



## St. Dunstan's Preschool

### Newsletter May 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you, families, for your ongoing support. We were very excited to welcome siblings back into our preschool environment.

#### Upcoming Dates

Class/Event	Date
Rafiki individual and class photos	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> of May
Amigo individual and class photos	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> of May
Bunji individual and class photos	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> of May
Chingu individual and class photos	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> of May

#### COVID changes

As per our email sent on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> of May we are now welcoming siblings back into the preschool environment.

“As of Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> of May, we will allow families including siblings into the preschool. We are still mandating mask wearing, and we ask anyone over the age of 12 to wear a mask while in our preschool environment.

In order to minimise the risk of infection we also ask that you keep all siblings close to you and move through the drop off/pick up routine as quickly as possible.

We will continue to be excluding all household contacts of COVID positive cases for the 7 days of isolation as previously stated.

Our 'Conditions of Entry' will apply to everyone who enters the preschool:

BEFORE YOU COME IN:

You and your child must be well and:

- Not have had any of the following symptoms no matter how mild they may be: fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, loss of smell/taste, muscle/joint pains, diarrhoea, vomiting/nausea or extreme tiredness.
- Not had close contact with anyone confirmed to have COVID-19 within the last 7 days
- Not be awaiting a COVID-19 test result
- Not have been advised to self-isolate or get tested by NSW Health
- Adults and children over 12 must be wearing a mask
- Follow physical distancing measures

If you still prefer a member of staff to meet you in the car park please call preschool.

PLEASE NOTE - These changes will be reviewed regularly. In the case of an outbreak or rise in cases within our preschool we will have to revert to our previous procedures."

### **School Readiness Presentation**

Each year (usually in March) we hold a school readiness night where we invited teachers from Denistone East Public School. We discuss how you can prepare your child for school, what a typical day at school might look like, useful resources and the most important skills children benefit from having when they start school. We also discuss our preschool curriculum and what we do as Early Childhood Educators.

We would love your feedback. If you would be interested in attending, would you prefer this presentation to be via zoom or face to face at preschool. It will be done around 6:30pm on a weeknight. Please email your thoughts or speak to your child's teacher.

### **Philosophy**

As a team, we have been reviewing our philosophy. A statement of philosophy guides all aspects of the service's operations. A written statement of philosophy outlines the purpose and principles under which the service operates. It should also reflect the guiding principles of the National Quality Framework (section 3(3) of the National Law), and the Approved Learning Frameworks (Element 1.1.1).

I have attached a copy of our updated philosophy. We would love any feedback that you would like to share with us.

### **Acknowledgement of Country**

We have also reviewed our Acknowledgement of Country. Here is the one we share with the children.

Here is the land and here is the sky.

Here are my friends and here am I.

We thank the Wallumedegal people for the land on which we play and learn.

Hands up, hands down

We're on Dharug land

### **Policies**

We have many policies and procedures in place which guide our educational practices and promote the health, safety and well being of everyone who access our services. These are available for anyone to access in our office and parent library, or upon request.

### **Playgroup**

Macquarie Anglican are running playgroup sessions for children aged 0 and 5 years.

These sessions are held on Tuesdays from 10am-12pm at 100 Balaclava Rd Eastwood.

For more information, please email [playcentre@macang.org](mailto:playcentre@macang.org) or visit [www.macang.org](http://www.macang.org).

### **Kitchen Duties and Working Bees**

Due to COVID restrictions both working bees and kitchen duties have been put on hold. We will be reviewing this in our next staff meeting and will share any updates.

## **StEPS Eyetest**

The StEPS program is a free population based vision screening program and is designed to identify childhood vision problems which cannot be detected by observation, behaviour, family history or vision surveillance. The StEPS program will actively identify and target all 4 year old children in NSW to offer them a free visual acuity screen using a validated test.

We have booked this in for late July and will notify you closer to time via email and with a consent form which will need to be completed.

## **Friendly Reminders**

- Please remember your child's hat. With the unpredictable weather we have been experiencing it is important to make sure that your child is wearing sensible clothing and that you apply sunscreen to your child upon arrival at preschool. Sunscreen is always available on top of the lockers and at the outside sink. We will assist your child with application for afternoon outside play.
- Please remember to pack spare warm clothes.
- Please remember a hand towel for the bathroom.
- Slow down and drive carefully in the carpark.
- Always hand your child's medication to a member of staff and complete a medication form.
- Sandals and running shoes are the best choice for climbing our obstacle course, so no thongs or crocs please.
- Please remember to bring a water bottle.
- Please do not hold the gates open for long periods of time as it can be an opportunity for children to leave the preschool unaccompanied.
- Please do not leave any siblings in your car. It is against the law. If this causes issues for you, see a staff member for assistance.

Thank you for the wonderful support you have shown with following our COVID policies and procedures.

Michelle, Julie, Hayley, Stacey, Esther, Terrie, Sephine, Young, Ben, Lynette and Simone