



2024 Newsletter Part 1



Welcome

A huge warm welcome to all our new families joining us in 2024 and welcome back to those of you returning for another year of fun and learning.

We trust that you all enjoyed your holidays and are ready for the many experiences we provide that will allow your child to grow and develop.

We also offer our families many opportunities to participate and experience a fuller life within our community and we certainly hope that you will embrace these opportunities and become a vital participant in your child's learning.

For many of you, your child's first year of kindergarten will mark a significant milestone in your lives. It can be exciting, anxious and fun all at once.

We have a wonderfully talented team of staff who together do a great job in providing the best possible early childhood education service for our lovely preschoolers. Our team of teachers and support staff holds a wide range of experience, and it is shaping up to be an exciting year for all.

Please feel free anytime to approach our Admin Office should you have any inquiries regarding your child, or our program. We encourage a good, strong relationship between you and your child's teachers/educators, and this will only be possible if the lines of communication remain open and honest.

We have children who are at high risk of Allergies & Anaphylaxis.

We ask that you do not pack nuts or nut products in your children's snacks and lunches.

Your actions will help to support these children by providing a safe

Peanut and Nut Free Classroom

Nuts, peanuts or any products containing nuts or peanuts are NOT allowed.



"Tell me and I forget.....teach me and I remember.....involve me and I learn"

Benjamin Franklin

The Victorian Department of Health has widened the ban on smoking at childcare centers, kindergartens, preschools and schools. By law, smoking is banned within the grounds of, and now within four meters of entrances to premises of all childcare centers, kindergartens, preschools and schools. This includes all government and independent schools.

It has been brought to our attention that some parents/guardians are dropping cigarette butts at the entrance gate. We please ask that you observe and respect this new law and do not smoke near our main entry gate.

This ban ensures that children and their families can enter and leave these areas without being exposed to harmful second-hand smoke. Second-hand tobacco smoke is particularly dangerous to children because they have smaller airways and a less developed immune systems compared to adults. It is also to reduce the role modeling of smoking behaviors around children and young people. Children and young people are more likely to view smoking as socially acceptable when they regularly see people smoking. There is strong community support for banning smoking at public places regularly attended by children.

Inspectors authorised under the Tobacco Act may provide information about and, when necessary, enforce the ban. The first priority of the inspector is to make sure smokers understand the ban. Inspectors may not be available to respond to every complaint, but where circumstances allow, may attend in response.

Kangaroo Kinder Group

Welcome to all the Kangaroo Kinder Group Families!

Thank you for a great start to the year! We have enjoyed a busy and fun-filled Term 1, with the rest of the year looking very similar! We began the year with our focus on social development, and ensuring that all the children settled happily and comfortably into the kinder program. We have provided the children with a variety of open-ended experiences to build on their confidence, as well as ensuring that they feel comfortable and secure in their learning environment.

To begin building on the numeracy & literacy skills of all children, we have been discussing the letters within our names during group times, as well as incorporating counting in activities with loose parts. We have also been using name cards to encourage the children to identify their names, as well as singing an alphabet song which familiarises the children with the sounds of the letters. We have greatly enjoyed our outdoor time, and because of this, we have implemented an indoor/outdoor program which encourages the children to take responsibility of their learning and make decisions about where and what they will engage with. This has been a big success, and through this freedom, the children have been able to learn a lot about the environment, caring for our apple trees, as well as enjoying valuable one on one time with their teachers.

With the change in the seasons, we will continue to engage with our indoor/outdoor program, so please ensure that your child brings a jacket and beanie, as well as a spare change of clothes in their bag.

We have already had two incursions for the year; Charlie Silly Pants' Creating Friendships and Magical Journeys by Micky Trickster. Both of these have been a hit with the children with many still mentioning Charlie Silly Pants on a regular basis. As mentioned, we have a busy term two approaching which will include Mothers Day, Eid celebrations, PJ Day and an amazing team of West African Djembe Drummers planning to visit us.

In Term 2 we will be beginning our learning projects surrounding sea ceatures, space/solar system, as well as gardening! We have reset our gardenening space in our outdoor area, where we will be planting fruits, vegetables and herbs. It will be incredibly beneficial for the children to watch these plants grow! We are so excited for Term 2! We are looking forward to continuing this learning journey with you and your child.

Aadil Thatai, Lionie Then & Helen Armstrong

Kaola PreKinder Group

A big hello to all our Koala PreKinder Groups families!

We have some familiar faces and some new families to Greenvue Kindergarten this year, so we extend a very warm welcome to you all.

What a fantastic start to our academic year! You should be very proud of the way your children have settled in and are engaging with our PreKinder program. They are so enthusiastic and eager, it is really fantastic to see! The children have gotten to know all their teachers and educators really well, and are forming meaningful relationships with us. We can see a big development in their social skills already and they have familiarised themselves with our routines brilliantly.

We have had a busy start with lots of fun things happening during Term 1. We started off the term getting to know each other and making new friends. We played lots of games and had lots of fun learning each other's names. The children have been able to explore their new environment, both indoors and outdoors, and have had lots of familiar and brand new experiences along the way.

The children have shown particular interests in loose parts play and creative arts. It has been great fun building things, but also knocking them down! We have been working together in large and small groups, helping to develop our social skills.

We have had Charlie Sillypants come for a visit to encourage their sense of belonging and taught us about how to be a good friend. Micky Trickster as part of the Magical Journeys got the children to help him do his tricks and told us some hilarious jokes!

Term 2 will be even busier with lots of fun things planned. As the weather gets cooler we shall still be playing outdoors so please provide lots of warm clothes, jackets and beanies in your child's bag.

As always, please feel free to approach us if you have any questions or queries.

We look forward to working with you during Term 2!

Louisa Tagica, Janine Mizzi & Sandra Gaspar

Reportable Conduct Scheme

The Victorian Reportable Conduct Scheme has been designed to improve organisations' responses to allegations of child abuse and neglect by their staff and volunteers. The scheme, established by the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 is overseen by the Commission for Children and Young people (CCYP), whose role it is to:

1. Support and guide organisations to respond in a fair, effective and timely way to allegations
 2. Oversee, monitor and make recommendations to improve the responses of organisations
- The Commission is required to be informed of "every allegation in relevant organisations of certain types of employee misconduct involving children".

There are 5 types of reportable conduct in the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005:

1. Sexual offences (against, with or in the presence of a child)
2. Sexual misconduct (against, with or in the presence of a child)
3. Physical violence against, with or in the presence of a child)
4. Behaviour that is likely to cause significant emotional or psychological harm
5. Significant neglect

Relevant organisations include those which exercise, care, supervision and authority over children.

Reminder for Children's Personal Belongings

Please ensure that all articles of clothing, lunchboxes, containers and drink bottles are labelled with your child's name. Also, could you please ensure that there is a spare change of clothing and underwear in your child's bag.

At times, children are so busy playing that they don't make it to the toilet on time and it would be nice if they had a dry change of underwear.

Due to health and hygiene reasons we do not keep spare underwear at the kindergarten.

Caring For Our Environment And Reducing Paper Waste

Worldwide, more than 300 million tons of paper are produced each year, consuming 300 million forested acres and requiring huge amounts of chemicals, pesticides, energy and water.

Reducing paper consumption lessens the worldwide environmental impact of the paper industry and keeps millions of tons of waste out of landfills.

To help reduce the impact on our environment and also reduce printing costs, we request all our staff and families to do their part in reducing the environmental impact of paper wastage by maximising their recycling efforts.

Keeping Our Children Safe

At times, it has been brought to our attention that some parents/carers are not as careful with the closing of gates as they should be. Please, always shut every gate behind you and only ever allow **your** child/children out of the kindergarten premises. A busy car park and a busier road is an ever present danger. Our children only average 4 years of ages and the dangers of traffic means nothing to most of them. If a child near you is not with an adult, please do not let them out. It is also requested of all parents/carers to be extra vigilant when driving in and reversing out of the Kinder Car Park at all times, as a few near misses have recently been reported to the Kinder Admin Office.

Safety is the top priority at our service and everyone including our families are expected to play their part in keeping our wonderful children safe on and off the premises. Please immediately report any future occurrences of unsafe driving practices in our kinder car park to the Admin Office so appropriate action can be taken to ensure the safety of our children and our families alike. Over the next few weeks, the Director would directly be supervising safety in our Car Park during drop off and pick up times

Safety is best achieved through teamwork! Let us all play our part in keeping ourselves, our children and others safe from harm!



Collecting Your Child Late From Kinder

Greenvue Kindergarten relies on the prompt collection of your child after the kinder session has ended. Our teachers and trainees are required to pack up, plan and set up for the next group straight after the session has ended and cannot fulfill their responsibilities effectively if children are picked up late. The Kinder Management reserves the right to charge late pickup fees (\$15 per every 15 minutes intervals) on untimely collection of children (by 5pm) as per our policy to discourage the late collection of children from kinder, as it is also unfair to other children & families. Any changes to our policies will be displayed in the kinder foyer and families will be informed of such changes.

Signing In/Out Of Sessions

It is very important for all our families to sign their children in & out of each session every single time as attendances are marked according to the Sign In/Out terminal. This is important for both our pre kinder & kinder enrolments as all attendances must be submitted on a weekly basis to both the Dept of Social Services (Federal) as well as the Dept of Education & Training (Victorian) to manage your family's entitlements. Greenvue Kindergarten's administration cannot accept responsibility for any absences submitted due to the family's inability to sign in out their children. Please contact the Admin Office for any further clarification. Thank you for your understanding in the matter!

Child Care Subsidy Entitlements

The Child Care Subsidy and Additional Child Care Subsidy are a payment processed through Services Australia and paid directly to your approved service provider (Greenvue Kindergarten) to reduce the Out Of Pocket fees you pay. Please let the Admin Office know if there has been any change to your CCS entitlements so there are no surprises at the time of fee payment processing which is on Mondays every fortnight. Please don't hesitate to contact our Admin Office if you need further clarification or information regarding your CCS entitlements.

Kinder Drop Box & Artwork Display Boards

Are you looking for the Kinder Drop box? It is located in the foyer outside the office door next to the main entrance for your convenience. Please do use it, it is safe with a lock, convenient and emptied regularly only by the Director. It can be used to submit forms, documents, anonymous feedback, etc.

Wanting to stay up to date with what's happening at kinder? Please be sure to check your emails on a regular basis. Our artwork display boards in the foyer is a great way for our proud teachers to showcase children's amazing artwork. Please note that starting from 2021, all communication with the parents/guardians is being conducted via emails and texts, in line with our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint and minimising wastage.

Reporting Absences

We request all families to kindly call the Kinder Office to report absences if your child is going to be away before the start of session, as it helps the teachers plan their program for the day accordingly. Every child is eligible for 42 absences per financial year to be covered by the Child Care Subsidy Scheme, including public holidays. There are also some xtra absences available for Covid related isolation. If you're concerned about exceeding the maximum allowable absences, please contact the Kinder Office for further clarification and/or advice.

Stopping In The Disabled Car Parking Space

There have been some instances reported recently where cars without a valid Disabled Parking Permit have been stopping in our Disabled Car Park for pickups and drop offs. Please be reminded that there are eleven parking spots available in the kinder's car park for the use of all our families, along with plenty of Off Street Parking available outside our kinder premises. Kindly be considerate of those with additional needs and take special care when driving to or from kinder.

Winter Is Coming And The Cold Comes With It

It's hard believe that the cold and wet weather is already starting to set in! Please be mindful to:

- Have children wear coats, hats, and gloves to kinder and dress in layers. This way they can adjust to what they are wearing in order to be comfortable in the various conditions.
 - Whenever weather conditions allow for children to get outside to play and get some fresh air, we will be going outside.
 - Change out the extra set of clothes from warm weather attire to cold weather attire. For example, changing shorts to sweatpants.
 - Return kindergarten's clothing items handed out to children so we always have enough standby supplies on deck to change children into, if need be.
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Donating Recycable Items And Performing Volunteer Work

Please speak to any of our staff members if you are able to donate learning resources or cardboard boxes for children's creative art projects. Any donations would be highly appreciated.

Greenvue Kindergarten always welcomes members of our community willing to share their special skills with our children as part of their learning program. If you wish to contribute with your special skills, please speak to us so we can work together to include you in our educational program.

Preschool Field Officer Service

What is the Preschool Field Officer (PSFO) Program?

The PSFO program supports the inclusion of children with additional needs in state government funded kindergarten programs, in situations where a child is not receiving Early Childhood Intervention Services.

The PSFO program is staffed by Early Childhood Consultants with an early childhood/ kindergarten teaching background and specialist experience with children with additional needs.

Who can access the PSFO program?

Children with additional needs which includes:

Challenging behaviours

Social and/or emotional difficulties

Speech, language and/or communication difficulties

Delayed development

Advanced abilities

Diagnosed disabilities.

Other eligible children are those receiving "Early Start Kindergarten" funding which includes

3 year old children of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background

3 year old children known to Child Protection

How the PSFO could help:

Provide play-based observational assessment of eligible children with developmental concerns.

Provide your family with information about specialist therapy and support services and assist you in accessing such services. Work with kindergarten staff to help them to plan and program for your child to best meet his/her needs

Would you like some help from the PSFO program?

Talk with your kindergarten teacher about a referral to the PSFO program. If you are already accessing specialist services (e.g. Speech Pathologist, Paediatrician, Occupational Therapist), talk with them about a referral to the PSFO program. It is a free service for eligible children, their families and their kindergarten program.

Applications For 2025 Enrolments

Greenvue Kindergarten is now accepting applications for enrolment in our 2025 PreKinder & Kinder programs. Enrolment application forms can be downloaded from our website or you can obtain a hard copy from the Kinder Admin Office. We have reviewed our Enrolment and Orientation Policy and this now reflects the updated eligibility criteria and new cut off dates for the three rounds of enrolment confirmations.

Children already enrolled in our 2024 *Pre-Kinder Groups* get the first preference for admission in our 2025 Kinder Groups, however the new 2025 Enrolment Application needs to be submitted before Round One cut off date in order to guarantee a spot for your child. Please visit our Kinder Admin Office if you require any further information at your earliest convenience.

Accessing StoryPark Parent Portal



Our teachers observe and plan for each child individually and in groups. We would like to remind all families that you are able to access and view your child's individual learning record at any time through the StoryPark Parent Web Portal or App through the Apple Store or the Google Play Store. The web portal link is also available on our website's main page. Please talk to any of our staff members if you need any further assistance or information.

Packing A Healthy Lunchbox

Greenvue Kindergarten encourages healthy eating habits for all children! When packing a lunchbox for your child, you should feel confident that you're providing them with a nutritious supply of food that will get them through the day with the energy they need to function. Follow these suggestions to make packing a healthy lunchbox easy:

PACK THE CORE 4 (Plus 1 for active and fast growing kids):

- **Main lunch item** – a sandwich, roll, wrap or salad based on grains such as pasta, rice or quinoa.
- **Nutritious snack** – choose a snack from the five food groups such as a cold chicken drumstick, crackers with cheese, veggie sticks and hommus, or yoghurt.
- **Piece of fresh fruit** – whatever is in season.
- **Drink** – always include a water bottle. Add an additional small reduced fat milk drink (less than 300ml) or a 99%fruit juice drink (less than 200ml) once or twice a week.
- **Plus 1** – Every child is different and depending on their activity level or rate of growth, they need an additional snack in their lunchbox. If this is the case, we recommend choosing a fifth item from the five food groups first, e.g. a nutritious snack. This will provide the extra nutrients some kids need.

MAIN LUNCH	+	NUTRITIOUS SNACK	+	FRUIT	+	DRINK (in addition to water)	+	PLUS 1
Chicken, hommus and cucumber sandwich		Reduced fat cheese slices with wholegrain crackers		Apple		Chocolate flavoured reduced fat milk		Air popped popcorn
Ham, reduced fat cream cheese and salad wrap		Sultana snack pack		Fruit salad		Water		Dry breakfast cereal
Pesto pasta salad with chicken and capsicum		Reduced fat yoghurt		Orange		99% fruit juice (200ml or less)		Vegetable sticks with dip
Egg, celery and reduced fat mayonnaise sandwich		Homemade pita chips with hummus		Frozen grapes		Reduced fat plain milk		Fruit in juice
Tuna, corn, lettuce and reduced fat mayonnaise wrap		Reduced fat cheese with crackers		Fruit kebab		Water		Muesli bar
Ham and sweet corn frittata		Reduced fat custard		Banana		Water		Rice crackers
Chicken salad with chick peas, baby spinach and pumpkin		Vegetable sticks with dip		Fruit salad		Strawberry flavoured reduced fat milk		Reduced fat yoghurt
Tuna and sweet potato patties		Reduced fat cheese stick		Frozen melon balls		Water		Fresh Muffin
Turkey, tomato, spinach and reduced fat cheese sandwich		Avocado, carrot and lettuce rice paper rolls		Apple		Reduced fat plain milk		Reduced fat custard
Sweet chilli chicken and lettuce wrap		Muesli and reduced fat yoghurt		Kiwi fruit and strawberries		99% fruit juice (200ml or less)		Home made potato chips