



St. Dunstan's Preschool

Newsletter February 2025

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to a new preschool year. We hope you all had a safe and happy holiday. We would like to welcome all the new families who are starting at our preschool this year and we are happy to see so many returning faces too.

Our Team

There are 13 staff members at St. Dunstan's Preschool.

Photographs and names are on the noticeboard located between the two entry gates.

	Attendance	Qualification	Role/Responsibilities
Michelle	Monday-Friday	Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Education)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Director/nominated supervisor - Working with all classes when needed - Educational Leader - Child Safe leader
Stacey	Monday-Friday	Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Education)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rafiki and Chingu teacher - Work, Health and Safety Officer - Child safe advocate
Rubi	Monday-Friday	Diploma in Children Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rafiki Educator - Inclusion support educator (Th/F) - First Nations and Child Safe Advocate
Mimi	Monday-Friday	Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Education)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amigo and Gulyangarri teacher - Programming and Planning and Child Safe Advocate
Esther	Monday-Friday	Diploma in Children Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amigo and Chingu educator - Belonging and Child Safe Advocate
Sephine	Monday-Thursday	Certificate III Children's Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusion Support Educator - Working with Bunji and Gulyangarri classes covering programming time (Thursday) - Sustainability and Child Safe Advocate
Mickey	Monday-Wednesday	Certificate III Children's Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusion Support Educator - Relationships with Children and Child Safe Advocate
Lynette	Tuesday-Friday	Diploma in Children Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusion Support Educator (Thursday/Friday)

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with Amigo & Rafiki classes covering programming time (Tuesday & Wednesday) - Relationships with children and Child Safe Advocate
Shell	Wednesday-Friday	Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Education)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gulyangarri Educator (Thursday-Friday) - Working with Amigo & Rafiki classes covering programming (Wednesday) - Wellbeing and Child Safe Advocate
Simone	Wednesday & Friday		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Office Administrator
Ben	Casual	Diploma in Children Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusion support Monday to Wednesday - Educator working with all classes when needed - Child Safe Advocate
Young	Casual	Diploma in Children Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educator working with all classes when needed - Child Safe Advocate
Mia	Casual	Diploma in Children Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educator working with all classes when needed - Child Safe Advocate

Preschool Hours

We have specific licensing requirements that govern our preschool operational hours.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday our hours are 9am- 3pm.

Thursday and Friday our hours are 8:15am to 3:45pm.

We ask that you only use the carpark for a short drop off/pick up. This will allow all families access to collect their child within our preschool hours.

Child Safety

St Dunstan's Preschool is committed to providing child safe culture by supporting children and young people, parents, guardians, families, and communities, and by ensuring all educators, staff and volunteers who work with St Dunstan's Preschool are committed to safeguarding children and young people.

All children and young people have a right to feel safe, and be safe. The safety, wellbeing and empowerment of children and young people at St Dunstan's Preschool is at the core of all our decision making. Children's rights will be understood, respected and upheld by all adults involved in St Dunstan's Preschool.

Our full statement is on display inside. For more information please speak to any educator.

Communication

Partnerships with families are very important to us. We will be starting our WhatsApp class groups to use as a communication platform with our families. This chat group will be used for reminders, provide information and ask questions to help with our programming and planning (it won't be used to spam families).

This platform will not be always monitored. If you need to contact the preschool, please call us on 9887 1481 or email mail@stdpk.org.au. Unfortunately, if any families do not use the WhatsApp group in a positive way or breach our code of conduct you will be removed and your child's position at the preschool could be compromised.

Church playground

Whilst we love seeing families connect with each other before and after school we are asking that you do not use the church's play equipment that is visible from the car park. It is not part of the preschool environment, and we are not licensed to have you there. Kings Park is only a short walk away if you want to continue to socialise outside of preschool hours (we just ask that you do not leave your car in our preschool carpark).

Events for the year

During the year we have many fun events. This might include Family Fun Day, Tim visiting (Our Families Minister), Magic Shows, Cultural Awareness visits, School Readiness Presentation, Excursions, a Zoo Visit to preschool, Police and Fire Fighter Visits (just to name a few). We will notify you of these events closer to time.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for parent volunteers to join our management committee. The management committee for the preschool comprises 4 parent representatives and 5 church representatives. If you are interested in joining our committee to help assist with the running of the preschool, please see Michelle.

We are looking for a fundraising coordinator/s for the preschool, so we can start organising all our events for this year. If you are interested, please see Michelle. In previous years the fundraising team have worked hard to raise funds for the preschool, essential equipment has been purchased including outdoor equipment, books and games etc. (Don't worry, we do help support you in this role).

We are also looking for families to help review and provide feedback on our policies. These policies can be emailed to you to review.

If you can assist with any of the above, please let Michelle know via email or in person.

Updated details

Could you please notify a member of staff when your child's immunisation or "permission to collect" information needs to be updated. Also please ensure that we have your current email address, home address and contact numbers.

Children's Library (starting 19th and 20th of February)

We have an extensive range of books for the children to choose from, including books in a variety of languages. The library will start next week. There are a few simple rules to follow when using the library:

- You will need a library bag.
- Books can be borrowed on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

- There is a one per week limit. Please do not borrow a new book until you have returned your previous book.
- Books can be returned any day. Place them in the labelled box on the verandah.
- Amigo and Rafiki groups borrowing day will be Wednesdays. Bunji and Chingu groups borrowing day will be Thursdays.

Parent library and Padlet

Information on policies, procedures and useful resources can be found on our padlet <https://padlet.com/director556/families-66jxl46h6n4a0vdw>

If there are any areas that you would like more information on, please let us know.

Our parent library is at the entrance to the preschool. Whilst most things are now in digital form we still have some hard copy resources and books for you to borrow.

We also have many resources on our website

<https://www.stdunstanskindergarten.com.au/newsletters-and-resources>.

Working Bees

Each year we ask for assistance with the maintenance of the preschool playgrounds, building and equipment. This might include jobs such as gardening, painting and small repairs. These take place on four Saturday mornings throughout the year. More information will be emailed out shortly.

Fees

Fee Invoices are currently being processed and will be sent out in the coming weeks. If any families have a current low income or family health care card, please provide a copy to Simone in the office as soon as possible.

Fee relief funding will be applied as per what was allocated on the fee relief declaration forms completed with the enrolment pack. If you need to change your previous declaration, a new form will need to be completed as soon as possible.

Storage of Food

Please remember to pack your child's lunch appropriately. If you are packing yoghurt or food that would generally need to be in the fridge such as meat, rice, sushi, ham and cheese sandwiches, please pack an ice brick in your child's lunch box/bag. If you need any support with what this might look like, please see your child's teachers.

For anyone packing food in a thermos you will need to sign a waiver that says you are taking responsibility for how you've packed your child's lunch.

Anaphylaxis, Allergy and Asthma awareness

We have a number of children attending this preschool who suffer allergic reactions to all nuts, seafood, egg, kiwi, sesame, raw honey, raw wheat, chocolate and beans, some resulting in ANAPHYLAXIS.

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening.

We recognise that complete avoidance of all allergens is not practical at preschool, therefore, the following health and hygiene practices will be encouraged.

- **Please do not pack nuts or nut products (this includes peanut butter and Nutella) for preschool.**
- If you do pack other foods such as eggs, kiwi, seafood, sesame, honey, wheat, and beans please ensure your child can eat this in a clean way, not spilling it everywhere.

If your child has a nut or egg product for breakfast, please ensure that they have washed their mouth, hands, face and brushed their teeth.

Please make sure that younger siblings do not put our play equipment in their mouth.

If you are unsure about what is safe to pack, please see a staff member so necessary safety precautions can be followed.

Remind your child not to share food or drink bottles with others.

EVEN A SMALL EXPOSURE TO ALLERGEN COULD RESULT IN A LIFE THREATENING SITUATION, and we thank you for your support in following these recommendations.

Illness and preschool

At St Dunstan's we have a duty of care to ensure the safety all children, families, and educators. Please make sure you and your child are well before entering preschool. Please refer to our Infectious Disease policy that is on the Padlet or in your enrolment booklet for more information.

Family photos

We would like some family photos to add to your child's Preschool Journey book. Please hand the photos to your child's educators or email them to mail@stdpk.org.au and we can print them off for you.

Carpark Safety

As I'm sure you are all aware our car park can be very busy at drop-off and pick-up times. We have a duty of care to provide a safe learning environment from when the children walk through our gates to when they leave, while you have a duty of care to keep children and families safe in the car park. We do not have the time to leave the children we are responsible for in our preschool to monitor the car park. Please keep this in mind and remember everyone's safety!

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.

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 outside play.

- Please remember to pack spare clothes. Even if your child is toilet trained your child still requires spare clothes as we have water and messy play.
- 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.

Thank you for the wonderful support.

Michelle, Mimi, Rubi, Stacey, Esther, Sephine, Lynette, Shell, Mickey, Young, Ben, and Simone.

