

St John's Preschool – Newsletter

Term 2 2019

Lots of excitement and lots to learn bringing our bikes to preschool



We're zooming through Term 2 here at preschool – and we've made it to "Bring Your Bike to Preschool Day", which means one thing – RAIN!

On wet days, please send your child to preschool with a raincoat and gumboots. It's good for them to get out and play when they can and there is still lots to learn – about puddles and raindrops and mud! Please make sure you pack a change of clothes every day as well.



We've had a great start to the term – it was really wonderful to see so many of you at our Mother's Day afternoon! We know that it's not always easy to get to these events, to we (and all the children!) really appreciate it when you're able to make it.

We also had our Parent/Teacher interviews earlier this term. This is a good opportunity to sit down with the Lead Educator in your child's room to get some feedback on how they are going, and also for you to let us know what you think! If you were unable to attend at this time, please feel free to arrange a meeting at any time.

Experimenting at preschool



Every year the children LOVE it when Mitch from Kaleidoscope Science comes to visit! I'm sure that you heard plenty of stories about all the fun things they did with Mitch, and then have continued in their class groups over the past few weeks. I've seen lots of fun with sensory bottles, milk, food colouring and detergent experiments, cornflour and water, vinegar and bicarb soda, rockets shooting up into the air and more!



Over the next few weeks we will be having visits from the Ashfield Fire Brigade with their truck, as well as dancing with Jackie. Every week we're also making our bodies stronger at Munch & Move in the hall and learning Mandarin with Ling & Xiaoxi!

Mandarin with Ling



Practising our jumping at Munch & Move in the hall



We are so happy to have you as part of our preschool! We are currently completely full but are taking waiting list forms for 2020 (as well as to fill any gaps before the end of the year). Please let anyone you know who might be interested.



Class Updates



Frangipani 3-day class

This term, there has been continued strong interest in blocks, box construction and building. The children are drawn to the block corner, particularly with the addition of princesses, knights and dragons, as well as dinosaurs. This has spurred on the creation of stories about what takes place in block corner and it has been wonderful to see the children developing their collaboration skills further in this way. Also, the addition of the 'Stop, Please don't pack this away' signs in the block corner has really helped children to be able to continue their play and develop their block creations further each day of the week, rather than packing away some magnificent creations at the end of each day.

We have also had a focus on sustainability with the children, looking at how we can care for our earth through recycling, composting and disposing of rubbish correctly. The children have engaged with this through group times, games and helping us look after our compost.

In Bible time, Els and the children have been focusing on who God is, what He is like and how we can have a relationship with him. Over the next part of the term, this will flow on to look at prayer and how God always hears us when we say, "Thank you", "Sorry" and "Please".



Frangipani 2-day class

It has been lovely to see the children continue to settle into Preschool. Through time spent with their teachers and peers, the children seem to be feeling a sense of belonging and they are starting to build friendships with one another. They are also very eager to be part of group experiences and to explore new ideas with their peers.

The children really enjoyed our Science incursion and we have continued this interest by conducting our own science experiments in the classroom! They have particularly liked those which focus on cause and effect, for example, as they wait to see what will happen when we mix bicarb soda and vinegar. The bubbles and fizzing that resulted was met with much delight!

Interest in sensory exploration has also been strong. The children have enjoyed our new sensory floor tiles, watching the gel inside move in response to the force they put onto it. They also enjoyed making sensory bottles and these has caused much intrigue as they explore how the pom poms, beads, feathers and sequins move inside the bottle.

We have continued to enjoy Bible time with Els, as we learn more about God, who loves and cares for us.



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Lilli Pilli 3-day class

Term 2 started off with Mother's Day celebrations and lots of opportunities for the children to practice writing down their names on crafts and presents they were making for their mums! We were pleased to see the children's commitment to make beautiful crafts and trying their best when signing their names on them.

Drama lessons with Xiaoxi has been a strong interest with many children using specific vocabulary related to drama such as 'characters' and 'script' in their own pretend play. Through puppet shows, the children are also using their newly acquired 'drama skills' and have shown incredible creativity when developing dialogues, plots as well as making their own puppets! So many interesting ideas! Adding tickets to the puppet show area was a great way to motivate the children to attempt writing their own names or even challenge themselves and write their peers' names! Once there is a 'purpose' for using writing materials (like in this case, selling tickets also involved writing down the customer's name) the children that don't usually engage in drawing activities end up becoming enthusiastic about writing as it is now part of a pretend play.



Lilli Pilli 2-day class

This term the children have been very interested in numbers and counting. Through singing songs that require one-to-one correspondence (such as 5 Cheeky Monkeys and 5 Grey Elephants) and a variety of activities during free play, the children are learning to identify numerals, practice counting, and start to develop understanding of quantity.

Our focus for this term has been to support the children to develop friendships and fine motor skills. We have been modelling how to interact with others and encouraging collaborative play. The children have also been engaging in various activities that promote fine motor skills, including climbing which is great to develop stronger fingers and hands when they hold on bars to climb the equipment. The visit to the park provided plenty opportunities for the children to make good use of their hands, arms and fingers when engaging in a variety of climbing equipment! We will visit to the park again soon.

Another skill that we have been promoting this term is the identification of the children's own names by including name tags at the drawing table for the children to look for their own names and attempt to write which is a long term goal for the class.



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Jacaranda 3-day class

Stories and storytelling have continued to be a big interest for the Jacaranda's. "Where the Wild Things" by Maurice Sendak is a favourite story. The children enjoyed exploring this story through acting it out, adding music to support the mood of the story and using musical instruments to retell the story with sound. Our story basket allowed the children to use puppets and props to recreate scenes from the text and retell it themselves. Turn taking and storytelling was practised. We even read a story like it called "Where the Wild Mums are", for Mother's Day. It is a funny story about Mums being called wild. The children were able to identify the similarities and difference between the two texts, looking at the characters, words, print and illustrations. This led to us making our own storybook about our mums for Mother's Day. Everyone loves reading it in our book corner.

The Kaleidoscope Science visit with Mitch caused the children to see themselves as scientists and begin to explore why things happen. This has led to hands on science experiments and crafts. With this has come lots of discussion and questions. We can't wait to experiment and find out more!



Jacaranda 2-day class

The children in Jacarandas have been having a busy, exciting and fun time. This term we've had our Mother's Day celebration with a church visit, little concert and afternoon tea.

Incursions are always exciting for children and this term highlight was the Kaleidoscope science workshop. The children were learning about experiments and how it is important to use their hands, eyes, ears and brains to learn things. Hands on activities were set up to experiment with spheres, liquids in bottles, magnets, lights, sound and many other things.

We have continued with science experiments in Jacaranda's room, learning about Archimedes' law, primary colours and how to create new colours.

There has been a big interest in doctors dramatic play, which continued for a few weeks followed by veterinary hospital play!

Reminders:

ILLNESS

- Children who are unwell should not come to preschool. Children who have vomited or have had diarrhea are not permitted to attend until 24 hours since the last episode.
- If your child has a fever they should be kept home.
- Please see our Infectious Disease Policy, available in all classrooms and see here for further information:
http://www.imagineeducation.com.au/files/GapTraining/Staying_Healthy_5th_Edition.pdf

BIRTHDAYS

- The children love to celebrate their birthdays at preschool! You are very welcome to bring cupcakes or something similar for them to share if you wish.
- Please ensure the cake you provide does not contain nuts
- PLEASE NOTE: Party bags or gifts should not be handed out at preschool



Please “like” our Facebook page – St John's Preschool Ashfield for more regular updates of our days.

FEEDBACK

At St John's Preschool, we are always trying to improve our process and performance and would value any feedback or ideas that you might have! Please speak with or email Stephanie, Sue, or any of the Educators.

Stephanie is in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Sue is in on Monday morning, Tuesday and Thursday.

Dates for your diary

- Bring Your Bike to Preschool
 - Frangipani & Jacaranda 4yos – Monday 3/06
 - Lilli Pilli 3 yos -Tuesday 4/06
 - Jacaranda & Lilli Pilli 4yos - Thursday 5/06
 - Frangipani 3yos - Friday 6/0
- Queen's Birthday Public Holiday (PRESCHOOL CLOSED) - Monday 10/06
- Fire Engine visit - 10am on Thursday 13/06 (beginning of the week visit to be confirmed)
- Dancing with Jackie - Friday 21/06 & Monday 24/06
- Nursing home visits for 4-year-old classes to be confirmed.
- Last Day of Term – Friday 5/07
- School holidays (PRESCHOOL CLOSED) - 6/07 – 21/07
- **Basecamp** is a school holiday camp run by St John's Church on the preschool & church grounds. Basecamp is open to children K-6, as well as preschoolers starting school in 2020. For further information or to register, see here: <https://basecampinnerwest.com/>
- First Day of Term 3 – Monday 22/07

Vacancies

All of our classes are currently full!

We are still running tours and we will accept waiting list forms for vacancies as they occur, and for children starting in 2020.

Storypark

We use Storypark to share the children's daily activities with families. There is now a Storypark App (“Storypark Families”) that makes it a lot easier to view and comment on stories.

This website is a secure website and can only be accessed through a login. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with your classroom educators.

Please note, that after you leave preschool, we no longer have access to your child's profile. It is up to you to delete if you wish to.