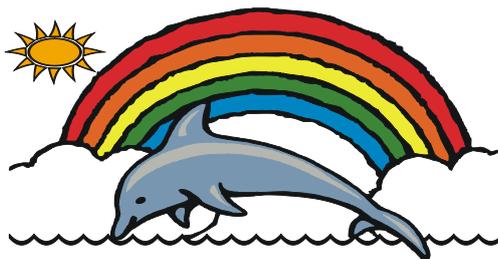


Berkeley Vale Pre-school Kindergarten Inc

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September 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Families,

Spring has sprung and hopefully the winter chills are now behind us for 2020.

Sunscreen

As the warmer weather approaches it is important that we remind parents about sunscreen. We have a sunscreen station available for children to apply themselves. However, for those younger children who need adult support with this, we would ask parents to ensure that they have already applied sunscreen prior to arriving to pre-school. Please also ensure that your child comes to pre-school with an appropriate sun-safe hat, and a baseball cap is not acceptable.

Staff News

Next week interviews for both the Administration Officer and part-time Early Childhood teacher role within the Rainbow Room will be held. We are hopeful that we will secure suitable candidates for these respective roles.

We also wish to advise parents, that Bec Knebel, one of the educators from the Dolphin room, after 13 years of service has chosen a different career path. We wish Bec all the best with her future endeavours.

What's Coming Up?

- **Thursday, 17th**
September –
Management
Committee Meeting -
8pm via zoom
- **Friday, 25th**
September - last day
of term

Losing experienced team members has an impact on the children, families, and our team. However, I would like to acknowledge our continuing team members who are all pulling together, filling extra shifts whilst we all navigate these staffing transitions. We anticipate that this will result in minimal disruption and we will keep you well informed of future team additions.

Fees for Term 4

The NSW Government has extended their “fee free pre-school” for all NSW children and

families. Therefore, Berkeley Vale Pre-school will not be charging families fees for the remainder of the year. Our service will continue to be eligible for the Job Keeper package, as well as other business stimulus packages that have been implemented to support the COVID pandemic.

Those families that will be leaving our service at the end of 2020, will have their bond returned to them during Term 4.

Unwell Children

All primary and high schools have now enforced that unwell children must provide a negative COVID certificate prior to their return to school. NSW Health & the Early Childhood Directorate have advised that whilst it is recommended that COVID tests are conducted when people present with flu like symptoms. It is NOT mandatory that pre-school aged children have a COVID test prior to returning to early childhood services if they have been unwell. However, if children are unwell at pre-school, they will be sent home in accordance with our Infectious Diseases policy and NSW Health recommendations due to our current pandemic. If COVID cases were to increase on the Central Coast, we would be revising this decision in line with NSW Health & Early Childhood Directorate recommendations.

COVID testing can be done via a drive through service at Douglas Hanley, located in the carpark at the Mariner Medical Centre, Tuggerah and no referrals are required.

2021 Enrolment Packages

Enrolments for 2021 are well underway and we will be forwarding enrolment paperwork for all returning children / families to be completed in the coming weeks. Your prompt return of this completed documentation will be greatly appreciated.

Safe Transportation of Children

New regulations come into effect from 1st October for services that transport children as part of their daily operation, which has come into effect following the tragic loss of a young child left on a bus in far North Queensland. May we kindly remind parents that it is never acceptable to leave a child unattended within their car whilst dropping off or collecting your pre-school child.

Please feel free to contact pre-school at any time to talk with your child's educator as we are acutely aware that we are not getting the same degree of face to face parent / educator discussions that we would normally be engaging in.

Best wishes and kind regards,

Colleen Templeton and the Berkeley Vale Pre-school team