE SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

Over the last few weeks, Preschool has changed our lighting in the rooms to LED. Many of our lights were not working properly, and quite old, so we decided to install LED. The benefits to the environment in terms of energy consumption, and out electricity bills will be excellent. LED lighting consumes only 30% energy as fluorescent lighting to deliver the same lumen output. Also, Flexible LED lighting has a much longer lifetime than fluorescent lighting since LED lighting is solid state lighting which more stable and reliable.

CHILD SAFETY

Leaving your child for the first time and trusting others to care for them is a big step. Enrolling your child at preschool is important for their independent development and for them to practice social skills and caring for themselves.

The staff, educators and management at the Oaks Preschool are committed to keeping your child safe and to providing information for families on how to keep their children safe.

We do this through:

1. Employing trained staff and ensuring educators continue to update their knowledge according to current regulations and laws
2. Ensuring staff are fully trained in emergency First Aid, anaphylaxis, asthma and fire procedures.
3. Ensuring staff are familiar with all safety requirements and practice emergency procedures often
4. Complying with all safety requirements for equipment and buildings and maintain these regularly
5. Supervising children effectively both indoors and out
6. Our preschool program including many opportunities for both intentional teaching and spontaneous opportunities for helping children learn safety messages such as
 - Road Safety
 - Healthy eating-Nutrition
 - Sun Safety
 - Physical Health
 - Hygiene and Dental Care
 - Safe play and Behaviours
 - Stranger Danger

7. Educators being aware of and identifying concerns with the safety of children through child protection training. This includes signs of neglect, physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Staff at the Preschool are mandatory reporters and, as such, are obliged, under the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* (NSW) to report any concerns they may have regarding any children in our care.

If you have any questions regarding our processes for keeping children safe, please see staff.

THE FIRST FIVE YEARS – WHAT SHOULD MY CHILD SAY AND DO?

Adapted with permission from a pamphlet by Talk of the Town Speech Pathology. Suite 2 230 Camden Valley Way Narellan. NSW 2567 PH: 46476777

What is Communication:

Communication skills are comprised of receptive (Comprehension and listening) and Expressive (talking) language skills, as well as social and articulation skills. All of these areas are important for your child to communicate effectively with adults and other children. While individual children develop their listening and talking skills at different rates, there is an overall general pattern of development.

What is my child expected to say and do?

At 2-3 years of age:

- Names and points to at least 10 different body parts.
- Reads and shares a book with parents.
- Points to named pictures in a book.
- Shares interest with a specific toy or book with parents (minimum 2 minutes)
- Can point to "big shoe", "little shoe"
- Use 2-4 word sentences regularly when talking
- Knows boy versus girl
- Answers questions such as "what's this", "who is this" and "what's this boy doing"

At 3-4 years of age:

- Uses at least 4-6 word sentences
- Uses "and" to make a longer sentence, e.g.: "I saw a dog and a cat"
- Most words are understood by unfamiliar adults
- Understands location words, e.g. in/on/under/over/front/back
- Knows opposite words e.g.: empty/ full, tall/short, hot/cold.
- Uses me, he she, you, his correctly when talking
- Answers questions, e.g.: "where did you put your shoes"
- Follows non routine 2 step instructions
- Labels basic colours consistently

At 4-5 years of age:

- Asks a lot of "why" questions
- Able to count to 10
- Most grammar is correct
- Follows complex instructions with concepts such as before/ after
- Answers questions about stories that are read to them
- Able to tell about 2 events, e.g.: "I went to the shops, then I went home".

Children experiencing speech or language difficulties are 4-5 times more likely to have reading and spelling problems at school. This places them at risk of frustration, teasing and low self-esteem.

What can I do to help at home?

1. Talk all the time with your child. Talk about what you can see, what they are doing and what you are doing together. Constantly hearing correct speech patterns and use is a great teacher.
2. Try to minimise the amount of time your child watches TV and plays screen games. While they are listening to speech, they are missing out on valuable opportunities to practice their talking
3. Reading books with your child helps to build their attention and gives lots of opportunities to ask and answer questions. Remember, "Two books a day keeps the speech pathologist away".

If you have any concerns about your child's speech, either speaking, listening or understanding, please ask your preschool teachers or make an appointment with a speech pathologist for an assessment and advice.

