

Bethlehem Community Pre-School Inc.

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

Newsletter – February 2025



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Welcome Back Everyone and Welcome to all our new families. We look forward to getting to know you and you 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 changes of clothes and a "wet clothes" bag is also required to have in your child's bag.

Term 1 Term Dates

3rd Feb – 11th April

Closed:

18th April – Good Friday

21st April – Easter Monday

25th April – Anzac Day

Our term break is from Friday the 11th April to the Friday 25th April.

Invoices e-mailed out:

Fees invoices have been issued and emailed out to you all a few weeks ago. Check your inboxes/junk mail. Please be advised that these may be paid weekly, fortnightly, or monthly but need to be paid before the end of term. We are providing a service to you and staff also need to be paid please be mindful of this. Any concerns please see Toni or Jacqui in the office.

Management Committee Meeting

Our next Management Committee Meeting will be held by zoom on the **4th March @ 7.30pm**. Everyone is welcome. Please see Toni if you would like more information.

Whanau Wall

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



Upcoming Events:

Omanawa Falls Bush Walk: Wednesday 19th March @ 9.15am – 1.30pm. This is our family picnic trip and we encourage all our parents to join us. If you have younger siblings at home, they can come too. There is water, and we require one adult to one child. Please fill in the trip book to give permission and mark your attendance. This year we have decided that we will all travel in our own vehicles to illuminate the costly bus ride. This however poses a large paperwork and compliance challenge. All families will need to supply Toni with their Driver's Licence, current car registration and WOF. This will be documented and kept for MoE excursion requirements. Due to other regulations parents cannot travel with another parent. All children must be restrained in a safety approved car seat. This trip is only going to be possible if we get enough families coming.

Learning Stories – Kia Ora, my name is Jacqui. I started my role as the Administrator here at Bethlehem Community Preschool in January 2025. I have been studying a bachelor's in accounting for the past two years and had a variety of cooperate administrative roles in the past. I am a solo mother to one beautiful girl. My daughter attended Bethlehem Community Preschool until she turned five, where she gained a love for her teachers and the children she attended with. She now attends Bethlehem Primary School with many of the friendly faces she got to know while attending here. It is great to have the opportunity to work in such a fun environment with a lovely team of people who have a genuine interest in working with children.





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 families.

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

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

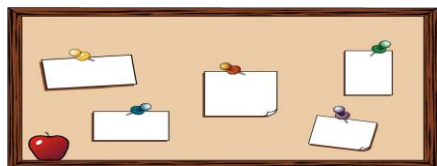
[Foods that pose a higher choking risk for children under five years | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

[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 appropriate 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 hold current first aid certificates which includes being trained to respond to choking. We do ask that children **do not** have lollies, chocolate or juice at Pre-School. Thanks for 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 check 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 it is placed in your child's portfolio book at Preschool. If you would also like this to be emailed to you, please chat with the teachers. We love to hear your feedback about your child's learning please share your comments with us. Thank You.



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 ☺

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 gates as they enter and leave our Pre-School grounds – ensuring that each gate closes properly behind you – and that you have not inadvertently allowed any other children through with you. We constantly monitor the gates 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, Carol, Tracy, Wendy and Jacqui.