



## Coming Events

### Week 9

Mon 26<sup>th</sup> March                      Governing Council

### Week 11

Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> April                      Last day term 1

### Term 2 Week 1

Mon 30<sup>th</sup> April – Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> May      First week term 2

## WELCOME

Welcome to new and returning families. Term one seems to be flying by. The children are making the most of the changeable weather and exploring the way the kindy and Occasional Care environments change; adapting their activities to suit. For those children starting Occasional Care for the first time a big 'Well Done' on your first few weeks. It's a big change and it's hard! Different children will respond in different ways and regardless of how your child has responded to their transition we would like to reassure all families that it is normal and that they are working through their big feelings appropriately for them. The staff have all enjoyed meeting our new families, as well as seeing some familiar faces returning and look forward to getting to know you all better.

## OCCASIONAL CARE STAFF

This year we welcome Danielle and Emma to our team of educators.

Danielle is the educator working with our over 2 year olds. She is a mother of 3 busy children and also studying towards a Bachelor of Early Childhood.

Emma is the educator working with the under 2 year olds. She has completed her Diploma of Early Childhood Education and has experience working with preschool aged children for the past 3 years.

Together this term they are focussing on building relationships with children and their families and emotional wellbeing including strategies for supporting children with separation anxiety.

If your child becomes distressed at separation time we recommend families:

- Say a warm and loving but firm goodbye with reassurance that you will be back. Drawing out the process with one more hug and then one more kiss can escalate the child's feeling of separation and make it harder for both of you to part.
- Ask an educator for help.
- Confidently walk away, your confidence and trust in your child that they will be ok will help them to be confident in turn.
- Ring and check on your child for your own peace of mind, you are always welcome to ring the centre at any time and ask for an update.

We will:

- Hold your child in a respectful and caring manner if needed and with your permission.
- Stay with your child until they are ready to be involved in other things.
- Reassure your child that they are safe and acknowledge their feelings.
- Ring you if they do not settle with support.

If you would like support with separating from your child please speak to one of our educators, our director Heather or our Family Services Coordinator Natalie.

## CHILDREN'S SAFETY AND PRIVACY

We understand that families are naturally curious about their children's friends. Recently families have been asking after children other than their own. Staff are required to politely decline to provide information about children, including attendance information, to anyone outside Centre staff, DECD and the child's own family as per enrolment forms and associated information to protect child and family privacy. (The exemption to this is in circumstances that would otherwise put the child at risk of harm). Thank you for your understanding and supporting us to keep everyone safe.

## ABSENCES

If your child is absent please ring ASAP so we can try and fill your place. If we are unable to fill the place you will be asked to pay the fee when attending your next session.



## GOVERNING COUNCIL

Our next Governing Council meeting is on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm. All are welcome.

Key discussion and decisions from the previous meeting included:

- Endorsement of attendance and fee policies to be carried forward to next meeting as not enough members present
- Financial reports tabled
- Endorsement of the installation of car park boom gates to assist safety
- Draft philosophy statement endorsed for circulation to the broader community

Various reports were tabled at the AGM and the following decisions passed:

- Election of the 2018 committee
- Approval of the 2018 budget

Please find attached the transcript of the presentation delivered by Heather Fuss discussing Numeracy in our Setting.

## FEES AND BOOKINGS

Please remember to sign-in, pay and rebook **at reception** before taking your child to Occasional Care. Please sign-out at reception when leaving.

Fees are payable upon arrival and correct money is appreciated.

## REMINDERS

**UNACCEPTABLE FOOD:** As per our Healthy Food Policy please do not include highly processed foods, muesli bars, fruit bars, roll-ups and juice as part of your child's snacks for Occasional Care. A copy of our Healthy Food Policy is available on our website.

**DOORS OPEN AT 8:30am:** After signing your child in please wait in the reception or kindy area until the Occasional Care session begins at 8:30am, thank you. This supports our team to ensure that all necessary preparation has occurred prior to the start of the session.

**SESSION ENDS 11:30am:** Please ensure your child is picked up by 11:30am. Occasional Care staff have other tasks in the Centre to attend to after this time. Please see our late collection policy for more information.

**LABEL EVERYTHING:** Please ensure all items sent with your child are clearly labelled with their name (including bag, snack container, water bottle, hat and spare clothes), thank you.

**Please see staff if you have any concerns or questions.**

## FAMILY SERVICES COORDINATOR

Hi Everyone,

My name is Natalie and I am the Family Services Coordinator at Ardtornish Children's Centre.

I am available for confidential assistance to support you with any challenges you or your family may be experiencing. Free short term individual and family counselling is available. If you need anything or would just like to have a chat and a cuppa please come and see me at the centre or give me a call on my mobile: 0437169403.

## SUN SAFE POLICY

### HATS

As per our Sun Safe Policy all children are required to wear a hat for outdoor play when the UV is 3 or above. Please ensure you supply your child with a **named wide brim or flap hat**. No caps or hats with cords please.

### SUNSCREEN

In line with our Sun Safe Policy we are encouraging all children to apply sunscreen before playing outside – **please ensure your child comes to Occasional Care with sunscreen on.**

### SUN SAFE CLOTHING

With the warm weather and high UV rates children must have covered shoulders for outdoor play (no singlets or tank tops please). We also ask that children do not wear crocs or thongs as these are not safe for outdoor play (such as climbing); sturdy supportive shoes such as sandals with ankle straps are a suitable option. Thank you.

## 2019/2020 ENROLMENTS

Do you have a child, or know someone with a child, who will be due to start kindy in 2019 or 2020? Due to our high numbers it is important that you have filled in a Preliminary Enrolment form which will put your child on our waiting list.

Please see Jo at reception to pick up a form or check you have already submitted one, thank you.



## LITERACY KITS

We have numerous Literacy Kits available for you to borrow and share with your child. They are situated in our reception area.

When borrowing and returning a literacy kit please follow the procedure below:

**Borrowing** – Please write your child's name, the kit number, title and the date borrowed in the recording book.

**Returning** – Write the date returned in the recording book and then **put the kit in the basket on top of the shelf, NOT on the hanger**, as they need to be checked and filled.

More information on the benefits and purpose of using Literacy Kits is available from the literacy kit trolley.

Please see one of our staff if you have any questions, thank you.

## QIP

Reflective practice, continuous improvement and accountability are a part of our daily practice at ACC. Family input is not only valued but crucial for supporting us to identify areas for improvement and strategies that suit the needs of our community.

Over the past few weeks we have been emailing copies of the key areas of our QIP (Quality Improvement Plan) to families. The 4 key areas are: Children's Learning and Development, Cultural Competence, Child Protection and Family and Community Engagement. Under each of these areas we have identified key strengths, areas for improvement, planned strategies to implement improvement and our success measures. These have come from self-reflection, assessment and community feedback.

With each email we have invited you to provide feedback. All suggestions will be considered by the staff team and presented to governing council. Not all suggestions will necessarily be included in our QIP but may be added to our QIP action plan (a more comprehensive planning document that will be made available to families in the Centre and via our website) or an explanation of the reasons for not including them given to the governing council. A suggestion that is not included is still valued and provides us with an opportunity to reflect on our practices with intention.

If you would like to submit feedback you can do so by replying to these emails, in writing delivered to the Centre or face to face with any of the staff team. A copy of our QIP is available in the kindy along with post-it notes and pens offering another way for you to leave feedback.

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

**Making Music** – there are still vacancies for the 9:30-10:15am Monday program.

Dues to conflict with the school's Parent Teacher meetings we postponed coping with **Big Feelings**. This session and a second on helping children to protect themselves will be run later in the year and promoted here.

**Yoga** Shauna from Wave Yoga is offering to provide a Mum's & Bub's Yoga course this and or next Term. If anyone is interested contact [info@waveyoga.com](mailto:info@waveyoga.com) or 0431 909 878. Staff currently attend a yoga class on Wednesdays after work and we are overflowing with requests. If you are interested in joining an adult yoga class, we might be able to help.

**Cycle Saturday** bookings are filling quickly - to make sure there is a space for your young cyclist book soon!

**Coffee Morning** in the Community Room 9-10am every School Assembly Friday (usually week 3, 6, 9 of each term).

Future sessions this term include **First Aid** on Saturday 7 April & a visit from Department of Human Services (Centrelink) staff to share information about the changes to **Child Care Package** and the **myGov** website at 5pm on Tuesday 10 April. We are also preparing a **Sleep Solutions** session for young children - more details on these sessions later.

**How can we help?** If you have any questions to do with your younger children we are here to assist. Drop in or give us a call to find out more or book for these or any other sessions.

John Buckell  
82649828, 0409984495 or email [john.buckell@sa.gov.au](mailto:john.buckell@sa.gov.au)

### Cycle Saturday

It's free & there's a BBQ (veg option)



Best for beginner over 4½ yrs or practiced younger riders

**Saturday 24**

**March**

9:45am-12pm

In front of

the school's gym

### BYO Bike

Learn to ride, develop confidence & skills, & follow the circuit around the school

9:45-10:00 Registrations  
12:00 Free BBQ/Veg food

Kindy & JP kids - brothers & sisters welcome  
Parent supervision essential

NB Cancelled – if morning rain (not showers) predicted

With Lee Anne & from [rideabikeright](http://rideabikeright.com)  
Helping beginners & young cyclists to develop confidence & to learn to ride safely

Bookings essential - drop into the Ardtornish Children's Centre,  
2 Saarinen Avenue, St Agnes  
or call 82649828, SMS 0409984495