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PIMPALA KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 WEEK 9 2020



Important dates for this term

Governing Council Meeting

Week 9, Tuesday 24th March 6.30pm

PLEASE NOTE: Due to COVID-19
All other events have either been
postponed or cancelled!

LAST DAY OF TERM

Thursday 9th April 3pm

PLEASE NOTE:

The first day back for term 2 is on:

Group A - Monday 27th April

Group B - Wednesday 29th April

*Group B will do their Wednesday half
day on the **odd week** of term for the
rest of the year!

Dear Parents and Caregivers

We recognise that COVID-19 has created difficult and anxious times for our families. Rest assured that we are following the latest advice from the Department for Education and that we will inform you of any changes as new information becomes available.

COVID-19

Please make sure that you remain up-to-date with the latest information as it is disseminated to you. All communications regarding updates to protocols regarding COVID-19 will be shared with you via email; please ensure that you regularly check your emails. I have attached the latest 'Parent Advice' from the department to this newsletter – this advice was emailed to you on the 18th March and provides the most current information.

At this stage our kindy remains open.

Please follow **good hygiene practices** and support your children with this. We have placed signage around the centre that will support and remind you of these hygiene practices.

We have noticed a big reduction in our attendance numbers. We thank those of you that have kept your children away because they have been unwell. Please let us know if your child will be absent – either by phoning 8382 1597 or by dropping me an email dl.3657.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au Each site is required by the department to give a reason for each absence and any unexplained absences need to be followed up.

If you are required to self-isolate or choose to do so, please let us know. We understand that each family will make their own decision in regards to this, but we need to know so that we can follow the appropriate processes.

Cancellation of Events

Due to the current situation with COVID-19 all incursions, excursions and family events have been cancelled until further notice. This means that:

- Council Education Officer visits have been postponed.
 - Playgroup has been cancelled until further notice.
 - Bunnings Sausage Sizzle has been cancelled and will not go ahead this year.
 - Acquaintance Night at Lollipop's Café has been postponed until further notice
- We apologise for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding.

If you have already made payment for Lollipops, you can either:

1. Request for the payment to be applied to your kindy fees, or
2. Request a reimbursement by completing a form, please ask Viv.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions please talk to one of our friendly staff members any time.

Viv, Sophie, Naomi, Tatiana & Ruth.

Governing Council Members for 2020

Thank you to our parents and community members that attended our AGM.

I would like to congratulate our new and continuing Governing Council members and introduce them to you.

Elected Members

Chairperson: Nina (Freddie's mum)

Vice Chairperson: Lauren (Melanie's mum)

Secretary: Lauren (Melanie's mum)

Treasurer: Bec (Isaac R's mum)

General committee: Adam (Beau's dad), Nigel (Archer's dad), Lenneke (Jade's mum) and Kirti (Simran's mum)

Fundraising Co-ordinator: Nina

Playgroup Co-ordinators: Bec and Kirti

So besides speaking to myself and staff, these are the people to speak to about issues you want raised by governing council.

Individual Learning Plans (ILP's)

An ILP will be developed for each child and we would like parent input into the development of these. We will place an ILP sheet into your child's pigeon hole for you to write your comments on as well as your insights about your child as a learner and their current interests. From this information, as well as from educator's observations, we will develop some learning goals for your child which we will share with you. Staff will use children's ILP's goals to plan future learning experiences for individuals as well as for the group's needs. Your input is valued by staff and is a vital component in planning for each child's strengths, needs and interests. Please return this sheet to us as soon as possible.



Kindy Photos

Your child's kindy photos have arrived! You can view your child's album at kindy, but you will need to pay for them before we can release them to you. The album including all prints cost \$50. If you do not wish to purchase the entire album, each print can be purchased separately at a cost of \$15 per print. Please place the correct money into the envelope provided and place it into the fee box. A staff member will then give you the album (or prints) to take home.

Things to pack in your child's bag:

- ✓ Drink bottle (water only). Please let us know if your child will need us to provide them a cup.
- ✓ 2 healthy snacks (for morning and afternoon) – we encourage smaller sized fruit to lessen the amount of food waste. Please place their fruit separate from their lunch if possible.
- ✓ Spare set of clothes (in case of accidents/muddy play) – given that the weather is a bit up and down at present please pack a variety of clothing options. **We are always in need of spare clothing at kindy and are happy to receive donations of size 4-6 clothing items that meet our Sunsafe policy.**
- ✓ Your own bag which is appropriate for soiled clothing (we are limiting our use of plastic, especially single use plastics across the centre). You may like to support our fundraiser by buying a **Smelly Bag™** from us (see order form). **Please note that we will continue to send children's clothing home in a plastic bag if they have been soiled by bodily fluids** (we will only use the **Smelly Bag™** for wet, muddy or sandy clothing). Please recycle any soft plastics that we send home through an appropriate collection point as soft plastic cannot be recycled through the Council's yellow recycle bin.
- ☒ Please discourage your child from bringing their toys and other special items to kindy as they are at risk of getting lost or broken – **discuss with staff if your child requires a special comfort toy to support their separation.**

Please put your child's name on everything!

We always find that a lot of children bring items to kindy that are unnamed.

To assist us in identifying your child's belongings please ensure that you have labelled them.

...MORE NEWS

Child Records

Please update your child's record with us if any details change – we will need to rely on this information in the event of an emergency (which could include a site closure).

Pigeon Holes/ Email Communication/ SMS Reminders

Please make sure that you check your child's pigeon hole daily and your emails at least once a week. Electronic communication is the fastest and most cost-effective way of disseminating information. I will continue to send out SMS reminders about upcoming events but will rely primarily on email communication for other information, including COVID-19 updates. If you are not receiving this correspondence or wish to add someone else to our email distribution list please let me know.



CAFHS Nurse Visit

Our CAFHS nurse visited on Thurs 12th March. Thank you to those of you that attended your booked session or let us know if you were unable to make it. For some of you this visit may have resulted in being referred to other services. If this is the case please make sure that you follow up on these recommendations and that you speak to a staff member about the concerns that have been raised. Depending on what the concerns are, we may also be able to refer your child to **DfE Support Services**, if appropriate. This is a free service staffed by allied health professionals within the department and will be in addition to whatever external services you access.

Homework – “About Me” poster

Each child has been provided with an A3 piece of paper to decorate as their homework assignment. Please ask a staff member if you do not have one. We would like parents to help their child include important information about themselves on it, for bringing back and sharing with the group. It is a great way for us to get to know the children better and for us to support their developing friendships with each other. If you haven't done so already, please make sure that your child's poster is returned as soon as possible. Please do not have anything hanging off the page because we will be displaying them in a folder for children to look at.

Books, Books, Books!

At kindy we are encouraging children to love books and fall in love with reading. We recognise how busy life can be, but we want to encourage you to make reading books with your children a part of your everyday routine. We want our children to be read to daily – both at kindy and at home and for them to share in language-rich experiences.

- **Little Book Club Preschool Reading Packs** – our free literacy packs from Raising Literacy Australia have been distributed to each child – please let us know if your child has not received theirs. I also ordered some toddler packs for our playgroup families also – please let me know if you would like one of these packs for your toddler. Each pack includes age appropriate picture books as well as some parent brochures to promote the importance of reading and early language development – we hope that you enjoy these books together.
- **Become a member of your local library and register for the '1001 Books Before School' initiative**



1001 Books Before School is a Onkaparinga Libraries initiative that aims to support the early literacy development of children and to encourage a love of reading between parents and their children. You can register your children to be part of the initiative at your local Onkaparinga library.

- **School Library** - we hope to begin our school library browsing session soon, which will hopefully be supported by our reading buddies (school peer mentors). These sessions are designed to expose children to a wide range of books and help familiarise children with the school library and school routines.

Entertainment Books are now 100% digital!

We are fundraising with Entertainment Books this year - the cost starts at \$70 for a single city membership.

You can buy your digital subscription online at: <https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/93u7366>

Please note that **new digital subscriptions** have a **12 month expiry** from the date of purchase.

Buy in March and receive bonus 3 months membership + \$10 JB Hi-Fi egift card – use 'GIFTME' as promo code.

Kindergarten Fees

Term 1 Kindy fees are now overdue!

If you haven't already done so, please make payment as soon as possible or speak with Viv to negotiate a payment plan – weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments can be negotiated.

EFT Payments can be made directly into our bank account:

Account Name: Pimpala Kindergarten, BSB: 105 – 136, Account No: 510108140

(please put the invoice number as the reference)

Cash payments can be made into the fee box – please ensure you fill out a payment slip and enclose it with your payment (please put your child's name as the reference).

Enrolments – we still have vacancies!

If you have a friend whose child turns 4 before May 1st, let them know that we are able to offer them a space.

We are also happy to take enrolments for 2021.

...COMMUNITY NEWS

Playgroup

Playgroup is **cancelled** until further notice. Updates will be posted on our Facebook page.



SA Dental Services



To request an appointment online, go to:

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/dentalappointment

For clinic locations, go to: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/findyourclinic

Pimpala Primary School Principal Tours

Pimpala will be hosting Principal Tours on two days each term for anyone interested in enrolling at their school.

They will be held at 4:30pm and 10:00am on the following dates.

Please ring the Administration Office on 8326 0900 to book into one of the tours.

TERM	DATE	TIME
Term 2	Monday, 25 May, 2020	4:30pm
	Wednesday, 27 May, 2020	10:00am
Term 3	Monday, 17 August, 2020	4:30pm
	Wednesday, 19 August, 2020	10:00am
Term 4	Monday, 9 November, 2020	4:30pm
	Wednesday, 11 November, 2020	10:00am

REMINDERS:

Start time

Please do not leave your child prior to **8.30am** – staff cannot supervise your child as they are still setting up. This is a nice time to share an activity with them, read them a book or look through their learning folder together.

Child Absences



Please ring the centre on 8382 1597 if your child will be absent for any reason. It is an expectation of the Education Department (DfE) that we follow up all unexplained absences. Attendance is very important to children's learning and development– even at kindergarten! Please read the "Every Day Counts" poster displayed next to the Parent Notice Board for further information.

Child Attendance - Signing children in and out

Please make sure that you remember to sign your child **both in and out each day** on the attendance sheet in the front foyer – this is very important as we will rely on this information in the event of an emergency.



Update Contact / Emergency Details

Please ensure that we have up-to-date contact information in your child's file. It is extremely important that we can contact the appropriate person in an emergency. It is also vital that any changes to your child's dietary or medical needs are known to staff - please ensure this information is provided in writing, on the appropriate forms.



Immunisation Record

If you haven't already, please bring in your child's 'Australian Immunisation Record' statement so we can update your child's file. Please remember to also update your child's record once your child has their 4 year old vaccinations. Please note that the department will no longer accept your child's Blue Book as a suitable record of their immunisation status.

Medication

Staff are unable to administer medication without the appropriate authority to do so. If your child needs medication whilst at kindy, make sure that the appropriate forms have been filled out by your GP or pharmacist. **ALL** medications must be handed to a staff member on arrival – it is very dangerous for these items to remain in your child's bag.

Allergy Alert – BE ALLERGY AWARE!

We have a child enrolled at kindy who is **anaphylactic to multiple foods**.

– please reinforce our risk minimisation strategies with your child at home and remember we are a nut-free kindy. **Remember that allergies are serious and even a trace of an allergen can be life-threatening to someone who is allergic.**



Laundry Roster

We need parents help with the weekly laundry – if you are able to help with this please add your name to the roster, located in the front foyer above the sign in desk.



Soft Plastics Roster



To divert the amount of single use plastic that go to landfill, Pimpala Kindergarten is doing their part by encouraging **nude food** and by utilising a soft plastics collection bin. What we need our families to do is to support us with this is to take our soft plastics to a collection point. – based at all Coles and some Woolworths stores (our local stores are Morphett Vale and Colonnades). We will put a note on the sign in table when we need it dropped off and hope that our families will get behind this initiative.