

Bethlehem Community Pre-School Inc.

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

Newsletter – February 2023



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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 whānau.

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

1st Feb – 6th April

Closed:

Mon 8th Feb – Waitangi Day

Fri 7 Apr – Good Friday

Mon 10th Apr – Easter

Our term break is from Tuesday the 11th April to the Friday 21st April.

Upcoming Events:

Omokoroa Family Picnic Trip:

Wednesday 1st March 2023 @ 9.00am – 12.30. Please see notice in your pockets and fill in the trip book.

Bethlehem School Gala: 16th

March 2023, 4-7pm. We will have a stall and will require parent help. Keep an eye out for notices.

Management Committee Meeting

Our next Management Committee Meeting will be held by zoom on the 3rd April at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome. Please see Toni 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.



New Staff: Welcome to Wendy Gordon who joined us at the start of this year in a permanent capacity. Wendy has done some relieving here with us in 2022 and her now adult children attended Bethlehem Community Preschool some years ago. Wendy is a qualified Early Childhood teacher and has been teaching for nine years. Wendy has experience in Montessori teaching as well. She is very knowledgeable and has experience as a Mum too. Wendy loves camping, mountain biking, and spending time at the beach. In her spare time she also teaches literacy to children with dyslexia. She is particularly interested in emotional literacy and social competence and she also enjoys learning about the natural world, science, culture, language and the arts, encouraging children to be curious caretakers of the world they live in. Please say Hello to Wendy she is very friendly and approachable.



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 ☺





Best Practice Healthy Eating Ideas – From the Ministry of Health - Healthy eating ideas from the Ministry of Health which is well worth reading for all our existing families and new families.

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

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

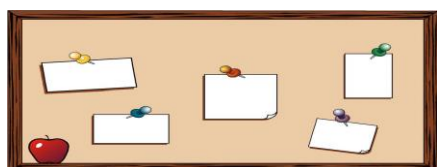
[Foods that pose a higher choking risk for children under five years | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

[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.

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

Each time a teacher completes a learning story for your child's portfolio this is emailed to you to read and put in their portfolio book at Preschool. We love to hear your feedback about your child's learning please share your comments with us. 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 Toni or Sonia 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.

Child Accidents - When your child has an accident that staff treat, we write up an accident form that the staff sign, and we require you to sign. If you see a note next to your child's name on the signing in roll you will need to see a teacher to sign our hard copy as we are legally required to keep a record of all accidents on site.



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, Jenna, Carol, Tracy, Wendy and Sonia.