

THOMASTOWN WEST KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER TERM 1

WELCOME

Welcome to Thomastown West Kindergarten. This is the first news letter of the year. Newsletters and notices are sent out regularly (via Storypark) and is available in hard copy. Please check the notice boards for any up coming events or information about the program. If you have any questions about your child or kindergarten please speak to a member of the team.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Pancake Tuesday: 17th March

Stay and Play: Wednesday 25th February
& Tuesday 3rd March

Whittlesea Kinder Open Evening:
Thursday 26th February 5:30-7:30pm

Labour Day: Monday 9th March No Kinder
Session

Rhythm Drumming: Tuesday 17th &
Wednesday 18th March

End of Term Party "Easter Celebration" :
Wednesday 1st April & Tuesday 2nd April

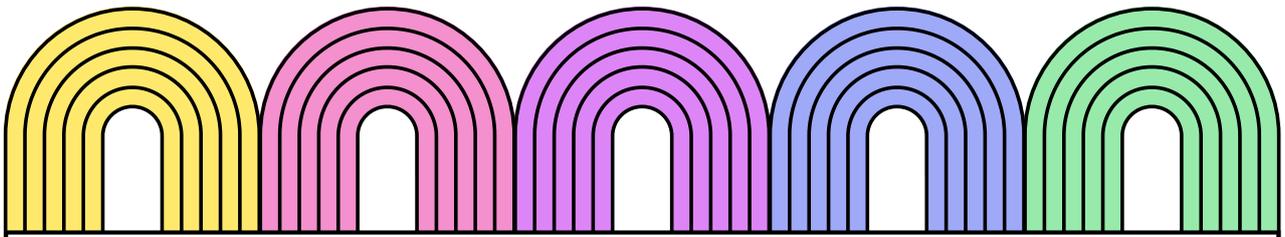
TERM 1 BREAK: Friday 3rd April - Friday
17th April
Term 2 starts Monday 20th April

SETTLING IN

Please be mindful every child is an individual and comes to kindergarten with their own experiences of being separated from their family.

All of the Educators are experienced in supporting the children and families during this time of change.

It may take some children more time to settle into a routine. Please feel free to discuss your child's needs so we can work together to ensure a smooth transition to kindergarten for you and your child.



ENROLMENT FORMS

Please note: It is a government regulation that all information on enrolment forms be completed before a child can attend. If you have any change of information e.g. new address/ phone number please let a member of staff know so we can update your child's enrolment form.

SIGNING YOUR CHILD IN AND OUT

The sign in book is located at the sign in desk. Your child's name is already written in the book. Please remember to look for your child's number and to sign in the appropriate column. You will also need to sign your child in and out using the ARRIVAL platform.

FRUIT SNACK

Please remember that at kindergarten we encourage children to eat a range of healthy food products. Please pack a healthy snack for your children such as fresh fruit, vegetables and /or cheese.

REMINDER

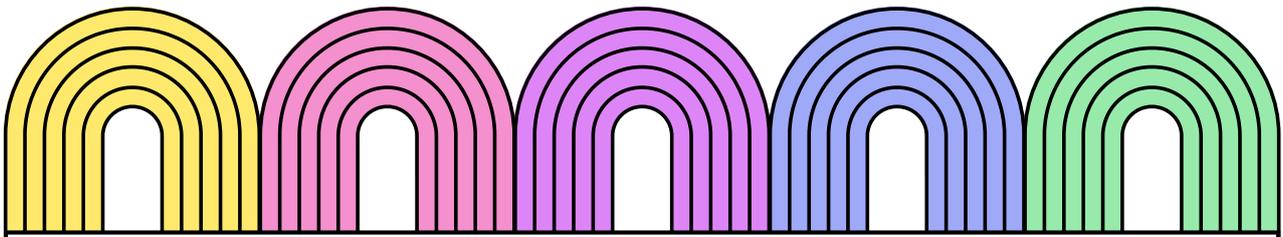
We would like to remind all families to apply sunscreen before you arrive at kindergarten. If you forget we have sunscreen at the sign in desk and to make sure your child has a sun smart hat.

SELF HELP SKILLS

Kindergarten is a wonderful time for children to practice their self-help skills such as making choices about the activities they would like to engage in.

Please ensure that your child is wearing clothes that they can pull up and down to go to the toilet. Elastic waist pants are easier at this stage than zips and buttons.

If your child is toilet training we recommend putting them in underwear and we will support them to use our 'child friendly toilets'. Wearing shoes that have an enclosed toe and heel will ensure they can participate fully in all our outdoor activities safely.



BREAKFAST CLUB

As part of School Readiness funding we provide breakfast club for the children every morning between 8:30-9:00am. There is a selection of foods for the children to choose from such as toast, cereal and fresh fruit.

The children are encouraged to make a choice from the visual menu as to what they would like to eat and to wash their plate and cup encouraging independent skills.

This is a great opportunity for children to socialise with their peers and Educators and the children really enjoy this time of the morning.

Thank you to all the families who have made donations for breakfast Club we appreciate your support.

WASHING ROSTER

As we are a community kindergarten we ask parents to support the kindergarten by taking home the washing once or twice a year as we don't have a washing machine at the kindergarten.

NO NUTS & HEALTHY EATING

Please be mindful when packing your child's snack and lunch that we are a NUT FREE kindergarten. We have children who have allergies to a variety of different nuts. We promote healthy eating and living as part of our program and ask that you send package free foods and healthy options. Children can now bring EGG to kindergarten as we no longer have a child with EGG allergy at the kindergarten.

COMMITTEE DATES

Thomastown West Kindergarten is a non-profit community kindergarten managed by volunteer parents.

We have committee meetings once a month via zoom online

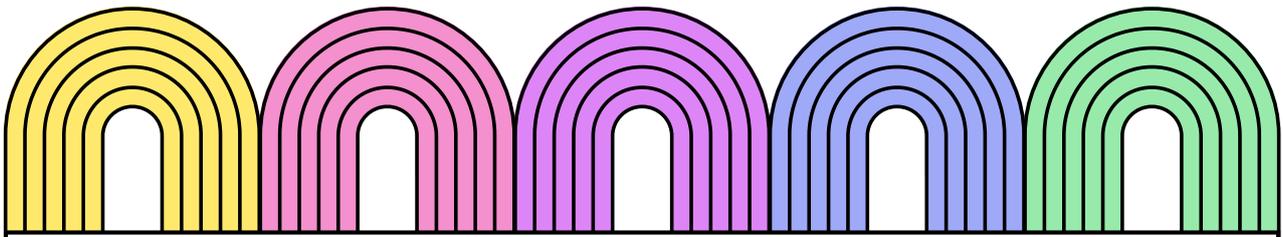
February 16th at 7:30pm online

March 23rd at 7:30pm online

We can't manage the kindergarten with out parent support. If you would like to volunteer to be on the Committee of Management to support the kindergarten please see a member of staff.

KINDER DONATIONS

Thank you to the families who have supported the kindergarten with donations of toilet paper and tissues (and other donations). We appreciate your donations and keeping the costs down for the kindergarten.



PLANNING OBSERVATIONS AND REFLECTIONS

Last October Carla and Carmie attended an intensive study tour of Reggio Emilia in Italy. It was a great opportunity to learn and reflect on our teaching and learning practices at the kindergarten. We have made a number of changes as to how we do things and it is an ongoing process. The kindergarten looks a little different as we are focusing on the voice of the child and the children having more choices about the work they engage in, the materials that they use and making choices about what they would like to use and engage with.

You will receive a weekly update on Monday as to what we will be focusing on that week and a weekly reflection at the end of the week.

We have folders out the front with reflections of what the children have been doing - different focuses for families to look at on arrival or at the end of the session. Our planning will also be available in the folder with children's ideas about what we are learning and where the learning is going. You will also find your child's observation and work file out at the front with samples of your child's work and observations staff have collated. Please take time to have a look at what your child has been doing at kindergarten.

At the end of each term you will receive on story part a Term Summary about what your child have achieved during the term and goals for the following term. Staff put a lot of time in reflecting and writing your child's end of term summary so please make sure that you read it and make a comment.

STORY PARK

A reminder to families to make sure you have access to storypark. We post weekly updates about what the focus is for the week, end of the week reflections. We also use Storypark to communicate with families about upcoming events at the kindergarten, notices about community events and keeping you up dated on what is happening at the kindergarten.

STAY AND PLAY

Each term we invite families to come to a stay and play session. We often have Hayley (Speech Therapist) and Elysia (OT) come to meet families and you can discuss with them any concerns or questions you have about your child's development.

This term our focus will be Gross Motor skills and outdoor Play.

You will also have an opportunity to look at your child's observation and work portfolio.

WELCOME PICNIC

Thank you to all the families who came to our Welcome the Kinder Picnic on Thursday 12th February. It was great to see all our new families and children at the park and for staff and other families to get to know one another.

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

At Thoamstown West Kindergarten we have a number of child safe policies for families, visitors and staff to follow. All parent's have sign with enrolment that they will follow our child safety policies. A reminder that we are a photo free service so please don't take any photos at the kindergarten of your child or other children.

We have a code of conduct for all visitors who come to the kindergarten in relation to use of phones and access to the children.