

South Port Kindergarten

Celebrating child-centred learning, caring and curiosity

A warm welcome to all our families for 2022. The first two weeks have seen a very calm and settled start to the kindy year, with children engaged across all areas of the curriculum and environment, learning routines and each others names, developing connections and being responsible for themselves and their belongings throughout the day. We have an amazing group of powerful learners that have already demonstrated many great capabilities.

How are you feeling? We know that there can be mixed feelings of excitement and nerves when children start kindy. There will be lots to talk about with your child. This could include what they have done, what they are looking forward to, or who they might see. You could remind them of the routines, putting their bags in their lockers, and getting out their hats, drink bottles, fruit/lunchboxes. Please reassure them that teachers are always there to help if they need something practical (like opening a lunchbox, turning on taps or going to the toilet) or emotional (if they are feeling unsure about how to manage feelings or navigate play situations). Please let us know if your child is experiencing any of these feelings or difficulties.

Finally, there are some staff changes this year. Marissa has come on board as director while Carly is on maternity leave—we wish her all the best. Allison will now be working Mondays and Tuesdays, teaching alongside Bernie. And of course, you all know our wonderful ECWs Beth and Julie.

We hope that by now you have connected to Class Dojo and are enjoying seeing snippets of your child's day and learning at kindy. We will be using this platform to send out reminders and newsletters, so keep an eye out!

As always, please let us know if you have any questions, concerns or feedback. We look forward to working with you this year.

Kind regards,

Marissa, Bernie, Allison, Beth and Julie

Friday AM Sessions—Term 1

Please refer to the list below for which Fridays your child will attend this term. The session starts at 8:30am and finishes at 12:30pm.

Although children do not stay for lunch, we suggest packing something extra (preferably a healthy option) for their morning snack. For example, some fruit plus cheese and crackers, or vegetable sticks and dip, or yoghurt.

Monday/Tuesday Group (odd weeks of the school term)

Friday 4th, 18th Feb, 4th, 18th March, 1st April

Wednesday/Thursday Group (even weeks of the school term)

11th, 25th Feb, 11th, 25th March, 8th April

Please advise staff if your child will not be attending Friday morning sessions. This needs to be updated within our system, but can always be changed back if your circumstances change and your child is able to attend.

Fee Invoices

Fee invoices will be sent out before the end of Week 5. If you have already paid, you will receive a receipt shortly after this time. These are **\$125 per term** and can be paid via electronic transfer, with weekly, fortnightly or termly instalments to suit your budget.

Diary Dates:

February

Learning Conversations start in Week 5 (from the 28th)

March

Thursday 17th—Annual General Meeting, 3:30pm

21st—27th—Harmony Week

April

Monday 4th—Mon/Tues group Kindy photos

Thursday 7th—Wed/Thurs group Kindy photos

Friday 15th—Good Friday, (No morning session)

End of Term 1:

Mon/Tues group last day
Tuesday 12th April

Wed/Thurs group last day
Thursday 14th April



Learning Conversations

We are enjoying getting to know you and your child, and look forward to holding our learning conversations in Week 5. This will happen in the form of a phone call with your child's focus teacher. A booking sheet will be available from Monday 21st of Feb (dates/times to be confirmed). We invite you to book in at a time that is convenient for you. Please allow 10-15 minutes.

We hope that this will provide an opportunity for you to discuss how your child is settling in/feeling and begin the process of generating an individual learning goal. Some things that you may like to consider prior to this could be related to the dispositions for learning outlined in the Early Years Learning Framework: *confidence, persistence, resilience, independence, organisation, attentiveness, purposefulness, cooperation/ collaboration, curiosity and open-mindedness.*



Drop off & Pick Up

As children have begun to settle in and feel comfortable within their new environment, we will be moving towards gate drop off and pick up. This is in line with current Department for Education recommendations and will commence from **Monday 14/2**.

Educators will be available at the gate to welcome your child in and for any conversations you may want to have, as well as in the locker area to support them in their morning routine, and in their play.

If you feel that your child may need some support with this, please let us know. You may also like to talk to them about these changes prior to next week, so they know what to expect. We have already seen how confident, resilient and independent they can be!

Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

Reminders:

Please remember to pack a **broad brimmed or legionnaires hat** in your child's bag each day, ensuring that any toggles (cords) have been removed. These can be a safety hazard.

It is important that children come to kindy wearing **sun protective clothing** (e.g. covered shoulders) and with **sunscreen already applied**. They will reapply throughout the day.

Please note that the car park out the front of kindy/school is for staff and volunteers only. We ask that you stick to the paths when entering and exiting the kindy. This is a good way to practise road safety with your child/ren.

Curriculum

Our program for the first few weeks will be focussing on belonging and relationships, developing a sense of connectedness within the group and environment. We have been talking about routines, getting to know each other, learning about feelings, being kind, listening, as well as contributing as part of a community of learners.

This will be updated every few weeks, as we expand on and explore new concepts and ideas, following children's interests and wonderings through play and whole group experiences. You can always find a copy of our curriculum program on the noticeboard out the front.

We always welcome input from families and out community, so please let us know if there is anything you would like to see included or happening at kindy.

