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TERM 2 2010 NEWSLETTER

Hi Parents,

Welcome back to our old families and a big welcome to our new families.

We hope you had a lovely two week break. The weather was mostly great which was a big relief; at least the children could get outside to play. We had a busy time at kindy with the office and the bathroom having a complete overhaul and an upgrade to the cooling and lighting inside and outside.

ENVIRONMENT

The toilets now offer the children some degree of privacy with barn style doors, the lighting has improved dramatically and the disabled area meets all the legal requirements. There are a few minor things to complete but it is a vast improvement on what we had before.

The disabled toilet is now going to be used for teachers and adults. The children will use the two new toilets designed specifically for them. If you need to use the toilet please use the adult one and ensure the door is secured in the closed position when leaving. At the time of writing this email I still have to install a blind next to new safety glass window at the side of the nappy table. This is a Ministry of Education requirement; that the nappy change area can be viewed from another part of the kindy. We just have to remember to close the blind when using the bathroom.

The office is now an excellent working space for the teachers. We have places to keep our belongings and good work areas for the mountains of paper work the Ministry of Education require the teachers to undertake.

In the teaching room we have installed some cooling fans we probably won't need them for the next 9 months but they are ready and waiting for the hot summer weather. We also upgraded the security lighting in the kindy grounds. It has been crazy around here but it is very important that the kindergarten is kept in good repair.

SESSION CHANGES

This is always a mammoth task. Lynette and I sit with our fingers crossed hoping that we have not overbooked the sessions by giving the same session to more than one child. So we are hoping that it all works out ok this week. We will know when we call the role each day.

When your child reaches the age of three or changes a session the Ministry of Education require us to get your signature as confirmation and proof of this change. If the changes are not signed for we find ourselves in serious trouble and could lose many thousands of dollars in government funding. So if your

child's name is the list on the signing in and out table please come and see Jill or Lynette to sign your form.

Due to all the changes the fees are tricky to calculate please check that yours is ok if not please let Jill or Lynette know and we will sort it out for you.

PHOTOGRAPHS

At the time of writing this email the photographs are not back yet. I will let you know when they arrive, probably not long now.

TEACHER ONLY DAY

Kindy will be closed on Friday 6th May. The teachers are going to Christchurch for the Early Childhood Council Conference. If your child attends kindy on Friday and you pay your fee in one lump sum the fee for this day has been deducted from the "amount due this term" but if you do not pay in one lump sum you will need to deduct the session fee from that particular week. The same applies to Queens Birthday public holiday. Any problems please see Jill or Lynette.

PARENT KINDY CHATS

During Term 2 and 3 we set aside Wednesday afternoons so that you can meet with us to discuss your child. We try to keep these chats as informal as possible; it's not a progress report like at school. Just a short 15 minutes when we can give you our undivided attention and have a general chat about your child. A list will be put on the signing in and out table with a schedule of dates and times for term 2. Please choose your time and complete one of the slips so that we know what you would like to discuss. You might want a general chat or you may want to ask something more specific. If you miss out on the first round in term two don't despair we have term three coming up. Please don't forget that we are always very happy to discuss your child at any time so if these dates don't suit you we will find a time that does.

PARENT HELP

We struggled to get parent help last term so would really like to encourage you to give us a hand this term. Being a parent help is not at all complicated. All that we ask you to do is make some play dough and paint, sharpen a few or I should say a lot of crayons and pencils, file the paintings, wipe the shelves and generally tidy up. Usually this happens on a Friday morning but this has proven difficult for many parents so any time will be fine with us. If you need to bring a sibling please check with us first. Some children are fine but for others it just does not work so well, usually due to the age of the child. The list will be on the signing in and out table for you add your name. Pretty Please.

SCHOOL LEAVERS

Is your child leaving for school during or at the end of this term? If so we need to finalise the last day of attendance and book your child's 'goodbye ceremony'. So please see Jill or Lynette so we can book a date for you.

DATES FOR THIS TERM

- Monday 19th April: Kindy opens
- Wednesday 5th May Mothers Day at kindy. All mums welcome to spend the morning at kindy.
- Thursday 6th May Mother's day at Kindy. All mums welcome to spend the morning (not RS afternoon) at kindy.
- Friday 7th May: Teachers only day.
- Thursday 3rd June: Dress up like a king or queen day.

- Friday 4th June: Dress up like a king or queen day.
- Monday 7th June: Public holiday Queen Elizabeth 2nd birthday
- Wednesday 5th May, 19th May, 2nd June, and 16th June: Kindy parent chats. Please complete the form on signing in and out table.
- Friday 2nd July: Kindy closes. This is an 11 week term with one teacher only day and one public holiday.

REMINDERS:

Lots of children came to kindy with no drinks last term. Some children don't tell us they have nothing to drink so please add that to the list of 100+ things you have to do before leaving the house in the morning.

All the lost property that was not claimed has been donated to the child cancer clothing bin.

Please check that your child has a complete change of clothes suitable for the change in the weather.

Please name everything you possibly can hats, shoes, lunch box bottoms and lids, drink bottles etc. etc.

Several of our children have life threatening allergies to nuts. Others have allergies to dairy, eggs, and bananas. We don't expect you to avoid all these food groups but reducing them wherever possible in your child's lunch would be really appreciated.

Please collect your child's art.

Finally thank you for the lovely Easter treats we received; we all love chocolate and hot cross buns. And thanks for all the delicious morning teas. When I go to make the teachers morning tea there is nothing nicer than finding a container full of baking for us. It makes our day. So thank you so very much.

Last term was very busy with lots of extra events going on over and above the normal kindy day. This term is quiet in comparison but just as much fun. If there is anything you wish to ask or find out about please don't hesitate.

Kind regards

Jill Lynette, Tania, Debbie, Yolanda and Lesley