

# Gordonews

Our Preschool newsletter - keeping you up to date with items of interest, news and events at Gordon Community Preschool.



February 2019

## Our first term begins

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first edition for the year of our preschool newsletter the "Gordonews". This newsletter aims to keep you informed about events and happenings in our preschool community as well as sharing information which may be of interest to parents and families.

**Settling in...** It can take a little while for children to settle into the preschool year. Whether your child is returning for his/her second year at preschool or whether he/she is here for the first time, it can, for some children take a little while to adjust. Here are some tips which might help:

- Talk positively about preschool – children pick up on the feelings of adults around them
- Remind your child that the teachers and adults at preschool are here to help them. Encourage your child to practice some words "can you help me?"
- Remember to say goodbye to your child in the morning... and once you've left... please don't come back in! It can be difficult for children to deal with the moment of separation if the "moment" is dragged out.
- Please don't use food or treats as a reward for being at preschool. Preschool should not be seen as an "endurance test". Rather, remind your child about the positive aspects of preschool, and let them know you will look forward to seeing them in the afternoon.

Please don't hesitate to speak with your child's teachers if you have any concerns about your child and his/her start to our preschool year. We are looking forward to the remainder of our preschool term.

Kind Regards,

Felicity Barclay



**Quick tip!** Did you know that we have made a little book called "I'm going to Gordon Preschool" All families new to GCP in 2019 should have received a copy of the book. It's also available by following this

link <https://www.gordonpreschool.com.au/> - then follow the link under the "starting preschool" tab. Reading this book with your child will help you and your child to become familiar with the preschool routine and is a good way to help stimulate conversation with your child about his/her preschool day.

## Term one calendar

### Our term ahead

Attached to this newsletter you will find a copy of our term one calendar. Our preschool website also maintains an up to date version of the calendar. You can find this [here](#).

This term we will hold what we refer to as "parent :teacher catch ups"- that is a chance for families of children new to preschool this year to catch up with your child's teacher in a face to face meeting. We will be sending out an information note to all families with details about how you can book in for an appointment.

For parents of children in our three day group who are in their second year of preschool – your parent/teacher catch ups are scheduled for next term. Stay tuned for details.



We are in need of some spare shorts, t shirts & long pants for children who may need changing at preschool – can you help?

## Gordonews 2/3

### Preschool Hours

#### Opening

Our preschool doors open at 8.00AM  
You may bring your child any time between  
8AM – 9AM



During the early morning our “early starters” (Those who arrive between 8AM-8.45AM) may begin the day in a classroom other than their own. This is just for a short period while the teachers set up the playground and the classrooms ready for the day.

Staff will advise any “early starters” via a sign on the verandah table as to which room to take your child to between these hours. At 9AM all children will return to their own classroom, ready to commence their preschool day in their own room.



#### Closing

Doors close at 3.30PM sharp. You may collect your child any time between 2.30-3.30PM. Families must depart the preschool playground and building once you have collected your child. Children must not be in the playground without preschool teachers supervising.

Our “late finishers” (3.00-3.30) may be in a room other than their own at collection time, Check the signing in/signing out folders on the verandah to find out where your child will be.

**Please make sure children are collected before the closing time as our teachers have meetings to attend and some have children of their own to collect. Thank you.**



## Illnesses at preschool

Since starting preschool my child always seems to be sick! When children first start preschool or childcare it can be quite common for them to come home with coughs and sniffles or to pick up a stomach virus or even to come home with head lice in their hair. Although no one likes to see their child sick – it is, unfortunately a normal



consequence of being exposed to a wider range of other young children and in turn, a wider range of infectious illnesses. At Gordon Community Preschool we try as far as possible to maintain a healthy preschool for our children, teachers and visitors.

#### Some of the ways we do this include:

- informing parents if there is an outbreak of an infectious illness.
- ringing parents if a child becomes unwell at preschool to arrange for the parent to collect and take the child home (to minimise the spread of infection).
- encouraging and supervising effective handwashing amongst the children at preschool
- Supporting the children’s learning about self care – nose blowing, covering mouth when coughing etc.

#### Some of the ways we ask *parents* to help us to maintain a healthy preschool include:

- Keeping children who are unwell at home. Remember, if they need paracetamol (Panadol) to feel better or to bring a temperature down – they should probably stay at home.
- washing hands with your child upon arrival at and departure from preschool.
- Ensuring children get a good night’s sleep – early to bed – 7.00PM – 7.30PM at the latest. Having good “sleep hygiene habits” will help your child stay healthy and happy.



Each day of our lives  
we make deposits in  
the memory banks  
of our children.

- Charles R. Swindoll

The way we  
talk to our  
children  
becomes their  
inner voice.

PEGGY O'MARA





## CurrentHealth Notice @ Feb 2019 Head Lice at preschool

There have been several reported cases of head lice in the Green room 3 day group – G3. It is therefore highly likely that head lice has spread to other children in other classes throughout the preschool. Head lice is very common and transferred very easily from one head to another. Please check your child's hair and treat accordingly (speak to your local pharmacist about treatment options). Fact sheet available [here](#).

*If a child has head lice at preschool, we will advise parents. Under the exclusion guidelines set down by the National health and Medical research Council, there is no need for children to be sent home immediately, however, parents are asked to begin effective treatment and to ensure hair is free of lice and eggs before their child returns to preschool. This will help minimise the spread of lice across the preschool.*

*Please check your child's hair approximately once a week and get on top of treatment if you find lice and or eggs. Remember – it is not necessary to treat if there are no head lice evident.*



Head Lice Reminder

Remember once a week take a peek!



Gordon  
Community  
Preschool....



Let us know if you have any questions you would like answered. You can email your questions to [director@gordonpreschool.com.au](mailto:director@gordonpreschool.com.au) or write them down in the note book on our verandah table.

We extend an invitation to all parents & carers to join us for a coffee morning next week at Bar Fresko coffee shop Gordon. Our coffee morning is a GCP tradition and provides a great way for parents to get to know one another.

**Dates are as follows:**

☛ **Monday/Tuesday groups – Y2 & G2**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

☛ **Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday groups – B3 &**

**R3** Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February

☛ **Wednesday/Thursday/Friday groups- Y3 & G3**

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February

☛ **Thursday/Friday groups – B2 & R2**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Our coffee mornings begin at 8.30AM so come on over after you drop your child off at preschool. The preschool will cover the cost of your coffee (or tea) – it's on us!

**Q – What happens if another child hurts my child at preschool?**

**A –** We will comfort your child. Our teachers will make sure your child is OK – for example brush sand off, put a band-aid on, apply an ice pack to any bumps. We will talk calmly with both children involved in a conflict. We will help your child to say words like “Stop – I don't like it”. We will also help the other child to acknowledge your child's feelings. “How do you think they feel when you push them?” “What could you do next time?”

We do not “make” or “force” children to apologise or to say sorry to another child. For children of a preschool age it is more important to help them understand how their actions impact upon others – rather than insisting on an apology.

We do not report every conflict to parents. Conflict is a normal part of every day at preschool. If a child is getting into conflicts on a regular basis, we would talk to parents about the ways in which we can work together to support the development of positive social skills.

We support all children's learning in relation to social skills and the managing of conflict in a variety of ways at preschool. We do not expect children to have all these skills when they start preschool – they are still learning and our job as teachers and parents is to model and gently support the development of pro - social behaviours. For more info about children and conflict here is a link to an article I wrote on the subject....

<https://medium.com/@felicitybarclay/helping-your-child-deal-with-conflict-6b7a8817f9a4>

☆ **Gordon Community Preschool term one calendar 2019** ☆

Parent copy	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
1	28	29 Teacher's set up day	30 Teacher's set up day	31 <b>WTF and ½ of TF group commence</b>	1 Feb <b>Other ½ of T/F group commence</b>	2	3
2	4 ½ M/T group and all of M/T/W group commence	5 other ½ of M/T group commence	6	7	8	9	10
3	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
4	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
5	25 <u>Coffee morning for Mon/Tues groups at Bar Fresko</u>	26 <u>Coffee morning for Mon/Tues/Wed group at Bar Fresko</u> <b>Board Meeting</b>	27	28 <u>Coffee morning for Wed/Thur/Fri groups at Bar Fresko</u>	1 Mar <u>Coffee morning for Thurs/Fri groups at Bar Fresko</u>	2	3
6	4	5	6	7	8 invoices for term 2 fees sent to families	9	10
7	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8	18	19	20	21 <b>Harmony Day Class of 2018 reunion</b>	22 * fees due for term 2	23	24 <b>GCP picnic</b>
9	25 <b>Parent teacher catch up meetings Y2</b>	26 <b>Parent teacher catch up meetings G2</b>	27	28 <b>Parent teacher catch up meetings B2</b> Annual General Meeting 7.30PM	29 <b>Parent teacher catch up meetings R2</b>	30	31
10	1 Apr	2 <b>Board Meeting</b>	3	4	5	6	7
11	8	9	10	11	12 <b>Last day of term</b>	13	14