



Preschool Newsletter - 4 March 2022

2022 Term Dates

Bermagui Preschool Annual General Meeting (see below): Thu 24th March, 9.15am

End of Term 1: Fri 8th April

Good Friday: 15th April (Preschool **CLOSED**)

Easter Monday: 18th April (Preschool **CLOSED**)

Autumn Vacation Care: Mon 11th April to Thu 14th April and Tue 19th April to Fri 22nd April

ANZAC Day Public Holiday: Mon 25th April (Preschool **CLOSED**)

Start of Term 2: Tue 26th April

Please note these dates may be subject to change.

Preschool News...

We thank all our families and children for the support and understanding as we continue to respond to Covid and keep our community safe. We understand that managing Covid can be a stressful time for staff and families alike. We are working together with NSW Health and NSW Department of Education to support our Preschool children, families, staff and the broader community through this time to help us maintain normal service operations as much as possible. Please continue to follow the advice of NSW Health and go to their website for the most up to date information.

To minimise the risk of Covid, we will continue with the following strategies;

- Only children, staff and essential visitors will be allowed inside our Preschool and we ask families to continue drop off and pick up at the front gate for the time being.
- Parents and carers should continue with COVID-safe practices with pick up and drop off.
- This includes maintaining social distancing, using hand sanitiser and dropping your child off at the gate where an educator will meet and greet you and your child.
- Educators are encouraged to wear masks in indoor environments and when meeting families
- We will continue to ensure strong hygiene practices, good ventilation in our learning spaces and use outdoor play spaces effectively.
- If your child is showing signs of being unwell (including runny nose, coughing or sneezing), please keep them at home. Preschool staff will contact families and ask them to pick up their child from Preschool if they are showing signs of being unwell.
- All early childhood education and care educators and staff, Board Members, Volunteers, auxiliary staff and contractors are required to be vaccinated under the current Public Health Order. Two doses of the COVID-19 vaccination are required. Parents are not required to vaccinate or show proof of vaccination status. Booster vaccination is now available. Vaccination is the best way to help keep our ECE community safe.

On a happier note, our Community Cookbook excursions will continue with the children in the Bidhu Room visiting local cafes and businesses in small groups over the next few weeks to cook and collect recipes for their cookbook. We are also getting ready for the Sculptures on the Edge Exhibit, creating our own sculpture for the exhibit. This project will help us to express our feelings and emotions, as well as learn more about art concepts, develop our creativity and learn about our world, connecting with our community and working together. Stay tuned for further information about this fabulous event!!!

Supporting small group social play, games, stories, songs and rhymes is helping the children to feel a sense of belonging, connection and identity at Preschool. Remember to check out our Educate documents (through HubHello) and our program displayed on the front noticeboards to see what we have been up to at Preschool.

Staying Healthy at Preschool

Throughout the year, staff at Bermagui Preschool follow strict policies and procedures for health and hygiene. We work hard to minimise the chances of cross contamination of germs between children.

Some of the measures we use at Bermagui Preschool include:

- Hand washing/sanitising on arrival and departure and throughout the day.
- Cleaning and disinfecting bathrooms and play areas twice daily, and toys and equipment on a rotating basis or as required.
- Promoting healthy habits through group discussions, role modelling and activities which include hand washing, correct toileting, nose blowing, covering coughs with hands and elbows and eating at the table.
- Monitoring the children throughout the day to ensure they have support for their health and hygiene needs. Asking parents to collect their child from Preschool if they are not well enough to attend and at risk of infecting other children.

Parents can help by talking to their children about these procedures at home. Please keep your sick child at home, in consideration of the other children and staff. Also understand that despite our best efforts, children still catch colds and other infections, either at preschool, playgrounds, and supermarkets or from visiting friends etc. However it is an important process that allows your child to build up anti-bodies that will protect them as they grow older and interact with more people in a larger environment.

- Teach children to always wash their hands after using the toilet and before eating. This way, the germs on their hands will not enter their mouth with their food.
- Encourage the children to use the toilet & toilet paper correctly, flush the toilet and then wash and dry their hands.
- Show children how to blow their nose effectively, and use tissues that can be disposed of (along with the germs). Teach children to catch their cough in their elbow, when coughing.
- Once your baby is out of the "exploring with the mouth" stage, discourage toys and fingers in their mouth.
- Give lots of praise and encouragement (e.g. "Well done!", stickers, stamps, hugs etc).
- Using games and songs. Here are some we use at preschool:

This is the way we wash our hands (to the tune of *Here we go round the Mulberry Bush*)

This is the way we wash our hands, wash our hands, wash our hands.

This is the way we wash our hands before we eat our food.

With a little bit of soap (to the tune of the *Birdie Dance Song*)

With a little bit of soap and a little bit of water, we wash our hands

After going to the toilet and playing outside, we wash our hands

After playing with our pets and before we eat, we wash our hands

With a little bit of water and a little bit of soap, we wash our hands

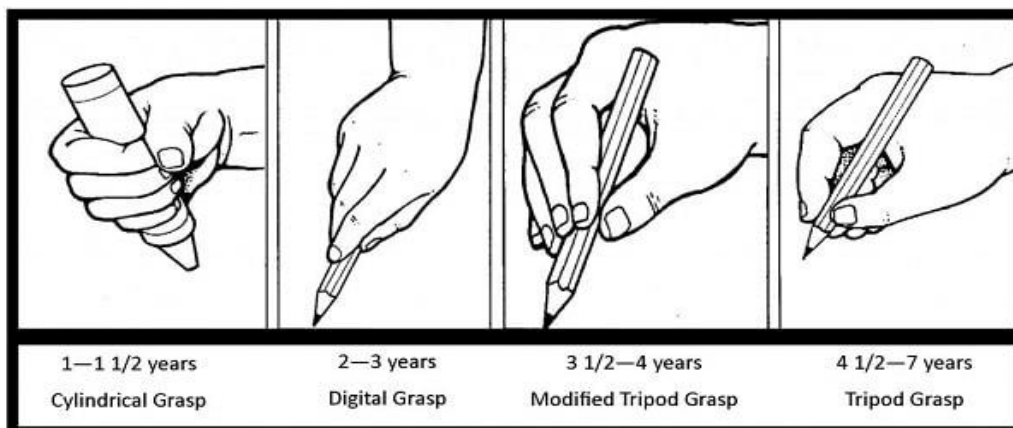
Fees Information

Fee notices have been sent out. Fees are due to be paid each term and are due 2 weeks after receipt of your fee notice. Parents can arrange a regular payment plan with Kirsty in the office if this is more convenient for your family. Details regarding the Child Care Subsidy are available online through Centrelink (myGov). Families become members of the Bermagui Preschool Cooperative Society when fees are paid and are then able to vote at the AGM. A membership fee is payable at the beginning of each year (\$2.20 including GST) as per our constitution. This will be added to the first fee statement of the year.

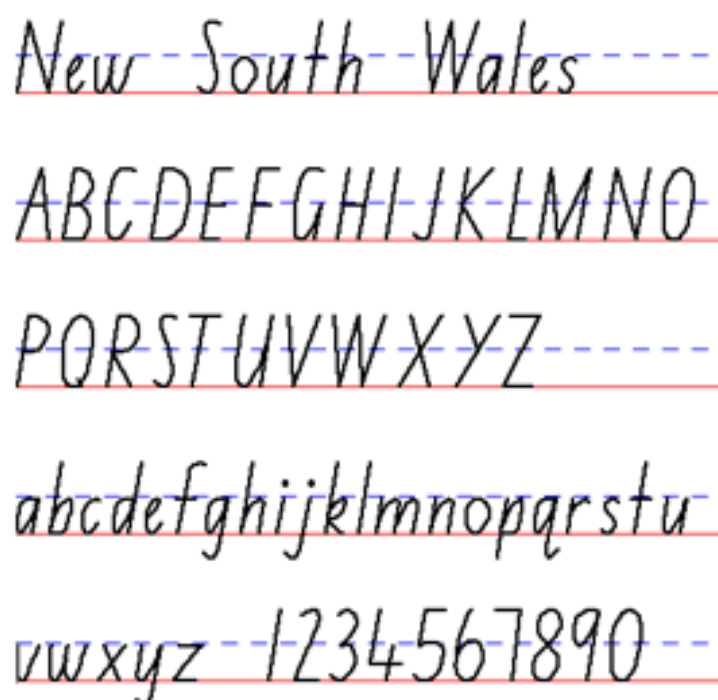
Prewriting and Literacy

In a culture that has placed increasing demands on children to achieve, we have found many young children are encouraged to write and are given writing tools before they are ready to use them. To reflect best practice in Early Childhood education, at Bermagui Preschool we provide children with opportunities to develop, practice and refine their pre-writing and literacy skills in an age appropriate, play based way. This includes providing plenty of opportunities to develop fine motor skills through playing games with pegs, threading, cutting with scissors, using playdough and other tools, painting and drawing. This kind of play helps develop the hand skills that are required in order to move onto successful writing.

When each child is ready we encourage children to use a grasp that is suitable to their level of development and ability when using drawing and writing tools. As with all skills, this will be at different ages for each individual child.



We have attached a copy of the NSW Foundation Font Writing Sheet that children use in NSW public schools. Please remember to keep any pre-writing activities fun!!! If a child is forced to write before they are ready they may actually develop a negative attitude that may make it difficult for them to enjoy writing when they get to school and in later life. Further information about pre-writing and literacy is displayed at Preschool and in our day book.



Board of Directors and AGM

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Volunteers and Members of our Community -

- The AGM will be held at Bermagui Preschool on Thursday 24th March 2022, 9:15am at the Saltwater Playground. All welcome, including children, family members, neighbours etc. as we will be having a morning tea.
- You can be involved by putting up your hand to be elected for one of the 7 positions on the Board by completing the nomination slip below, or voting for who you wish to be on the Board or simply by coming along to enjoy morning tea!!!
- The AGM will run for approximately 15 minutes and will be followed by the morning tea. The Preschool will provide yummy cakes and slices. This will be a great opportunity to meet our new families, socialise and just have fun!!!
- The AGM will include a brief presentation of reports, followed by all positions of the 2022 Board of Directors being declared vacant. Nominations will be called for the 7 positions for the 2022 Board of Directors. These positions are all equal, with no position having power or more responsibility over others, i.e. there will be no titles such as president, secretary or treasurer.
- Nominations will be read as received prior to the AGM. If you are unable to attend the meeting and wish to be considered for election, please complete the attached nomination slip. If more than 7 people are nominated, then all those who are entitled to vote (i.e. all parents/ caregivers who have paid Preschool fees) will be given a ballot paper to record the people they wish to see elected. The 7 people receiving the highest number of votes will become the new Board.
- Once elected, the Board members will meet approximately once a month (meeting usually run for about 1 hour) to make decisions related to the "macro" management of the preschool, such as strategic planning, overall directions etc. The date for the first Board Meeting will be set by the newly appointed Board of Directors. Once the Board has been elected, the Annual Meeting will be closed, and the afternoon tea will commence.

Please come along and support your Preschool on Thursday 24th March 2022, 9:15am. We need your support and we need your input into the selection of the Board of Directors. It's for our wonderful kids and Preschool!!!! If you have any queries or wish to discuss what is involved in being a Board Member please see Narelle, thank you. We look forward to seeing you on the day!

Please detach and return to Preschool by Wednesday 23rd March 2022 if you would like to attend and/or be nominated for a position on the 2022 Bermagui Preschool Board of Directors.

I will be attending the AGM and Preschool morning tea on Thursday 24th March 2022, 9:15am at Saltwater Playground

Name: _____

Number of Adults: _____ Number of Children: _____

I would like to nominate for a position on the 2022 Bermagui Preschool Board of Directors.

_____ (Name) _____ (Signature) _____ (Date)

Nomination Moved By: _____ (Name) _____ (Signature) _____ (Date)

Nomination Seconded By: _____ (Name) _____ (Signature) _____ (Date)