

The James St Preschool
5 James St
Redcliffs
Christchurch
3819008



The James St Junior School
156 Main Road
Redcliffs
Christchurch
3819008

www.jamesstpreschool.co.nz

June 2008

Winter is definitely here to stay now that we are experiencing some very cold days and the children have certainly noticed the lack of leaves on the trees! Because the children are being provided with opportunities to explore the outdoors during the winter months it is essential that they are provided with warm clothing (jackets, hats, gloves). Due to the popularity of certain types or brands of clothing (Kathmandu polar fleece tops for example), it is important that your child's clothing is clearly labelled. Preschool children are encouraged to place their jackets, hats and shoes in a blue box in the hallway when they come in from outside. This allows them to find their own clothing when they return outside or at the end of the day. Junior School also has a red basket for jackets and hats that is placed next to the door. All items of clothing that remain at the end of each week are placed into a lost property box. Preschool's box is inside one of the bottom shelves of the sign in/out desk in the kitchen area; and Junior school's is on the kitchen bench next to the payments box.

The onset of winter has also meant an increase in children becoming ill, particularly with colds. If your child is ill please make sure that they are kept at home. When children are isolated from preschool it ensures that the illness is not spread around preschool and the community. If the staff do notice that a child has a constant coloured nasal discharge, persistent cough and/or a high temperature they will immediately contact a parent/caregiver/whanau so that they can be collected. If your child does remain at home please ensure that you notify the staff of your intention to keep your child at home. We do appreciate during busy times that you may experience difficulties contacting staff. Please leave a message at the area that you have been redirected to, or try again later.



Over the month of May the children have had several opportunities to extend their knowledge of insects after a visit from the Bugmobile. This proved very popular with those who attended, with live insects being offered for the children to look at and touch. As a follow up to the visit several activities were offered to allow the children to develop and extend their knowledge through discussion, reference books, art and bug hunting!

At the beginning of May all of the staff attended a team building evening to enhance the outdoor environments. Several concrete pavers and sculptures were created using tiles, mirror, marbles, glass stones and shells. These will soon be placed around each of the three areas playgrounds.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW FAMILIES:

Troy Ayrton	Torah Bradshaw
Axel Ellis	Thomas Harvey
Charlie Hoban	Iona Lawson
Greer Lucas	Brennan Matla
Lyla McKay	Karina McLaren
Charlie Oliver	Mackie Page
Matthew Rickard	Stella Treblico

FARWELL TO:

Blake Theobald	Sam Whittaker
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CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Jackie, Andrew, Tom and Alex Barker on the birth of Annabel.
 Rachel, Tim, Holly and Jasper O'Loughlin on the birth of Barnaby William.
 Jacqueline, Osman and Quinn Fatani on the birth of Reiss.
 Catherine, Gavin and Saskia Clarke on the birth of Danika.
 Andrea, Scott and Jack Thelning on the birth of their baby girl Isabella.
 Jasmin, Mike and Cameron Harvey on the birth of Briar.
 Jane, Scott, Cass and Macklan Robertson on the birth of Beau.
 Sarah, Ben and Toby Marsh on the birth of Poppy.
 Anna, Ben and Rosa Taylor on the birth of Mia.

On the 4th of May, Greer Felicity Bettridge who weighed 7lbs 9oz arrived! Congratulations to both Kylie and Craig. Kylie is planning to return to junior school in August.

THANK YOU:

Tyler Simpson for providing the staff with tiles for a professional development evening for the staff.
 Wendi Hamilton who provided parent help for a recent nursery outing.
 Toby Marsh for donating musical shakers to the nursery
 To Sharon Gilmore who brought us in some pig magnets, frisbees and pig stickers for the windows, the children have taken a big interest in these.

NURSERY NEWS:

The nursery will be continuing with the animal focus throughout the month of June and will also be focusing on Literacy.

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS:

An increased interest in story telling has provided Junior school with their current focus on books. Construction, particularly building and tools associated with building have also become a significant interest with a toy work bench being introduced.

PRESCHOOL NEWS:



After about six years, 'Gingernut' (the preschool rabbit) passed away over the Queens birthday weekend. 'Gingernut' had been a very popular member of the preschool with several children over the years providing carrots and leafy greens on their arrival. 'Gingernut' now rests in the garden within the preschool's car park, where she may continue to greet the children when they arrive.

You may have noticed that several children from preschool were very fortunate to appear on the evening ONE news to celebrate the 25th birthday of the original Hairy Maclary story. Gary certainly did us proud reading the story—even if he did have to do it three times for the camera!

Preschool has recently received new kitchen furniture that has been placed in the big room. New utensils, pots and plastic food have also been set up to reinforce role play and promote healthy food choices.

POLICY REVIEW:

We are currently reviewing the following policies:

June	July
Immunisation of Children	Child Behaviour Management
Sickness & Infectious Diseases	Children with Special Needs

REMI NDER:

Change of details forms are available in your child's folder at the sign in desks. Please complete these whenever your child changes their permanent booking or any other details. Please return completed forms to the payments box at each preschool.

2009 FEES:

We are delighted to be able to announce there will be no fee increase for the 2009 year. All fees including the free ECE optional charge will remain at their current rates until the end of 2009.

While we are facing significant cost increases, in particular ECC teacher pay rates are increasing at around 13% per annum at present, we have managed to absorb these costs without impacting the quality of education and care delivered.

There are three groups of parents we would like to thank in particular for assisting us in keeping our fees fixed:

1. Parents who have agreed to receive their invoices by e-mail. This has saved us around \$4000 per year. If you have an email account and are not already receiving your invoices by e-mail simply e-mail murray@jamesstpreschool.co.nz with your child's name.

We are planning to start e-mailing newsletters to all parents from August this year. We will still supply some printed copies of newsletters at both preschools.

2. Parents who are paying their accounts on time. This assists us hugely in reducing administration time and also financing costs. Could you please ensure your account has a balance of \$0 at the end of each week and preferably set up an AP for the amount of your weekly fees. If you have applied for a WINZ subsidy then please continue to pay the full amount of your account until the WINZ subsidy is paid. This will then be credited to your account and can be used to offset future fees.

3. Parents who inform us when their children will be absent from preschool. The James St Preschool & Junior School has a policy of charging 100% fees whether children attend or not. This policy is in line with most other preschools and simplifies the administration of accounts and automatic payments. We acknowledge there is no financial incentive to inform us of children's absences. On some occasions we do manage to fill some absence spaces with casual children. The small amount of revenue we obtain from doing this has been a major contributor to keeping our fees fixed for another year.

Rest assured even though we are facing significant cost increases over the next 18 months we will not be reducing the quality of education and care by maintaining our current fee rates. In fact we have budgeted to employ an additional teacher from Jan 2009 over and above what we currently have. This teacher will assist us with further enhancing teacher/child ratios in the over 2½ area, giving a ratio of approximately 1 teacher to 7 children in this area (regulations require 1 teacher to 10 children). We have also budgeted to build on to our Junior School building to accommodate a new nursery. We are currently working with architects and the council on this and will keep you informed regarding progress.

ASSISTANCE WITH FEES:

There has been some confusion amongst parents regarding Free ECE, WINZ childcare subsidies and Tax rebates. The table on the next page shows all of the types of assistance you may be entitled to assist with the payment of preschool fees. Any one child can be eligible for all three forms of assistance.

Kind regards to you all,
Tonia, Murray, Tracy, Kerry, Clair, Jess, Sally,
Vanessa, Rebecca McIvor, Rebecca van der Kley,
Hilary, Hayley, Kylie, Sarah, Teryl, Elleke, Gary,
Jo Boyer, Sharyn, Jo South & Denise.

Type of Assistance	How do I Qualify?	How much will I get?	How do I Apply?
Free ECE	Child is three or four.	Up to six hours per day or 20 hours per week free ECE.	Complete a Free ECE attestation form. These are on the sign in desk at preschool. Return your completed form to the payments box.
WINZ Childcare Subsidy	Total family income of up to: \$72800 (1 child under 16) \$83200 (2 children under 16) \$93600 (3 or more children under 16)	Up to 9 hours (\$31.59 per week) if you are not working or up to 50 Hours (\$175.50 per week) if you are working or in study. This does not affect any other Working for Families payments you may be entitled to.	Phone Work and Income on 0800 774 004. WINZ subsidies can be backdated to the date that you first make contact with Work and Income.
Tax Rebate	Couples must both have had earned taxable income of any amount. Single parents must have earned taxable income of any amount.	33% of preschool fees paid up to a maximum of \$940 per year.	Complete an IR526 form (available from Inland Revenue and attach your preschool fees receipt. This can be claimed for up to five years retrospectively. E-mail murray@jamesstpreschool.co.nz if you are missing any tax receipts.
Free ECE + WINZ	Free ECE and WINZ subsidies cannot be claimed for the same hours. However a child who is enrolled for more than six hours per day or 20 hours per week may be entitled to a WINZ subsidy for hours not covered by Free ECE.		