



## NEWSLETTER

*April - 2020 - 2*

MUDGEE PRESCHOOL

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### **Dear Parents and Carers,**

Thank you to all those families who have let us know what their plans are for the first couple of weeks of Term 2. I appreciate that circumstances may be uncertain and encourage you to contact the office if your plans change.

As advised, Preschool will remain open for Term 2 for those families who have no other options and at this stage, unlike the schools, there is no plan for a staggered transition back to Preschool. This is consistent with the current advice from NSW Health and the Department of Education.

Today at Preschool the Teachers have been busy discussing how we can stay connected to all families and have decided, at this stage, to adventure into closed/private FaceBook groups for each class. See more information below.

Please note, as advised earlier, that all fees for Term 2 are being subsidized by the Preschool and the Department of Education. Please contact the office if you have any questions. Also please welcome Kathy Begg in the office who is standing in for Karen who is having a couple of weeks break.

And another reminder to please send in a recipe or activity to our fantastic Social Club to be published in a very special Preschool book (read more below) - the more ideas that come in, the more special it will be!

Wishing you all well.

Regards

Rosie Gibbs

Director/Nominated Supervisor

### **STAYING CONNECTED DURING COVID-19**

The Preschool will form a PRIVATE FaceBook group for each class in response to the Covid-19 situation. Teachers and educators are aiming to stay connected to those children and families who are staying at home as recommended by NSW Health, as well communicate with families whose children are attending Preschool because their families do not have any other options.

We hope that this group will provide a forum to connect, share ideas, and get feedback from all families and children.

Please note that only parents/guardians who are listed on your child's enrolment form will be admitted to the group. Please read the rules of the Group before posting any comments.

The FaceBook groups can be found on the Mudgee Preschool [FaceBook Page](#) and parents/guardians can request to join the group.

We appreciate your understanding and support and are looking forward to this new way of connecting and communicating.

## DONT FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR IDEAS AND RECIPES

The Mudgee Preschool Social Club will be working next term to create a **Mudgee Preschool 2020 Cook and Play book**. In creating this book we are hoping to support a sense of connection amongst families through the sharing of our much loved family recipes and activities with one another at Preschool.

### How will it work?

Families who wish to contribute are invited to send in one or two of their favourite family recipes. Additionally, families may also choose to include a children's drawing, a play based activity that you enjoy doing with your children at home or even a joke for us to add to the cookbook. We will be aiming to have electronic copies available to families towards the end of term 2 and hard copies to be available in 2020 for families, staff and our wider community.

*"During this time we might be feeling a little low  
Not able to be all together, taking it slow.*

*We thought, with your help, we would create a little book  
To help bring us together, create, capture and cook!*

*So if you find a little time send your contribution through  
We will bring it all together and give it to you!"*



THE BEST START FOR  
OUR CHILDREN, FOR A  
BETTER COMMUNITY

### What to include in your recipe and/or optional drawing/activity

Your child's name, age and class.

The recipe or activity name.

A short statement about why the recipe /activity is special or a family favourite or where it comes from.

The time it takes to prepare and cook, the ingredients, method and any cooking tips (**see the example attached**).

### Where to send your recipes

Please send your recipes and any jokes, activities or children's drawings via email to:

[social.club@mudgeepreschool.com.au](mailto:social.club@mudgeepreschool.com.au) or **SMS** Kim Gribble (Social Club Coordinator) on **0403 130 899**.

**Drawings must be on white paper.** They can be scanned and emailed to the above email address or a photo sent via SMS to Kim's mobile number above.

Please send your contribution through by **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

**We look forward to sharing some favourite recipes and games amongst our Preschool Families and with our community as a small gesture of connection, love and generosity.**

**> HELP US SAVE LIVES**



## Mudgee Preschool steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19

To help minimise cross infection of any illness, any child who is sick or displaying flu-like symptoms, must not come to Preschool until they are well. Any children who display symptoms of being unwell will be sent home.

### **You can help us by:**

- not entering Preschool if you are unwell
- using hand sanitizer placed at the front entry and at sign-in sheets at drop-off and pick-up times
- maintaining a safe distance of 1.5m from all other adults
- not lingering at drop-off and pick-up times
- not bringing siblings into Preschool or, if unavoidable, keeping them close to you and not allowing them to play with equipment
- bringing in your own pen to sign-in and out.

### **We will promote a safe and supportive environment for children by:**

- reassuring children they are safe
- acknowledging and listening to children's questions
- promoting and implementing hygiene routines for handwashing as well as coughing and sneezing
- keeping regular and familiar routines within our Preschool
- engaging children in play, games and other physical activities
- being alert to children's level of anxiety and provide quiet and relaxing activities
- ensuring children are provided with rest and sleep when needed
- providing information to families and support services as required using emails, sms and fb.

### **Some of the additional preventative measures include:**

- increasing the frequency of robust cleaning within the indoor and outdoor environment including high-touch surfaces (door handles, tables, taps)
- reviewing our handwashing and hand sanitising practices and protocols and increasing handwashing schedules
- teaching and reiterating cough and sneeze etiquette with children
- reviewing our food handling procedures and eating times for children
- reducing the size of grouping of children in different rooms
- ensuring children are resting at least 1.5m away from one another
- moving equipment and tables to allow children space in indoor and outdoor environments
- increasing the amount of natural ventilation by opening windows and doors and adjusting air conditioning
- cancelling all incursions to the service and reducing any outings to our community
- postponing parent/teacher interviews – please contact teachers by phone or email if you would like to catch up. Teachers will be keeping in touch with their classes via email, telephone and Facebook.
- keeping classes separate as far as possible
- opening doors a few minutes earlier at the start and end of the day for 3 day classes to decrease numbers of families arriving at the same time.

More information about Covid-19 can be found <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

