

Welcome to Preschool for 2021

NEWSLETTER March 2021

Important Dates.....

- **Preschool AGM** Thursday 11th March at 10am.
- **Term 1 ends** Thursday 1st April.
- **Easter - Friday 2nd to Monday 5th April – Preschool is Closed.**
- **School holidays** run from 6th to 18th April – Preschool is closed.
- **Term 2 starts** Monday 19th April.



Please sign in with the Service NSW QR code EVERY TIME you visit preschool. Thank you.



COVID-19 Health Declaration & QR code

Please visit our website and check the **Health Declaration** and **NSW Health Covid-19 Case locations EVERY day** prior to visiting Preschool to ensure you meet the current declaration requirements upon signing your child in each day. You will find the declaration and a link to NSW Health's latest information on the homepage of our website as shown in the snapshot below. **QR codes will continue to be used at Preschool** so please ensure you check in EVERY time you visit preschool.

Thank you for working with us to keep everyone safe.



Springwood and District Preschool Kindergarten

Welcome. If you or someone you know, maybe a friend or relative, has a child who would like to come to preschool, please click on this link directly below or enquire by email admin@springwoodpreschool.org.au or phone 4751 3360.

ONLINE WAITING LIST

Covid-19 Health Declaration

Please read the attached Health Declaration and the NSW Health Latest Covid Case locations every day prior to arriving at Preschool. You will be asked everyday to sign to acknowledge that you have read and adhere to the details of the declaration. Thank you.

Health Declaration COVID-19 for 2021

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>



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Visit our Website for information & events
www.springwoodpreschool.org.au

AGM



Springwood and District Preschool Kindergarten

Annual General Meeting is to be held on
Thursday 11th March 2021 at 10am,
at Springwood Preschool (outdoors),
9 Macquarie Road, Springwood.

Please check-in with the Covid Safe QR code upon arrival and
maintain physical distancing at all times, thank you.

All are welcome



Farewell & Best Wishes to Debbie

We wish Debbie a wonderful year ahead in 2021 as she moves on to a full time role at Winmalze Preschool. Debbie will be greatly missed at Springwood after being part of our team for 13 years. Her vibrant personality and energy was always so welcoming and Winmalze Preschool is very lucky to have her. Sending all our best wishes to Debbie from everyone at Springwood Preschool.

Sharing information on preschool procedures with our families:

We thought we might take the opportunity to elaborate on some practises that we embed in our preschool and the reasons behind why we have them. Often we are so used to requesting information and forget that for new families these requests might have no meaning.

QR Code: Throughout the past 12 months we have all been faced with many new challenges and have had to make changes in all facets of our lives. Our preschool throughout this period has taken a very conservative approach as we have been identified as a "sensitive environment". Within our preschool we understand it is our choice to be extra cautious as it is not mandatory at this time to implement the QR code practise however we believe that it is important to share the responsibility as well as to keep our preschool community safe. Hence, it has been our preschools decision to follow this practise and request that families sign in each morning upon arrival. [Being COVID Safe is a](#)



[responsibility we all share | NSW Government](#). Service NSW will only collect your name, contact details (as available on your My Service NSW Account), and date and time of entry so that NSW Health may contact you for the purpose of contact tracing, should it be necessary.

Temperature taking of children during COVID pandemic: During the pandemic our preschool thankfully has been impacted minimally, and to ensure we maintain this, taking temperatures of all children upon arrival at preschool is yet another practise implemented to keep our preschool community safe. Upon arrival we will check both staff and children's temperatures, refusing entry to anyone with a temperature 38° or higher. We understand that temperature checks aren't always effective at picking up people with COVID-19 however it is another layer of protection where children or staff who do have a temperature, for any reason - not just COVID-19, can be identified before coming into the preschool environment.

Annual DEC consent forms: Upon commencing your family's preschool journey, like any business we request parents/caregivers to fill in an assortment of paperwork prior to beginning preschool. One of the forms we request to be signed is "Consent to use and disclosure of Child's personal information". The reason behind why we are required to seek consent by families is related to our funding agreements with the Department of Education. Your consent allows us to provide data to the Department in our Annual Data Collection which determines our funding for the following year. This in turn enables us to keep the preschool fees as minimal as possible.

The type of data collected and provided to the department includes the following: each child's first and last name, DOB, gender, address, days of attendance etc. This collection of data is not unlike what is collected upon your child beginning primary school. The Department will only use or disclose such Personal Information relating to your child as permitted under applicable privacy laws including the **Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW)** and the **Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 (HRIP Act)**.

Updating Immunisation records: Up to date Immunisation records are a requirement of enrolment and ongoing during your time at our preschool. The NSW Parliament passed a Bill to amend the Public Health Act 2010 to strengthen vaccination enrolment requirements in early childhood education and care settings. **From 1 January 2018;** children who are unvaccinated due to their parent's conscientious objection can no longer be enrolled in child care and it is an offence for a service to fail to comply with the child care vaccination enrolment requirements. This is why children cannot start at preschool without this document being provided.

The same rule applies if your child turns 4 during your time at preschool. Under the Public Health Act, early childhood services are required to update their immunisation register for all enrolled children after each immunisation milestone. As soon as possible after your child receives their 4 year old immunisations, parents must forward a new 'up to date' ACIR Immunisation History statement for the preschool to remain compliant with Government regulations. If 4 year old immunisation records are not up to date, in the event of specified vaccine preventable disease outbreak in the preschool, children can be excluded from preschool who are not vaccinated for that disease to protect them from infection and prevent them from passing diseases to others for the full exclusion period of the disease. This is also why we request families let us know if their child is unwell and what the illness is so that we can act accordingly by notifying families or Health authorities, excluding children who may be susceptible to the illness or for targeted cleaning beyond our regular practises.

Two day enrolment patterns: Our Preschool receives funding under the **Start Strong** program from the NSW State Government as an approved community preschool. Start Strong aims to improve affordability of early childhood education and increase the number of children participating for 600 hours in a quality early childhood education



program in the year before school (600 hours/year equates to 15 hours/week). Underpinning this is research showing that children who participate in quality early childhood education in the year before school are more likely to start school equipped with the social, cognitive and emotional skills they need to engage in learning. In our preschool, children attending a 2 day enrolment will have access to 16 hours/week. To take full advantage of the funding model we have structured enrolment patterns on a 2 day/week format to enable 2 groups of children across the week to access the Start Strong program's 600 hours in the year before school, as well as maximising our funding to in turn keep daily preschool fees as low as possible. This is linked back to the information regarding **Annual DEC consent forms**. It is the Annual data collection that determines the funding to be provided to the preschool and in turn determines the fee structure to be set for the following year.

Thanks for reading; We hope these explanations give families greater understanding and help you feel better connected of our everyday practises. If you have any questions arising from this information or other areas of preschool, please send us an email or call the office and we'll be happy to help.



Allergy Alert: Please note that

Preschool is a NUT FREE zone. This includes all NUTS and nut products such as nutella and peanut butter. We have children diagnosed with allergies to nuts across both rooms. Children are now sharing a space for eating so previous alerts to allergies now extends across the whole preschool. So to support these children we ask all families not to bring nuts, nut products, pineapple, chick pea or chickpea products such as hummus or eggs in your child's lunchbox, *thank you for your assistance*.



*** No Nuts both rooms, *No Pineapple – both rooms, *No Chickpea or Eggs – both rooms. Thank you**



COVID-19 safe practices – Please don't bring your child to preschool if they are showing even the mildest cold symptoms.

As per our Health Declaration, the expectation is that:

- All children must not come to preschool if they are unwell. Even with very mild symptoms.
- Children who are absent due to cold or flu like illness or who develop flu like symptoms are not to return to preschool until they are **completely symptom free**. HOWEVER, it is the parent's decision whether to send their pre-schooler for a COVID-19 test.
- If any family member of an enrolled child is currently unwell and waiting on results of a COVID test, PLEASE DO NOT BRING YOUR CHILD TO PRESCHOOL UNTIL YOU HAVE RECEIVED A **negative COVID-19 test result** AND parents must email through the results to preschool before a child returns to preschool.



- Children have not taken any over the counter medication (paracetamol, ibuprofen, cough suppressant) in the last 24 hours.
- Entry will be refused to anyone with a temperature 38° or higher.
- Your child and no one in your household has been in contact with anyone who has returned from overseas travel in the last 14 days.
- Your child and no one in your household have visited or come into contact with anyone from the following hotspots as listed by the NSW Department of Health Latest COVID-19 case locations in NSW. To view the current case locations please visit: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>

*** Please contact the preschool to advise of ANY illness when you are keeping children home. We cannot act accordingly or report illness to health authorities if families don't let us know what illness their child may be experiencing. An email or phone call is appreciated, thank you.**

*** If in doubt please ask an educator and refer to our Covid-19 policy in the February newsletter.**

SICK CHILDREN

As we have many first time families to the Preschool environment we would like to remind all families not to bring your child to Preschool if they are sick. A clear indicator is if you need to administer Panadol to your child on the morning that they are to attend Preschool then it is best not to bring them as; 1) Panadol masks bugs and does not fix bugs, 2) the sick germs pass to 20 other children and 4 staff in the room. **PLEASE** be kind to our teachers and children and keep your child at home!!! Children have limited hygiene awareness at this age and it is a daily occurrence for children with colds to sneeze in other children's & teachers faces. Do not be surprised to receive a phone call from us if your child is unwell or has a green nose and is spreading mucus to others.



Late Pick ups & Late fees



This is a friendly reminder that our closing time is 4pm. Late fees are applied for late pickups from 4pm and are charged as follows; from 4pm to 4:10pm or any part of that time period is charged at \$20, and a further \$5 for each 5 minute period after 4:10pm will be charged.

We understand that everyone is busy and there is always a lot going on but **you must** be within the preschool grounds with enough time to collect your child and leave preschool by our closing time of 4pm. Please arrive no later than 3:55pm. It would be greatly appreciated if you could also remind any other adults who are authorised to pick up your child of these times too.

Should a late fee be incurred, it will be charged to your account. Two staff are required to be paid overtime to stay from 4pm with a child who is picked up late, hence the reason for late fees charged from 4pm.

We don't wish to appear unsympathetic however these times must be enforced for licence and insurance reasons. When children are not collected from the service by 4pm, the Preschool is breaching the conditions of its license. Furthermore, the preschool's public liability insurance only covers accident claims in conjunction with the conditions of our licence, i.e. between the hours as stated above. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

connect | Nurture. Educate. Grow.
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM

Getting your child ready to attend an Early Childhood Service

AIM: To support children in learning skills and gaining confidence alongside their family to transition, with support, to a local Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) service the following year.

When: Meeting weekly from 10am—12pm on Tuesdays or Thursdays during 2021 NSW school terms

Where: Connect Child & Family Services
48-50 Oaklands Rd, Hazelbrook, 2779

Cost: \$10.00 per session

This Program is designed so that children aged 2-4 years can engage in an early childhood program with their family. The small groups are gently facilitated by experienced early childhood teachers with a specialty in child development.

The group is fun, child focused, educational, nurtures development, and supports skill building - all in a relaxed, supportive, family friendly setting.

Siblings are welcome too (free)

To make an enquiry or register, please contact us on:
(02) 4758 9966

Or contact Deb on 0491 228 258 or deb.emelhain@connectcfs.org.au

The Early Learning Program is funded by the Department of Education under the Start Strong Pathways

International Women's Day

#choose to challenge

Celebrate with morning tea
on Mon, Tue, Wed & Thurs
8-11 March from 10-12.30

Striving for a community that is vibrant, caring and inclusive

Springwood Neighbourhood Centre
www.sncc.org.au
reception@sncc.org.au
02 4751 3033
facebook.com/springwoodneighbourhoodcentre

Springwood and District Preschool Kindergarten Inc.

9 Macquarie Road Springwood PO Box 93 Springwood 2777 Ph: 4751 3360 Fax: 4751 3220
admin@springwoodpreschool.org.au www.springwoodpreschool.org.au www.facebook.com/springwoodpreschool
ABN: 70 745 650 688



Scan the QR codes to find us





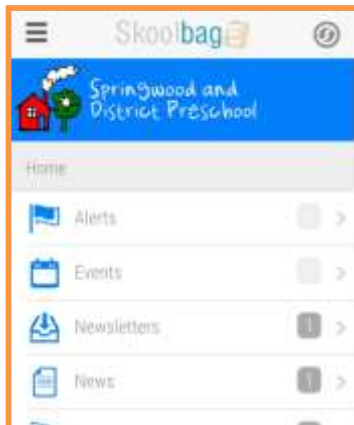
As one of our communication methods our preschool uses the Skoolbag app. The Skoolbag app allows us to send you reminders, newsletter, alerts, calendar events and text messages directly to your smartphone or android device. With technology at your fingertips you will never miss a thing!!!!

For iPhone and iPad users:

Go to the Apple App Store, search for “**SkoolBag**” and download the free SkoolBag app. After opening the app, **add your school (Springwood & District Preschool)** and you’re ready to go!

For Google Android Users:

Go to the Google Play Store, search for “**SkoolBag**” and download the free SkoolBag app. After opening the app, **add your school (Springwood & District Preschool)** and you’re ready to go!



ST THOMAS AQUINAS PRIMARY SPRINGWOOD

OPEN DAYS

10 March
9:30am - 11:00am
and
12:00pm - 1:00pm

11 March
9:30am - 10:30am

Enrolling now
for 2022

168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood
4723 3800 Register at
www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au

SkoolBag

How to Install SkoolBag

Instructions for parents installing the SkoolBag app.



My Time

Parent/Carer support group for parents of children with disabilities, delays or chronic illness



Starting Feb 10th 2021

Wednesdays 10am-12pm
(During School Term Only)

2 Westend St, Katoomba
(attached to the rear of McKayia Children's Centre)

Please bring a healthy snack
(nut free) for your child

For more information contact
Deb Emelhain
0491228258
deb.emelhain@connectcfs.org.au

What Happens at a MyTime Session?

Chat over coffee

In some MyTime sessions, members just relax over a coffee, talk about their week and share advice and information.

Learn something new

In some sessions the facilitator, or a guest speaker might lead discussion on a topic of interest.

Take care of yourself

Sometimes, the group might just have fun with an activity aimed at helping members relax and look after their wellbeing.



CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT AND DISABILITY SERVICES



MyTime
Supporting parents of children with disabilities

MyTime is operated nationally by the Parenting Research Centre and funded by the Australian Government. Learning Links is a coordinating partner for MyTime in NSW.



BEST START PROJECT

The Best Start Project is a new pilot program offered by Connect Child and Family Services.

BEST START aims to support parents and carers of young children with developmental delay or disability, right from the start of navigating and accessing early childhood and/or intervention services for their child under 7 years old.

At Connect Child and Family Services we value supporting families and carers to build the pathways or bridges in our community to enable growth and capacities of family units and the community.

HOW CAN BEST START SUPPORT CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND CARERS?

BEST START will connect with families to provide individualised support which may include:

- ▢ connecting over the phone or face to face
- ▢ exploring services and resources in community
- ▢ navigating referral processes
- ▢ sharing knowledge and information



Our Mission

We help families nurture and educate their children.

To make an enquiry or register a request for support through BEST START:

- ⇒ Contact our office at Hazelbrook on 4758 9966 or at Lapstone on 4739 2606
- ⇒ or complete the Request for Support Form on the reverse of this flyer and email to: connect@connectcfs.org.au

The Best Start Project is a free service, funded by Connect Child and Family Services for the year of 2021.

New Venue

RAISING KIN

grandparents relatives
and kinship carers

Raising Kin is a support group for grandparents, relatives and kinship carers who care for a child who is a relative. This group meets on the first Wednesday of the month during school term.

TERM 1 2021 DATES:
Wednesday
FEBRUARY 3RD AND MARCH 3RD
10:00AM-12:00PM

NEW VENUE:
UNITING CHURCH LOWER HALL
4 LEWIN ST
SPRINGWOOD

For more information or to RSVP please contact
Jenny on 0450 001 393

Springwood Neighbourhood Centre
www.snicc.org.au
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02 4751 3033
facebook.com/springwoodneighbourhoodcentre

Springwood and District Preschool Kindergarten Inc.

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 ABN: 70 745 650 688



Scan the QR codes to find us

