



**Government
of South Australia**

Department for Education

St Helens Park Kindergarten March 2022



Dear families,

Welcome to the second half of the Term and how quickly time has past. The children have now settled well into our routines and are engaging more deeply in the curriculum. Our focus is on vocabulary and we have lots of children talk about the creatures from our Nature Education program as being 'real' (alive) as opposed to dead. We have investigated crabs and will be moving onto turtles and we thank the parents who are managing this valuable program for us.

During this difficult time we appreciate your care in keeping children home if at all unwell, regardless of how minor. Staff do not like having to ring parents to request early pickup if your child is showing any signs of illness. We also see some children who are not as resilient now and may have a few tears, this is quite normal as they are getting tired and the excitement of starting kindy has worn off!

Please remember that we have children who are allergic to eggs and nuts and ask you to keep these at home. This includes nutella sandwiches, peanut butter and hard boiled eggs, fried eggs. Eggs cooked into biscuits and cake is ok.



As we work through the term staff are busy collecting information for you on your child's learning dispositions and we will have the time for teacher parent interviews in Term 2. This helps us guide the program with your valuable input. As part of this process we collect data on fine motor skills, pencil awareness and writing, number sense and social wellbeing. We use this to work together on a PLOD- Possible Lines of Development (individual learning plan) so we can meet the needs of all the children.

As part of our program we will be investigating numeracy topics in the coming weeks. We often see children counting along (rote counting) but not connecting with the meaning in number- what is quantity, 1:1 correspondence, beginning middle and end numbers, how to count on, subitising (the art of knowing the quantity without actually counting it out), what actually makes a number? You can support this learning at home with activities around quantity- how many knives and forks on the table, what if you add them together? counting out the fruit at the fruit shop, how many toys/books/shoes..do you have, how many steps to the car? noticing number in the environment- house numbers, car registrations, numbers in the shops for prices etc. We will be sending home an activity pamphlet to support this understanding.

IMMUNISATION REMINDER

Under our immunization legislation we are required to have your child's 4 year old immunization record. As your child gets to this point it is vital you resubmit the paperwork from Medicare or your child will not be able to enter the kindy site. Susie will be emailing reminders to families in the coming months. Thankyou for your understanding.

Curriculum



Much of our curriculum in Term One focuses on children having a strong sense of identity, where we create connections and build relationships, developing within each child a sense of belonging, and an environment where s/he feels safe, secure and supported. It has been beautiful seeing children developing their social interactions and engaging in cooperative play. We have been encouraging children to say to others “What’s your name?” and then greet their new friend with “Hi (*friend’s name*)”

We have acknowledged Australia Day looking at pictures of Captain Cook and his sailing ship. We have talked about the Aboriginal people being the first Australian people and acknowledging being on Kurna land. We have acknowledged Chinese New Year and Lunar New Year, with visuals, stories, YouTube and dancing with our unicorn and dragon at Kindy.

Our program has also focused on children becoming familiar with Kindy routines. Handwashing has been a big part of this and we encourage you to have conversations at home about washing really well, the front, the back of the hand and in-between the fingers. The soap should be in contact with the skin surface for at least 20 seconds to develop good wellbeing habits. Please promote handwashing after toileting at home. Children have been introduced to Oscar Organisation. Oscar is a puppet at Kindy who helps us to be organised. He assists children with remembering where things belong, managing their belongings and bag, leaving spaces tidy for the next person to play and procedural organisation, such as

putting on a smock before painting or putting the lid on the texta when you are finished. Children have been investigating various learning areas and stretching their thinking. We focus on seeing children as competent and capable and encourage children to “try one way and if that doesn’t work, try a different way.” Our story table, of ‘Pete The Cat, I love my white shoes’ by Eric Litwin and James Dean has supported resilience. In the story, Pete experiences a number of mishaps with his white shoes, however it doesn’t spoil his day. You might like to ask your child about Pete the Cat or you might like to view the story online. <https://youtu.be/WY6pZaRCwzw>



1 - good handwashing is promoted

GOVERNING COUNCIL at Kindy

Thankyou to those who have joined together for our first meeting. You are always welcome to join us at any of these evenings to keep up to date with kindy happenings. We meet twice per term and at this stage have penciled in Tuesday 29 March for our next meeting (to be confirmed). The Kindergarten committee last year approved an upgrade to the eastern end of the garden and we hope to move forward with this in the school holidays, however I do not have a firm date as yet. Our Chairperson is Sara Muncey (Maxwell's mum in group 2 Tues/Thurs) and she provides a community contact for you as well as staff.

The Regional office has set our closure dates for the first part of the year in order to meet department expectations in professional development and improvement. **Unfortunately we don't have any say in the dates for these so please be aware and make a note of when the kindy will be closed to children: Term 1-Monday April 4; Term 2-Tuesday June 14; Term 3 to be advised; Term 4-Thursday Nov 10**

CLOSURE DAY



We will be closed on Monday April 4 for professional development. Please make other arrangements for your child.

Enjoying the variety of learning at kindy





2 - cooperation with puzzles









