

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

October 2009

WELCOME TO OUR NEW FAMILIES:

Annabelle Barker Poppy Marsh
 Mimi McFerrier Isla Scott
 Brynn Tall

FAREWELL TO:

Benji Forgie Finn Hiskemuller
 Ruby Kitto Morgan Lewis
 Francesca Macready Catalina Puska

STAFF:

We are delighted to be able to announce the return of Kirsty Jones. Kirsty worked at The James St Preschool from 2002 to 2004. Since then she has been pursuing her OE and picking up a husband during her travels.



When we heard Kirsty was back in New Zealand we knew we had the perfect opportunity to quickly offer Kirsty a job and complete our strategic goal of significantly improving teacher child ratios at the same time as being able to offer all staff the opportunity to pursue a better work life balance.

Kirsty will be working with the 4 - 4.5 year old children starting from 14th September.

Rebecca McIvor, Anna and June will also be reducing their hours slightly at this time.

Up until now we have had to prioritise workplace flexibility requests to those staff covered by the Workplace Flexibility Bill (i.e. staff caring

for another person). We believe all staff perform better and bring a greater energy and enthusiasm when their work is put in balance with the rest of their life.

Improving teacher/child ratios is proven to lead to better outcomes for children. The James St Preschool has been steadily improving teacher/child ratios every year since 2002. We are proud to be able to offer ratios far superior to that required by regulation.

Age Group	Ratio Required by Regulation (adult to child)	James St Preschool & Junior School Target Ratios
0 - 18 Months	1 to 5	1 to 3
18 months - 2 years	1 to 5	1 to 4
2 years - 2.5 years	1 to 10	1 to 6
2.5 years - 5 years	1 to 10	1 to 7

Research also shows that as well as good teacher/child ratios it is also important for preschool aged children to have a primary caregiver. The Junior School allocates a primary caregiver to each child. Preschool children also have a primary caregiver that relates to the age and development needs of each child.

At the back of this newsletter we have included a full staff directory showing staff hours/days and responsibilities for teaching areas.

NURSERY NEWS:

We have been focusing on literacy over the last month. Some children have brought in their favourite story book from home to share, and we made a book with photos of the children in it. There seemed to be a lot of interest in animals over the last couple of weeks. Some children are sounding a lot of animal noises out and saying the names of each animal as they see them throughout stories.

We have placed more animal pictures on the wall of the nappy changing area. Children have been making lots of animal noises while they are getting their nappies changed. We would also love to make another story book with photos of the children with their pets. Please bring a photo in or email a photo of your child and pet to jamesstreetnursery@hotmail.com

Also if you have small animals like kittens, puppies, etc we would love to have a visit from them over the next month to show the children a wide range of different animals throughout our animal focus.

Could parents of Nursery children also remember to bring a sunhat each day. Most parents find it easier to leave the sunhats in the child's cubby hole to save forgetting to bring it in.

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS:

We have been enjoying the beautiful sunny weather over the last few weeks and are finding that it can be very sunny and warm within the preschool playgrounds. Can each child please bring in a sunhat that you are happy to leave at the Nursery, Junior School or Preschool. Please ensure that the hat is NAMED, if the hat does not have a name on it then we will be unable to ensure that all children have a hat.

We are again recommending the Nivea for Childrens 30+ sunscreen this year. Could we please ask each family for a donation of a bottle of sunscreen, if you have more than one child in your family attending the preschool please just choose one area to donate the bottle to.



PRESCHOOL NEWS:

There has been a definite improvement with the weather lately - the blossom is out, the leaves on the trees are starting to grow back, and the sun blocks (and sunhats!) have made it out of storage (and it's only September!). This also means that each child must be encouraged to bring along their own clearly named sun hat. Either place the sun hat in your child's teachers box (in the hallway), or let a staff member know that it is still packed in their bag. Preschool does have some spare sun hats available however you will have to let a staff member know. Spare sunhats will be given out as needed - this will be the child's sun hat for the day - at the end of the day the "dirty" spare sun hat needs to be placed into a white basket in the kitchen (so that they can be laundered). If your child requires a particular brand/type of sun block could you please clearly label it with your child's name and let a staff member know. The bottle will be made available to your child only.

With an increase in the number of fine warm days we also recommend that extra changes of clothing be packed into your child's bag - as we find an increase in the amount (and length of time) spent with water play.

Over the past few weeks the children have taken an interest in the world, particularly where they come from; group activities (for example, musical chairs, circle games) that have allowed them to understand social rules and the value of their contribution to a group; and music and movement, particularly with a variety of different resources, such as scarves, feathers and ribbons.

Thank you to Lanie & Jordan Astley for the donation of paper, and Greg (Dad of Archie Young) for letting us look inside his Kombi van. The children from June's and Clair's groups would also like to thank Adrienne (Mum of Charlotte Borcoskie) who recently shared information with them about dental health. Parents/caregivers/Whanau are always welcome to come along and share information about their occupations (doctor, nurse, dentist, fire fighter, police officer) and/or interests (origami, cooking). Please let a staff member know so that we can organise a suitable time.

CHRISTMAS HOURS 2009:

The preschools will be opening the following hours over the Xmas period. Children will be required to bring lunch boxes from Tues 29th Dec through until Fri 15th Jan.

Date	Hours Open
Thu 24 th Dec	Normal Hours
Fri 25 th Dec	Closed
Mon 28 th Dec	Closed
Tues 29 th Dec - Thurs 31 st Dec	8:30 - 4:30
Fri 1 st Jan	Closed
Mon 4 th Jan	Closed
Tues 5 th Jan - Fri 8 th Jan	8:30 - 4:30
Mon 11 th Jan	Resume Normal Hours

To assist us with planning our staffing over Xmas, could you please complete a holiday booking form as possible, alternatively you can e-mail holiday bookings to murray@jamesstpreschool.co.nz

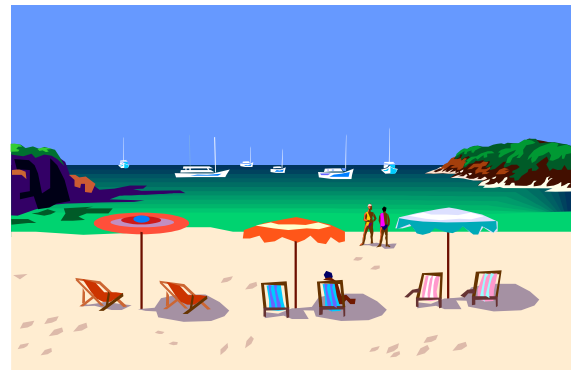
HOLIDAY BOOKINGS LONGER THAN 3 WEEKS:

If you are booking a holiday/absence from preschool of more than 21 consecutive days then your eligibility for Free ECE or a Work and Income Subsidy will be affected.

The Ministry of Education funds Free ECE and Work and Income funds childcare subsidies, both apply the same rule to funding of absences.

A child will continue to be funded for Free ECE or a WINZ subsidy while absent for up to 21 days from the first day of absence, from day 22 all funding will cease until the child resumes their attendance at preschool. Once attendance has resumed the counting of absent days begins again.

Parents are liable for payment of full fees for children whose Free ECE or WINZ funding has ceased.



Holiday Booking Form Dec 09/Jan 10
 Child's Name _____

We will be attending our normal hours during December and January. *(Please Circle)*

OR

Last day of attendance before holiday
 _____ / _____ / _____

First day of attendance after holiday
 _____ / _____ / _____

Signed _____

Please return this form to the payments box.

Holiday Booking Form Dec 09/Jan 10
 Child's Name _____

We will be attending our normal hours during December and January. *(Please Circle)*

OR

Last day of attendance before holiday
 _____ / _____ / _____

First day of attendance after holiday
 _____ / _____ / _____

Signed _____

Please return this form to the payments box.

2010 FEES:

We are delighted to be able to announce that there will be no increase to our fees in 2010. We are very conscious that many families are experiencing tight times financially and have done everything possible to absorb significant wage increases, general inflation increases and the cost of enhancing teacher/child ratios.

Some families still have their fees frozen at 2008 levels. This offer was made to all families of children attending prior to 1st Nov 08 who have maintained their account balances at nil. The 2008 fee freeze will end on 2nd Jan 2010 and fees will continue at 2009 levels.

CONGRATULATIONS:

To Mal, Nicola, Mia and Siena Cleugh on the birth of Luke.

To John, Angela and Thomas Rawstron on the birth of Matthew.

To Rebecca McIvor and Craig Harrison on their engagement during their holiday in Europe. We look forward to Rebecca's shout upon her return.

POLICY REVIEW:

We are currently reviewing the following policies:

October	November
Health & Safety	Fire, Earthquake & Tidal Waves
Sun Protection	Excursions
Harassment	

LABOUR DAY:

Both preschools will be closed on Labour Day, Monday 26th October.

CHANGES TO BOOKINGS:

Could you please let Tonia know as soon as possible if you will be requesting any changes to your child/s booked hours for 2010. Please drop us an email (or reply to your weekly invoice) or pop a note in the payments box at either preschool.

THANK YOU:

A huge thank you to all the children (and parents/caregivers/whanau) and staff for their support in fundraising for TV3's "Big Night In".

Thanks also to all of you who have supported our Chalk and Parent Direct Fundraisers. Generally we have a policy of not fundraising at The James St Preschool, however each year we have numerous requests from parents for us to continue running the Chalk and Parent Direct catalogues as well as Penny Nicholls Photography. This year's photos will be available for viewing and ordering from 21st September, giving plenty of time for families who wish to send photos overseas for Christmas.

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

STAFF DIRECTORY:

Staff	Age Group (approx)	Days	Hours (approx)	Telephone Extension
Nursery				
Vanessa (Team Leader)	0 - 18 months	Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu	7:30 - 3:30	2
Rebecca van der Kley		Mon/Thu/Fri	9:00 - 5:30	
Hilary		Tue/Wed	9:00 - 5:30	
Rebecca McIvor		Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri	8:00 - 4:30	
Sonia		Tue/Wed/Fri	8:00 - 4:30	
Jo		Variable	Variable	
Junior School				
Kylie (Team Leader)	18 months - 30 months (approx)	Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri	7:30 - 3:30	3
Teryl		Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri	8:00 - 4:30	
Sally		Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri	9:00 - 5:30	
Gary		Mon/Tue/Wed	9:00 - 5:30	
Elleke		Thu/Fri	9:00 - 5:30	
Hayley		Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri	9:00-2:30	
Sonia		Mon	9:00 - 5:30	

Staff	Age Group (approx)	Days	Hours (approx)	Telephone Extension
Preschool				
Tracy (Team Leader)	2½ - 3½ yr olds	Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri	8:00 - 4:30	4
June	3½ - 5 yr olds	Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu	9:00 - 5:30	
Kerry	4½ - 5 yr olds	Mon/Tue/Thu/Fri	8:00 - 4:00	
Kirsty	4 - 4½ yr olds	Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri	9:00 - 5:30	
Claire	3½ - 4 yr olds	Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri	9:00 - 5:30	
Anna	3 - 3½ yr olds	Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri	8:30 - 5:00	
Chloe	2½ - 3 yr olds	Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri	7:30 - 4:00	
Administration/Support				
Tonia	Supervisor/ Owner	Mon to Sun	24 hours	1
Murray	Administration/ Owner	Mon to Sun	24 Hours	
Heidi	Cook	Mon/Tue/Wed	8:00 - 2:00	4
Sharyn	Cook	Thu/Fri	8:00 - 2:00	
Denise	Support Person	Mon	8:00 - 1:00	