

Welcome to Preschool for 2021

NEWSLETTER
November 2021

Important Dates.....

- Term 4 ends Mon 13th Dec.
- Preschool Closed for Staff Training – Tues 14th, Wed 15th Dec 2021.
- School holidays - Thurs 16th Dec to Thurs 27th Jan.
- Fri 28th Jan 2022 - New children Orientation only.
- Term 1 starts Monday 31st January 2022.



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



Enrolments are filling fast for 2022 and why not with Free Preschool funding* available again next year!!

***Free Preschool funding means** that the first 15 hours of your child's enrolment each week is fully funded by the NSW Government under this program. Our hours of enrolment are from 8am to 4pm and families have access to 16 hours of preschool per week which means *families pay just \$7.50 for the 16th hour of enrolment,*

that's 2 days of Preschool for only \$7.50 !!!

Our enrolments for 2022 are filling fast. **We have 3 positions left** in our Thursday/Friday group for 4 year old children whose 4th birthday is on or before 31st July 2022* *as per the funding guidelines from Department of Education*.*

So if you know someone, maybe a friend or relative, whose child would like to come to preschool next year please let us know.

Families will need to **submit a waiting list online** which can be accessed from the home page of our website;
<http://www.springwoodpreschool.org.au/>

Contact us by email admin@springwoodpreschool.org.au or phone 47513360 if you have any questions.

It's never too soon to fill in a waiting list for enrolment in future years.



Find us and 'Like' us on Facebook www.facebook.com/springwoodpreschool

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



Late pickups and Late fees reminder



Please remember that our closing time is 4pm. LATE FEES APPLY FROM 4PM

We understand that everyone is busy and there is always a lot going on but **you must** be within the preschool grounds **before 3:55pm** to collect your child by our closing time of 4pm so that the preschool can adhere to its regulations and close our doors promptly at 4pm.

Our preschool is only licensed for the operating hours of **8am to 4pm**, Monday to Friday. 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.

We do not wish to appear unsympathetic or unfair however our operational hours must be enforced for license and insurance reasons. When children are not collected from the service by 4pm, the Preschool is breaching the conditions of its license which can lead to our license being revoked. Furthermore, the preschool's public liability insurance only covers accident claims in conjunction with the conditions of our license, i.e. between the hours as stated above.

Late fees will apply immediately from 4pm and will be charged at **\$20 from 4pm to 4:10pm**, then **\$5 for each 5 minutes from 4:10pm onward** as two staff are required to be paid overtime to remain with children after our closing times. This amount will be added to your account.

We thank you for your attention and understanding.



Picture Plates have arrived

Our educators will distribute them at drop off or pick up on your child's days at preschool.



Term 4 Fees Reminder

Term 4 – Attendance fees resumed in week 3 of Term 4 for all enrolled families in line with the lifting of restrictions and our ability to welcome all families back to preschool. We continue to be supported by the NSW Government's Covid19 Preschool funding which significantly reduces the weekly fees for families.

Fee notices have been issued for term 4 via HubHello email. If you haven't received it please let us know ASAP. Fees are due in a lump sum by Friday 29th October however where families need to pay larger sums in two instalments, the second instalment is due by Friday 12th November.

If you are experiencing financial hardship please make contact via email to Kellie or Jes on admin@springwoodpreschool.org.au as soon as possible and we can contact you to discuss how we can help.





Gateway
FAMILY SERVICES

2021 CHRISTMAS FOOD APPEAL

This list is not exhaustive but just intended as a guide as to what we like to collect. Food that is contributed that we don't use in hampers, is given out to families through our Essentials (*emergency relief*) program, so all food regardless of its suitability for a hamper, is useful and greatly appreciated.

This is what we need the most to make up the 400 boxes of food:

<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Fruit Mince Pies	<input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast Cereals ie. Coco Pops, Sultana Bran and other 'kid' favourites
<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Cakes or Puddings	<input type="checkbox"/> Salmon or Tuna - large tins
<input type="checkbox"/> Shortbread	<input type="checkbox"/> Coffee - instant, in jars
<input type="checkbox"/> Savoury Biscuits - any sort	<input type="checkbox"/> Lollies
<input type="checkbox"/> Juice - 1 ltr Long Life cartons	<input type="checkbox"/> Dried Fruit Snacks
<input type="checkbox"/> Soft Drinks - cans/ small bottles	<input type="checkbox"/> Tins Pineapple or Fruit Salad
<input type="checkbox"/> Tins Vegetables ie. Carrots, Peas, Corn, Beans, Potatoes, Beetroot, etc	<input type="checkbox"/> Long Life Custard
<input type="checkbox"/> Sauces, Chutneys & Salad Dressings	<input type="checkbox"/> Jelly Crystals

FURTHER ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

Heather Gwilliam - Volunteer Hamper Coordinator
Email: rgwillia@bigpond.net.au
Mobile: 0425 391 193



Gateway Family Services



Christmas Donations

This Christmas, Springwood Preschool will again work with the people from Gateway Family Services and support the wonderful work they do bringing joy to families over the year and in particular at Christmas time. Gateway have provided this list of items they would really appreciate to create their Christmas Hampers for families. Any donations will be greatly appreciated. If you would like to help us help Gateway, please place your donations in the boxes near the sign in books.

If you'd like to help out, ***please aim to have your donations back by Wednesday 1st December*** as Gateway will collect the donations from Preschool on Friday 3rd December.

Thank you!!!

Recapping 2021: Well, what a year for the 2nd time in two years!!!

Who would have thought when we began our preschool year, we would be at this point? In a blink of an eye Covid took hold again for a 2nd time in 2 years. Unfortunately, this resulted in us all having to stay at home for 16 weeks. We hope with vaccinations well in place that we never have to be in such a long lock down again. We want to thank all our families who supported our preschool while we worked to implement plans & procedures.

At the beginning of 2021 we all began on a high as we all returned to begin a new year with all our returning children and many new families. We all settled into a new year until Covid impacted on us and our team had to once again think outside the box whereby connections to our pre-schoolers' occurred via zoom, emails, phone calls and craft packs being delivered to the children at their homes.



Thank you to all the families who joined our committee to help guide our preschool on the management side, we apologise that given the circumstances we couldn't hold more monthly meetings but given the pandemic we had to communicate preschool happenings via emails. However, despite the inability to hold meetings the committee did manage to investigate some financial decisions by organising some term deposit decisions for the preschools savings. Moving forward in 2022 the committee and the team will be looking at painting the classrooms, the last time this happened was in 2011 when we renovated, so it will be lovely to have a change and refresh.

Drop offs and pickups for the second time have had to occur at the front gate however, all the children have dealt with this wonderfully. Through these times our entire team have marvelled at the children's resilience in how they have coped with these changes. Our team too have commented how they have at times struggled, because of the gate drop offs we haven't had the luxury of having families come into the preschool grounds therefore at times it can be difficult to communicate those vital sharing conversations with our families. Unfortunately, due to most recent decisions made by the Premier yesterday, 'freedom day' for all, vaccinated or not, has been postponed until December 15th and this means with much regret we will not be able to invite all our families back into the preschool grounds until we return for a new year in 2022. This pandemic has for a 2nd year running, impacted on our traditional family Christmas gathering events however, all our educators are very passionate to ensure that there are lots of events occurring within the classes to ensure the fun is not lessened as we enter the festive time of the year, with our team looking forward to a week of special days for everyone to enjoy.

Besides all the hurdles our community have had to overcome, our preschool has been able to access some funding to further support our already funded preschool fees. This has meant that families have NOT paid fees for up to 15 hours each week. Consequently, our preschool fees have been slashed by around 90% of the entire weekly fees being less than \$10. This is an extraordinary reduction of fees that the NSW government has implemented during this pandemic. It is also with great pleasure that we can inform you that preschool anticipates we will have access to this similar fee relief for our preschool families for 2022.

As we conclude our preschool year for 2021, we would like to remind everyone the last day will be Monday 13th December. It has been wonderful to reflect on the highs and challenges of the year that has been as we hit the eve before we begin our Christmas holidays.

Please also note that all of our team will be taking annual leave from December 16th until January 27th 2022. Hence, both the office phone and email communication will not be responded to over this closure period, families can leave a message via email and we will get back to you when we return after Australia day.



It has been an amazing year and we thank you all for allowing us the opportunity to share these experiences with your children.

We wish you all a Merry and safe Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in 2022.

Best wishes from all of us at Springwood Preschool.

