

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2022



# GORDONNEWS

GORDON COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL'S NEWSLETTER  
HELPING US TO STAY CONNECTED



Find out more about these pics on our last page!

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Term 3 ends on Friday  
23rd September  
Term 4 commences  
**TUESDAY 11th**  
October.  
(Monday 10th is a staff  
professional development day.)

**In this issue of  
the  
Gordonews!**

# PRESCHOOL FEES 2023



**As we begin to look ahead to 2023, we have received enquiries from a number of families as to what our preschool fees will be for next year.**

## **Here is what we can tell you:**

- We know that the Department of Education's "Free Preschool" funding program will **not** be continuing in 2023.
- We have been advised that a new funding program - *The Affordable Preschool* Funding program will commence in 2023.
- Preschools in NSW do not yet know what that funding will be. We will be advised in late October/November.
- For this reason, Gordon Community Preschool is not yet able to set the fees for 2023. We need to know what our **funding** will be, before we determine the **fees** for the year.
- We understand that this makes planning very difficult. It is challenging for families and challenging for all NSW preschools.

## **In their weekly update, here is what the Department of Education has said:**

Families want to know now what their expected fees are for next year.

When will services have this information?

The department will release the Start Strong Community Preschool and Start Strong Long Day Care 2023 program guidelines in October 2022, and funding notification letters will be sent to providers before the end of Term 4 2022.

As the Start Strong program is the key mechanism through which the Preschool Reform Agreement and the Affordable Preschool initiative will be delivered, it is important that we get the settings right, to ensure we deliver on our commitments, and sector voices are critical to this.

Services may wish to advise families that they can expect fees to be low cost. The department acknowledges operational decisions by providers and services will inform the specific fee information provided to families.

We can also confirm that implementation support will be available for services who would like help transitioning to this new funding model.



So watch this space! We will keep you posted and advise you about our fees as soon as we are in a position to do so.





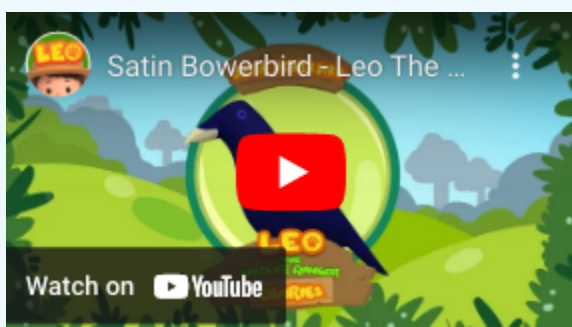
## Little Wing Puppet Show Incursion 'A little bit of blue'.

On Monday 5th and Thursday 8th September we had a visit from Jenny who performed a wonderful puppet show for us. Jenny used a number of puppets and props throughout the show as well as playing a number of characters herself.

Initially we were introduced to a puppet of a little old lady who had her milk money, knitting and hair go missing in separate incidents. At first the little old lady tried to report the thefts to the police, who were not interested in taking her case, so she eventually hired a detective to help her catch the thief. The detective gathered evidence like footprints and a feather and then got the audience to help her draw a composite sketch of the likely culprit. Eventually the case was solved, and we learnt that it was a bower bird who was collecting blue items to decorate his nest. We learnt that male bower birds use blue items they collect to decorate a special nest and together with performing a dance they hope to find themselves a girlfriend. All items were eventually returned to the little old lady, and everyone was happy.

**Thanks to our team members Kirsten and Karen for sharing this information about our recent puppet show.**

To do at home - some activities linking with our bower bird puppet show.



Here is a video about a Satin Bower Bird to watch with your child.



Click on the image to find some activities to do at home.



continued next page

# When the band came to play!

On Tuesday 6th September, West Pymble School Band came to preschool to perform for the children. The band played 'Heads and shoulders, knees and toes' and 'The lion sleeps tonight' for the children, then showed everyone all the different types of instruments that make up their band.



They got everyone up for a dance and played some catchy tunes, then James had the opportunity to be the conductor and lead the band! To do this he wore the conductor's hat and held the baton.

Next everyone joined in playing a game called, "Name that song." The band played a song, and everyone had to try and identify which song they had played. Luckily our children have such wonderful listening skills, as they were able to identify the songs, 'Fruit salad' and 'Let it go.'



After the band had finished playing all of their great songs the children had the opportunity to explore their instruments and particularly enjoyed trying out the bongo drums, cymbal and horn.



Huge thanks to students and teachers from West Pymble school band! We love these community connections!



Thanks to R2 Teacher Kylie for writing about the band visit.

# Children returning to preschool in 2023



**Q:** Will my child have the same teachers next year?

**A:** Some children will have the same teacher and others will have a different teacher.

Our teachers and educators may shift their days and hours of work from year to year.

We also change our teaching teams on a regular basis. There is no guarantee that teaching teams will remain the same each year. At this stage of the year we don't even know which teachers will work which days next year!

**Q:** Will my child be in the same physical classroom space next year?

**A:** Some children will be in the same classroom and others will be in a different classroom.

**Q:** Will my child be in the same class as his/her friends?

**A:** We try to group children according to friendship groups. Remember though, your child's friends may have chosen to attend on different days from your child. Some children may return into the Wed/Thur/Fri group, others into the Mon/Tues/Wed group. Others may remain in a two day group. If your child's friends are returning on the same days as your child, we will as far as possible, consider friendship groups. Please note though - sometimes it can be a positive move for friends to have a break from each other. Sometimes there might be one friend who is more dominant than another. Perhaps one child might need the chance to branch out on their own. Our teachers put care and thought into these decisions.



*continued next page....*



## Children returning to preschool in 2023 continued...



**Q:** So how *do* you work out the class placements?

**A:** Our teachers sit down with their own teams and consider all the children in their class who are returning next year. The days that parents have chosen for their child usually narrows it down to two possible options for class placements. For example, we have two Mon/Tues/Wed classes and two Wed/Thur/Fri classes. Your child, if attending on Mon/Tue/Wed will be in one of two classes.

Similarly for the Wed/Thur/Fri class.

The teaching teams then consider a range of factors.

**These may include:**

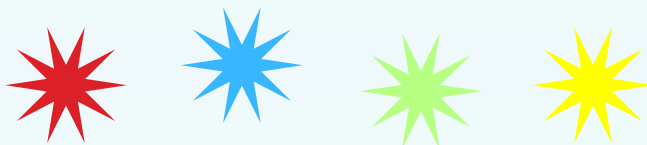
- \* Children who have formed positive friendships
- \* The dynamic of particular pairs or groups that work well or that *don't* work so well.
- \* Children who could benefit being in a particular classroom *space* (EG children with toileting needs, anxiety, children who benefit from a larger space or a more cosy space).

The teaching teams come up with a list of recommendations around groupings and class placements and our Educational Leader and Director go through all these recommendations and consider how things work in terms of the number of boys and girls in each class, the number of new children (ie first year at GCP) and children with inclusion support needs. (Among other factors)

*There is a lot of thought and care that goes into our class make up each year.*

**Q:** When will we find out what class my child will be in next year?

**A:** Your child's teachers for 2023 will send you an email one or two days before the new preschool year starts. This gives us the opportunity to make changes right up until the start date.





Commencing from term four 2022, we are lifting the requirement for parents/visitors to wear a mask while inside the preschool building.

This will remain optional for parents - but is not compulsory. If parents/visitors choose not to wear a mask, we ask that you give consideration to:

- The length of time that you spend inside classrooms (ie no more than ten minutes to minimise risk of COVID exposure)
  - The need for physical distancing
  - Wearing a mask if you are unwell.

Our teachers will continue as they have been for the last term - ie making a choice for themselves as to whether they will wear a mask or not.

**The change will come into effect 10/10/22**

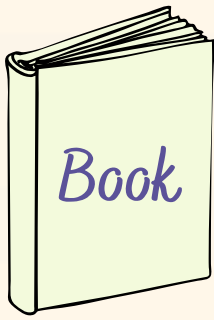


*Words*<sup>OF</sup>  
**WISDOM**

**"Compassion is not religious business, it is human business, it is not luxury, it is essential for our own peace and mental stability, it is essential for human survival."**

**Dalai Lama**





# Review With our G2 Teacher Cate



I have so many favourite stories it was hard to just choose one. I love reading stories. By myself, to all the children in green room and to my grandchildren.

The story I have chosen is called ***Owl Babies by Martin Waddell with illustrations by Patrick Benson***. When talking about books I think it is always important to mention the illustrator. The illustrations bring the words the author has written to life.

The owl babies are learning about life and have to do a lot of thinking. The words have a beautiful cadence and I especially love the repeated refrain from the smallest baby owl. My grandson loves this story too because one of the characters has the same name as him. Can you guess which name is his?

After reading the story a few times you might like to find out something new about owls. When I look through the book I can see a repeated pattern used to make the trees and leaves in the pictures. Maybe you could find something that would make such a pattern and make a drawing from the story or maybe draw the owls?

*Keep Reading  
Love Cate G2*



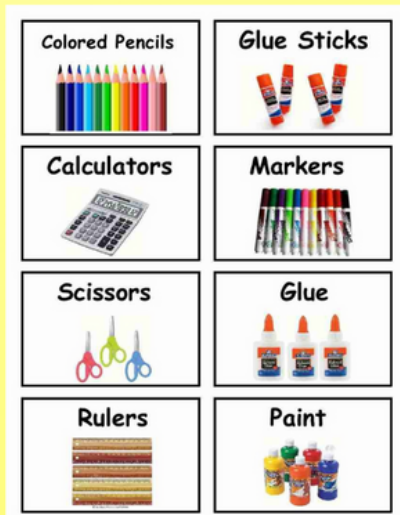


## SUPPORTING LITERACY LEARNING AT GCP

It's not just about the alphabet - Felicity Barclay

### PRINT IN THE ENVIRONMENT

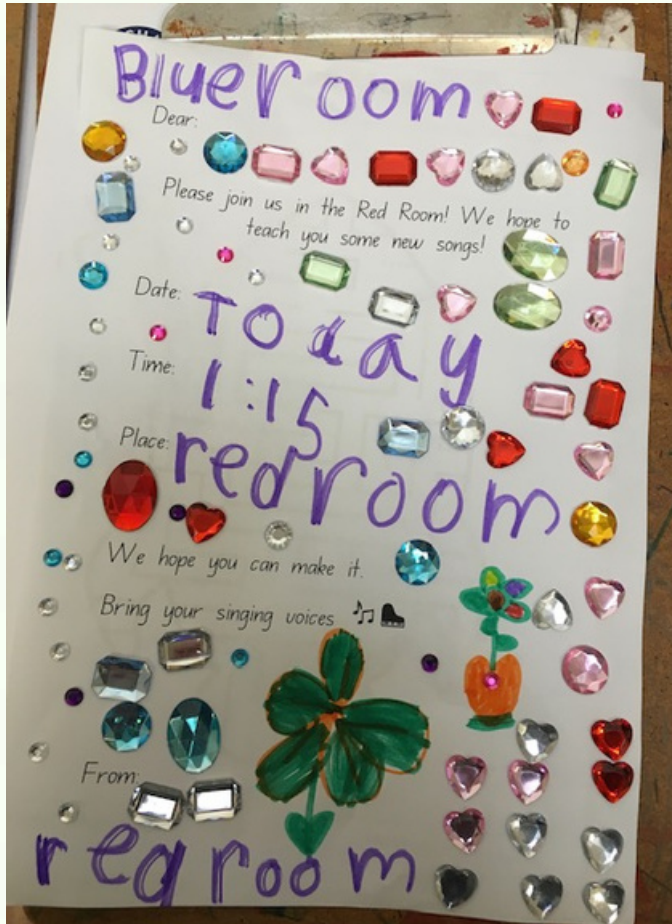
An understanding that print can actually convey a message is an important process in early literacy development. Teachers often refer to "print awareness" or "environmental print". Our labels on the shoe basket, our displays in the classrooms, our games of hangman on a big sheet of paper or asking children to tell a story that we scribe. Following a recipe with a teacher as she reads the words. Receiving a letter from a friend, making signs in the playground or marking our block buildings with labels for the cleaner "please leave until tomorrow". Drawing children's attention to signs and symbols as we read stories or are out and about. This use and awareness of print in the every day is another way we support our future readers and writers.



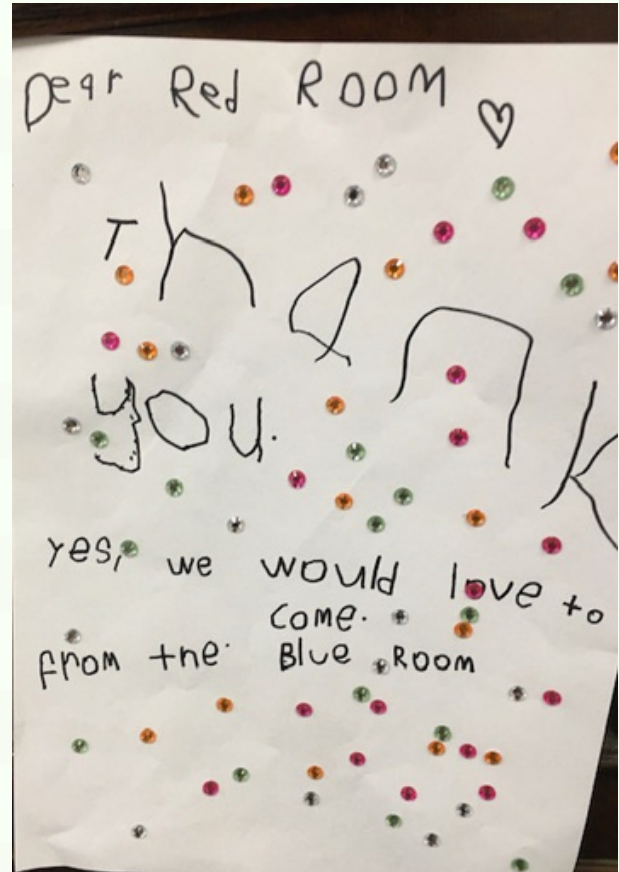
Take a look on the next page for a lovely example of literacy in action at GCP.



## The Invitation



## The acceptance



B3 and R3 enjoyed a singalong together.

## The Result!



That's all for this edition of the Gordonews. Happy school holidays to all. Remember we start back on TUESDAY 11th October. Felicity Barclay - Sept 2022

