

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](http://www.jamesstpreschool.co.nz)

# June 2009

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW FAMILIES:

Hamish Courtney	Finlay Gibson
India Gibson	Oscar Gibson
Jack Hansen Ratter	Briar Harvey
Vinnie Hayes	Georgia Howe
Estella John	Scarlett McAuliffe
Zion Totara Te Retimana	Olivia Sluis

## FARWELL TO:

Sophie Brown	Mia Cleugh
Lucy Hansen-Ratter	Jonty Light
Marshall Macready	



## STAFF:

Elleke Hughes has decided to extend her maternity leave by one month and now will be returning to Junior School in mid August.

## THANK YOU:

To all of the families who have donated spare clothing to use when children's clothing becomes wet or dirty.

We would also be very grateful for any donations of buttons, gems and shells for our collage making. We would also appreciate any bangles for making ribbon rings for dancing with.

## BUDGET:

The Government's 2009 budget contained several announcements directly related to Early Childhood Education.

From 1 July 2010 five year olds and those attending playcentres and kohanga reo will be eligible for 20 hours of FREE ECE.

From 1 July 2011 the FREE ECE six-hour daily limit will be removed. We know many of you were hoping this would be removed much sooner. However from 1 July 2011 parents will be able to use up to 20 hours Free ECE per week as they wish e.g. a child booked 7:30 - 5:30 on two days will be able to access their full 20 hours as opposed to 12 hours under the current rules.

## NURSERY NEWS:

Could parents please keep at least one plastic bag in their child's bag/locker for wet clothing etc as we are always running out of our supplies due to the use of reusable bags being on the increase.

Over the next month the Nursery will focus on Fine and Gross motor skills. Gross motor skills are important for those children around the one year age, as many are starting or showing signs of starting to walk or may already be walking. Fine motor skills are focused on for all ages, for the older babies puzzles, peg posting, using felt pens, pencils etc and for the younger aged babies we will be encouraging them to grasp onto objects such as rattles and other objects of interest.



## JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS:

We have been very busy at Junior School in the last month while we explored with using an open focus to allow the teachers to plan individually for the children. We have found this has worked very well and we are better able to cater to the children's individual needs and interests. From this we have devised a new Daily Programme and new Programme Planning which will be up and running from Monday 8 June. We will put a copy of the Daily Programme on our white board for all to see and the Programme Planning will be displayed on the Planning board in the Kitchen. Please feel free to come talk to us and ask any questions you may have about what is happening. We are hoping that this new programme will provide many more meaningful experiences for children who are here for just a morning or afternoon session as it does for the children here for full days.

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

Recently the children have enjoyed a range of activities that have become part of our focus - imaginary play, baking and performance. The children have been extremely busy creating props (masks, hats), using props (dress ups, face paint) and retelling familiar stories/songs through drama and music. Several groups have gone through the process of making play dough, cupcakes, instant pudding and jelly; so that they may understand the process of baking and following directions/recipes.

The children have certainly noticed a change in season with all the leaves drastically disappearing from the trees. For the past few weeks they have helped to keep the outside environment tidy by raking them up. (But of course they have enjoyed using them for running through and throwing beforehand). This also means that autumn/winter has brought much cooler temperatures. Please make sure that you supply your child with suitable clothing so that they may still continue to enjoy the outdoor environment - jacket, hat, scarf, mittens/gloves and gumboots. If you wish these may permanently be stored in your child's teacher's box in the hallway.

However it is also crucial that you clearly label your child's clothing so that staff (and you) can quickly identify your child's clothing. This is particularly important when items are identical such as Kathmandu polar fleeces and vests. Labelling clothing also eliminates confusion for staff when dressing them for the weather and (we hope) prevents items going missing. Whilst we do believe that it is best for the children to spend some time in the outside environment - please let a staff member know if you would prefer that they be kept indoors.

The onset of winter has also meant that several families have been inflicted with illness - vomiting and/or diarrhoea, high temperature, viral cold/flu and tonsillitis. If your child is unwell please make sure that they do not attend preschool. The preschool's policy on illness (displayed in the kitchen) clearly states that any child who has had diarrhoea and/or vomiting would not be expected to return until 48 hours after their last bout. For example, last bout on Tuesday - 8pm; child allowed to attend on Friday. Your cooperation with this prevents an outbreak and ensures that no other families (or staff) are affected.

*The following has been taken from:*

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/general/body/fever.html>

If your child is between 3 months and 3 years old and has a fever of 102.2° Fahrenheit (39° Celsius) or higher, call the doctor to see if he or she needs to see your child. For older children, take behaviour and activity level into account. Watching how your child behaves will give you a pretty good idea whether a minor illness is the cause or if your child should be seen by a doctor.

The illness is probably **not** serious if your child:

- is still interested in playing
- is eating and drinking well
- is alert and smiling at you
- has a normal skin colour
- looks well when his or her temperature comes down

Children whose temperatures are lower than 102° Fahrenheit (38.9° Celsius) often don't require medication unless they're uncomfortable.

Use a reliable thermometer to tell if your child has a fever when his or her temperature is at or above one of these levels:

- 100.4° Fahrenheit (38° Celsius) measured rectally (in the bottom)
- 99.5° Fahrenheit (37.5° Celsius) measured orally (in the mouth)
- 99° Fahrenheit (37.2° Celsius) measured in an axillary position (under the arm)

But how high a fever is doesn't tell you much about how sick your child is. A simple cold or other viral infection can sometimes cause a rather high fever (in the 102°-104° Fahrenheit / 38.9°-40° Celsius range), but this doesn't usually indicate a serious problem. And serious infections may cause no fever or even an abnormally low body temperature, especially in infants.



#### SECURE ACCESS TO PRESCHOOL:

Thanks to everyone who has been providing feedback to our policy reviews via our website. This seems to be working much better than our old system. We have been overwhelmed with feedback regarding the secure PIN access to preschool. People had very strong views about this proposal with most parents being very opposed to any changes to current access procedures. Consequently we will not be installing a PIN activated door lock at preschool. We believe a PIN lock would provide a false sense of security. We need and do have in place far more rigid security procedures for preventing unauthorised access to children.

We have never had a single issue of unauthorised access to a child in the entire time the preschool has been operating. An issue that does arise is when someone is sent to collect a child and we have not been informed of this by a parent. We will not allow a child to be taken by any person who has not been authorised by a parent, until contact has been made and authorisation given.

#### INFLUENZA A (H1N1) SWINE FLU:

We have received the following information from the Ministry of Health regarding the Swine Flu.

*2 June 2009*

*The focus of the Ministry of Health and the efforts of the Public Health authorities are very much on containing any suspected or actual cases of this influenza. To date, there is no evidence of community spread of the virus here and numbers remain stable. The stability of these figures has seen the issue slip largely from public consciousness and a sense that it will soon be all over. The reality is likely the opposite. There are clear signs of the early stages of a pandemic, namely significant increase in the number and spread of infection outside Mexico and North America. The overseas experience of the virus shows schools seem to be particularly susceptible to the virus as evidenced in the US, Europe, Japan and also Australia. It is worth noting that had the Rangitoto College party had a chance to return to school prior to identification, then the College would have been closed.*

*The health sector's response in New Zealand will be informed by what happens abroad, and at this stage all evidence suggests it will be a matter of when, rather than if, the virus appears in our community.*

*Schools and early childhood services by their nature are susceptible to many viruses and influenza in particular those readily spread by children. As a result it is likely that schools and early childhood services would be amongst the first affected when the swine flu virus starts to spread here, both by cases and the need to contain them. For instance, any cases in a school with students recently returned from anywhere overseas might see that school closed. Any community spread in one area could see all schools or early childhood services in that area closed. The length of closure would depend on circumstances, but it would be initially for at least seven days, which is the time an infected person would be infectious.*

*The Ministry of Health suggests that the families of students who have travelled to countries with considerable spread of Influenza A (H1N1) should keep them home for a week upon their return, even if they have no symptoms. Australia is already requiring students who have travelled to countries with*

*considerable local spread of Influenza A (H1N1) to stay home for a week even if they have no symptoms.*

*Dealing with any health issue like this is problematic for schools and early childhood services, although there is evidence that suggests that some basic measures will slow down the spread of viruses like influenza. In addition to potential school closure, these include basic but effective initiatives include promoting basic hygiene measures like very regular hand washing (before anyone puts anything in their mouths), students and staff covering their coughs and sneezes, and any staff or students with symptoms of possible influenza should stay home until they are well.*

*In the event that a large number of students or a group of students and staff become unwell with flu like symptoms, schools and early childhood services should contact their public health unit.*

*If a school or early childhood service was directed to close it could happen very fast - students would be sent home at the end of the day and told not to return.*

**Dr Mark Jacobs, Director of Public Health**

The Ministry of Health has subsequently provided the following clarification regarding keeping children away from a school or preschool if they have travelled to a high risk country.

*The Ministry of Health letter of 2 June suggested that children returning to New Zealand from affected areas overseas, but who are **not** showing symptoms of flu, should be kept at home for a week. This was background information for families and **not a directive**. Schools and ECE services are not expected to act on this suggestion.*

*We are in an evolving situation and if conditions in New Zealand change, the Government may request that parents keep students at home if they have returned from affected areas overseas, regardless of whether or not they show symptoms of flu. If this eventuates, parents will receive advice from the Ministry of Health through public communications channels. In this case, the Ministry of Health would identify where these 'affected areas' are.*

Clearly communication with parents will be essential in any response not just to a Swine Flu outbreak but to any health or emergency situation.

The James St Preschool will use all methods of communication in the event of any escalation in Swine Flu risk.

We will e-mail all parents on our e-mail list and phone all parents who are not.

We will use the whiteboards and notice boards next to the sign in sheets.

Staff will communicate directly with parents of children in their group.

Where necessary and appropriate all parents or emergency contacts will be contacted by phone.

One thing parents **MUST** do to assist us is ensure their child/ren are signed in and out every time they attend preschool.

This is a legal requirement of the Ministry of Education and will save us vital time in the event of needing to account for children and contact parents.

#### CHANGE OF DETAILS FORMS:

Could parents please ensure that completed change of details forms, attestation forms and other documentation for Murray or Tonia are placed in the Payments Boxes at each preschool and not back in your child's folder. With over 100 child folders we simply cannot check every folder every day.

Since most parents now pay by Automatic Payment or Direct Credit, many new parents may not be familiar with the payments boxes. The payment box at preschool is in the front of the children's files drawer. The payments box at Junior School is on the wall next to the sign in sheets.

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Kind regards to you all,

Tonia, Murray, Tracy, Kerry, Clair, Anna, Chloe, June, Sonia, Vanessa, Rebecca McIvor, Rebecca van der Kley, Hilary, Hayley, Jo, Kylie, Teryl, Elleke, Sally, Gary, Sharyn, Heidi, Denise & Sue