



# Cambridge Early Learning Centre

## December 2023

## Kia Ora & Welcome!

### Inside this issue:

Summer is here ... yay!! The countdown to Christmas begins and we get to enjoy Christmas decorations, carols and the excitement that comes with this time of year. Such a wonderful month to enjoy with the children. ☺

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## **STAFF NEWS:**

- Elaine (Lainey) will be taking a period of leave without pay from the end of this year to attend to family needs. In her absence Mariee (Marge) will be the Acting Team Leader in the Nursery. Lainey will still be popping in and out so we all get to see her smile and have a chat. 😊

## **THANK YOU:**

- Thank you to the families that have supported our last Oxford Pies fundraiser for 2023. We had a bit of an issue booking our first one this year, so we have booked well in advance for 2024. 😊



## **GRANDPARENTS DAY:**

THANK YOU so much to all of the Grandparents and Great Grandparents who came in to visit last month. It was a lovely and busy day, the children really enjoy being able to share part of their day with you showing you some of the fun things they do during their day.

## **YOUR CHILD'S BOOKING:**

Our staffing is set based on the children's booked days and times. The Ministry of Education allow for variances to drop off and pick up times, and absences on days for a 3 month period. When a pattern starts to form around drop off and pick up times, or days absent, we are required to confirm the booking with parents but if this continues outside of the 3 month period we must change the booking to suit what is actually occurring. Julie will make contact if your child's name appears on what is called our 'Frequent Absence report', if this occurs please consider if the booking needs to be altered at all. 😊

## **WET BAGS:**

We have recently changed suppliers for the naming of wet bags, and this can now be done in four different colour choices of print, choosing from four different fonts. Your child's name would then be printed across the front of the wet bag, as opposed to the handle. The cost unfortunately has had to increase slightly to \$17.50 per bag. Please see Julie or Laura at the office for an order form. 😊

# **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY:**



**Friday 8th December between  
6.00—7.30pm at The Castle**

We are looking forward to hosting another amazing Christmas party for our children and their parents.



Could you please bring a wrapped, named present for Centre children only to the office by Thursday 7th December. Santa will be giving these out to the children, starting with the Nursery aged children first (siblings will be included at this time).

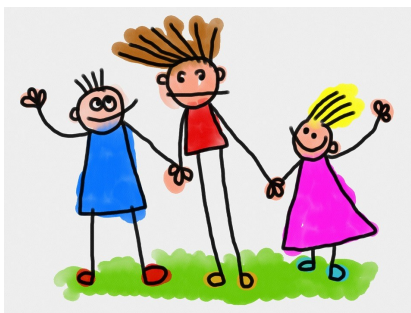
There will be a sausage sizzle, Pete the Pirate helping everyone get their dancing feet going, face painting, novelty balloons and a lot of fun!!

RSVP's are on both The Castle and The Pagoda sign in counters. Please note: there is a limit of 2 adults per family.

## **CHRISTMAS CLOSE-DOWN:**

Thank you to all of our families for providing the centre with your child's last day for 2023 and their first day back for 2024. The centre closes on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 5.30pm, and re-opens on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.30am. Our staff are looking forward to a well deserved break with their families, and we are all looking forward to welcoming you back in 2024. 😊

## **CHILDREN'S BOOKINGS:**



**2024 Bookings:** we have been fortunate to enrol many new children during the early months of 2024. Thank you to the parents who have been recommending your friends and family to come and join us. 😊

We are now very heavily booked across the Centre with several days at maximum, and we are operating waiting lists for these days. If you are considering adding a day or changing your days next year, please contact the office as soon as possible so that we may check our availability for you.

We will continue to do our best to assist you with any changes that may be required, but please be aware that this is becoming more and more difficult.



# **The Nursery**

## **0-18 months**



### **Staffing news:**

I (Elaine) will be taking leave to look after some family needs. I leave you in the very capable hands of Marge, (Acting Team Leader) and the team while I am away. I'm sure I will be popping in from time to time to say 'hello'.



Please make sure your child has plenty of summer clothing in their bag for these warmer days. We plan on having lots of water play! So spare clothes are a must :)

We are all super excited for the famous CELC Christmas party ! If you are attending and would like your child to receive a present from Santa, please bring a wrapped named present into the office by Thursday 7th December 😊

*All that is left to say is,  
"Thank you all for being  
part of our Nursery Whanau  
over the past year. We wish  
you all a wonderful  
Christmas and a very Happy  
New Year. We very much  
look forward to welcoming  
you back in 2024!*



# **The Toddlers**

## **18 months-3 Years**



A big welcome to Felix and his family. It is lovely having you back as part of the Castle family.

Conrad and Ollie head over to the Pagoda during December, we wish you well on the next stage of your learning journey. 😊

Thanks to all the families that sent in family / Christmas pictures for our wall. The children love looking and talking about the special people in their lives.

**Lastly the Toddler teachers would like to wish you and your whanau a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.**

**See you in 2024.**



### What's happening this month:

7<sup>th</sup> Dec- Wheels Day

8<sup>th</sup> Dec - Water fun day

8<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas party

13<sup>th</sup> Dec—Xmas Pyjama/  
Dress-up Day

- \* Spontaneous walks to the Christmas festival
- \* Lots more Christmas fun
- \* 22nd Dec- Last Day

### End of the year checklist:

- Make sure you collect all your lost property as this will be donated if not claimed at the end of the year.
- Check your Childs art box for goodies- can make good card or wrapping paper
- Collect your Childs special Christmas package :)

Remember to send through what you get up to over your Christmas break as the children always love to share with everyone what they did.



# ***The Pagoda 3-5 years***



## **St Kilda Berry Farm Trip**

What a fantastic morning we had at our recent St Kilda Berry Farm trip. We all enjoyed being able to pick our own strawberries and sample them as we walked around. Once our containers were full we then enjoyed a berry ice cream and play on the playground. Thank you to all of our parent helpers who joined us on the day, we appreciate your time.

I think this may have to become an annual event for the Pagoda.



The Pagoda Teachers wish all of our children and their families a very **Merry Christmas** and a wonderful summer break spent with loved ones.

We have had many special moments over the year and look forward to seeing you all in 2024 and seeing what the year will bring us.

### **Sunblock:**

**With the warmer weather, please include togs/ rash top and a full change of clothes in your child's bag. Please remember we have a no singlets policy.**

**Should your child require a special sunblock for allergies etc please supply this and let a teacher know, there will be a form for you to fill out and sign regarding this.**

### **Current happenings and Upcoming Events ...**

- ♦ **Christmas approaching**—do you have any old decorations that we could be considered for? Keep a look out around the Pagoda for our decorations that are being made and going up on our tree and around the room.
- ♦ **Shared morning tea:** To celebrate the end of the year, our restaurant day will be a shared morning tea. We will let you know the date and more details via Storypark soon
- ♦ **Christmas festival walks:** We are currently arranging some little walks up and around town to the town hall to see all the Christmas festivities.
- ♦ **Children's Christmas party:** Don't forget to drop your present at the office before the party. We will be ready to party the night away from 6pm–7.30pm with special guests - Pirate Pete, Santa and Flick the fire engine

# Keryn's Corner

## EASY CHOCOLATE COCONUT TRUFFLES

**Easy chocolate and coconut truffles that can be made in under an hour. A simple and fun recipe for children to make 😊**

### INGREDIENTS:

- \* 250g salted butter
- \* 250g vanilla or chocolate cookies
- \* 1 cup dessicated or fine shredded coconut
- \* 2 cups icing sugar
- \* 1/2 cup cocoa powder
- \* 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- \* Extra coconut and chocolate sprinkles for rolling\*

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Chop the butter into pieces, place in a microwave safe jug and microwave in 30 second bursts until just melted. Set aside to cool.
2. Crush the cookies.
3. In a large bowl, place the crushed cookies and the coconut, then sift in the icing sugar and cocoa. Stir to combine.
4. Add the cooled melted butter and vanilla extract. Stir to combine well. If the mixture looks too dry to roll into balls, then add a little more melted butter (or you can also add a splash of water). If it's too wet/soft you can add a few more crushed cookies or a little more icing sugar, or alternatively place the bowl into the fridge for 10-15 minutes until it firms up.
5. Line a baking tray with baking paper.
6. Place the extra coconut and/or chocolate sprinkles into small bowls. Roll heaped teaspoonfuls of the truffle mixture into balls, then roll in either the coconut or sprinkles and place on the tray.
7. Chill the balls until firm (around 20-30 minutes).
8. Transfer to an airtight container, and store in the fridge. The balls will keep well for a couple of weeks. They can also be frozen for longer storage.





# Finally...

**We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our centre families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you back in 2024.**

