

# Bethlehem Community Pre-School Inc.

"Your caring community Pre-School in the heart of Bethlehem"

## Newsletter – February 2021



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**Welcome Back Everyone** and Welcome to all our new families. We look forward to getting to know you and becoming part of our Pre-School whanau.

Please remember to apply sunscreen to your child before coming to Pre-School each day. Teachers will reapply at Lunchtime for those children staying all day. Hats are a necessity and we have a "no hat, no outside play" policy during Term 1 and 4.

If you can pack some togs and a towel we will be enjoying lots of water play to make the most of the beautiful weather we are having. Also remember a change of clothes and a "wet clothes" bag is also required to have in your child's bag.

### Term 1 Term Dates

2 Feb – 16 April

#### Closed:

Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Feb – Waitangi Day

Fri 2 Apr – Good Friday

Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Apr – Easter Monday

Tue 6<sup>th</sup> Apr – Easter Tuesday

### Upcoming Events:

**Zero Waste Mat-Time** – Tues 9<sup>th</sup> Feb – all welcome to join even if not enrolled on this day

**Surf Life-saving Trip** to the Mount (a separate notice will go out soon) Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> February.

**VIM Breakfast** – Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Apr (a separate notice will go out soon).

### Management Committee Meeting

Our next Management Committee Meeting will be held in the Carmichael Room on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 9am**. Everyone is welcome. Please see Toni or Jo if you would like more information.

### Whanau Wall

If you haven't already bought in a family photo we would love to have one for our Whanau wall. Having our family photos displayed in the Pre-School helps to promote our sense of belonging and well-being for our children and families as they feel a part of the wider Pre-School community.



### Healthy Eating – New Food Safety Laws

Many of you may have seen reports in the media recently about minimising food related choking risks in early learning services and new licensing criteria have been introduced from the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021. We already comply with most of the regulations that apply to us although we are sensibly being asked to share with you best practice from the Ministry of Health which is well worth reading.

[Developing chewing and swallowing skills | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

[Food-related choking in young children | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

[Foods that pose a higher choking risk for children under five years | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

[Preventing choking in young children | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

It remains our view that you know best when deciding what food your children eat at Pre-School based on their age and stage of development. However, as always, we are very happy to discuss any concerns you might have and all our teachers are very familiar with safety aspects of children's food and eating at Pre-School. We will also continue to provide the environment and care to ensure your children's utmost safety whilst eating here. This includes the benefits of our structured approach with designated eating times; children all sitting down to eat their own food with teachers always supervising; and all our permanent teachers holding current first aid certificates which includes being trained to respond to choking.

Thanks for your time reading these important safety messages.

## ECE Curriculum

The Early Childhood Education curriculum fosters children's love of learning through play. Social skills, Literacy, Numeracy, Science, Arts and Creativity are all woven through our programme here at Pre-School and the teaching staff work with children encouraging and extending their learning according to their individual development and ability.

Opportunities to learn writing skills occur within many of our activities.

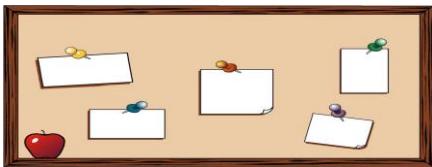
Research tells us that New Entrant teachers value children's confidence, self-help skills, independence and willingness to learn. Oral communication skills and the ability to be curious about the world we live in are also highly valued. We are developing confident, Capable life-long learners.

Please see teaching staff if you would like to talk about any aspect of your child's experience here at Pre-School ☺



### Information around Pre-School

Please take a regular look at your child's portfolio and check out our programme planning board to see the rich environment of learning activities happening in the centre each day.



Please see Facebook for regular photo updates and please feel free to talk to staff if you have any questions or queries about your child's learning.

### Learning Stories

Please remember to check your Notice Pockets. When your child has a new Learning Story added to their portfolio a note is put in your pocket to let you know. Please then return the reminder to the Office. Thank You.



### Invoices e-mailed out this week.

Fees invoices have been issued and e-mailed to you – remember to check your inboxes/junk mail. Please be advised that these may be paid weekly, fortnightly or monthly. Any concerns or queries you may have then please see Jo in the Office ☺

### Name All Belongings

Please try to ensure that all your child/ren's belongings are clearly named. We are trying to teach our tamariki responsibility for their belongings (a great skill to have!) as well as trying to keep our Foyer and Cubby hole area tidy.

### Absences

Please also let us know if your child is absent. You can call us and leave us a message, email us or private message us on Facebook. Once again this is a Health and Safety matter.

### Signing in

Please ensure you sign your child in and out each day. This is a Ministry of Education requirement for record keeping but is also a safety requirement to ensure we know children are with us.

### Reminder on Gate Protocol



We would like to remind all Pre-School parent/families and visitors to carefully check the gate as they enter and leave our Pre-School grounds – ensuring that the gate closes properly behind you – and also that you have not inadvertently allowed any other children through with you.

We constantly monitor the gate and the more eyes we have the safer our environment.

If you have any questions or concerns, then please feel free to talk to any one of us ☺  
Toni, Donna, Carol, Cheryl, Katie and Jo.