



NEWSLETTER

July 2020

MUDGEE PRESCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We're looking forward to welcoming children and families back to Preschool from Tuesday, 21 July. As you would be aware the border between NSW and Victoria closed as of 12:01am 8 July. NSW residents returning from Victoria after this time must have a permit to enter NSW and are required to self-isolate for a period of fourteen days. **This means that any staff or children from the Preschool who visited Victoria during the holidays are required to self-isolate and must not attend Preschool for fourteen days from the date they entered NSW.**

Please note that there is a declaration at the sign-in sheets which requires you to confirm each time you sign your child in that you or your child:

- have not returned to Australia from any overseas travel in the last 14 days
- have not come into close contact with someone who has a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the past 14 days
- do not have a fever or any flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- have not visited Victoria since 8 July 2020.

Preschool staff will continue to maintain recommended hygiene and physical distancing guidelines for early childhood centres and have reviewed our risk management procedures. Please remember:

- Sanitize your hands on entry to Preschool and ensure your child washes their hands. If your child uses the sanitizer please ensure they are supervised while doing so
- Please maintain a 1.5m distance between yourself and other adults
- Please avoid congregating at Preschool and make an appointment or telephone to speak to your child's teacher if you have something important to discuss that may take longer than a few minutes
- Please do not unpack your child's bag
- Please do not allow siblings to play on or with the equipment (indoors or outdoors)
- At Lovejoy Street please enter and exit through the front door, no longer using the Perry St gate to exit. Extended hours entry and exit are as normal.

The Preschool has, in collaboration with South Mudgee Surgery, developed a booklet for children who may need to be tested for Covid-19. We know that this can be a daunting experience for young children and we thought a social story that explained the process would support children and their families. Please ask at Preschool if you would like a copy of the "Going to the Mudgee Respiratory Clinic"

Vision Screenings by NSW Health for children going to school and who have not been screened at another service will take place in the 2nd week of term. Families whose children are to be screened will find a permission note in their child's pocket.

And, for some good news, just a reminder that Preschool will remain free for Term 3. Fees will still however be charged for Extended Hours and any outstanding fees from Term 1 must be paid.

Wishing you all well.

Regards
Rosie Gibbs
Director/Nominated Supervisor

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.

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 facebook

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
- 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
- only having excursions to the park and other outdoor venues where contact with the general public is minimal
- 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 at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>