

# Harrison Preschool

Term 1 2017

## PTF -NT "Playful Possums"

Teachers: *Natasha Taylor & Michelle Crawford*

### **Dear Families,**

Welcome to Harrison Preschool! Thank you all for your support and confidence in entrusting us with your precious children as they settle into preschool. It has been wonderful to see all the children gradually beginning to "come out of their shells" and feel much more confident and comfortable in their new preschool environment. We are delighted to meet our wonderful new students and are very excited to get to know you all over the coming months.

### **The Teaching and Learning Program**

At Preschool we follow a play based curriculum based on the Early Years Learning Framework of belonging, being and becoming. Children are encouraged to play, create, explore, experiment and develop in an inclusive, safe and welcoming environment. We aim to guide and support children in developing skills in a range of domains including emotional, social, physical and cognitive areas and focus on the processes and dispositions of learning rather than just the product.

The first few weeks of school will be focused on settling into Preschool routines. As the term progresses we will be exploring our Integrated Inquiry focus titled "All About Me" where students will participate in a range of experiences centred around themselves, their families and their cultures.

### **Labelling Items**

Label everything! Please ensure all clothing, hats, bags, shoes, socks, drink bottles, lunch boxes etc are labelled before coming to school. Shoes and socks are often removed in the sand pit and can easily be misplaced. Children also require a spare change of clothes in their bag (this does not have to be school uniform) that they can change into if required.

### **Recess and Lunch**

Each day your child will have a recess and lunch break where they sit with the teachers to eat their food. We encourage children to eat their fruit first at the recess break. It is always a good idea to cut up fruits and vegetable into smaller more manageable sizes if possible. We also ask that children refrain from bringing any juice or cordial and drink WATER ONLY.

### **Arrival and Pick up**

Preschool begins at 9am and finishes at 3pm. An adult MUST walk your child into the classroom and pick them up at the end of the day. As teachers have regular meetings and commitments after school we greatly appreciate your punctuality in picking up your child on time.

### **Student Absences**

If your child is absent for any reason from school could you please call the school on 6142 2200, or email the school at [Harrison.Absences@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:Harrison.Absences@ed.act.edu.au) Please include your child's name and class (*PTF - NT Playful Possums*).

### **Assemblies**

Assemblies are held Wednesday mornings at 9.15am in the hall. As we are still settling into our environment and routines we will not begin attending assemblies until Term 2.

## **Friendly Reminders & General Tips**

- Please return any outstanding questionnaires. This form is a great starting point in letting us know your child, their backgrounds and interests.
- Please make sure you have advised us of any medical needs of your child and forwarded any completed paperwork to the school.
- Please be aware that some children in our school have severe food allergies. Please refrain from sending your child to school with any foods containing nuts. Children are not permitted to share food at preschool.
- If you wish to bring in cakes or food to share with the class for special occasions such as birthdays please ensure there are no nuts in the ingredients. If for some reason you do not want your child to eat any food that may be brought in to share please let us know.
- We are still waiting on a few book packs, if you have any questions or problems regarding this please feel free to come and see us.
- Please also remember to pay the \$3 for sunscreen (or provide your child's own sunscreen if preferred).
- Discuss with your child how they will use the toilets at school. Explain to them that they are allowed to go to the toilet whenever they need to, how to flush and wash their hands and care for our bathrooms.

## **Upcoming Events**

**Week 6** - School Photographs

**Week 9** - Harrison School Fair (Saturday 1 April)

**Week 10** - An Incursion focusing on social and emotional skills (more information to come!)

## **Parents in the classroom**

If you have any special skills or talents (cooking, dance, music, storytelling etc) or would just like to share something special to your culture or family with our class please let us know. We also require parent helpers throughout the year for excursions.

If you are planning on volunteering throughout the year it is a good idea to apply for a **Working with Vulnerable People Card** sooner rather than later as it is a requirement for volunteering in the school. You can apply for the WWVP card on the Canberra Connect website [accesscanberra.act.gov.au](http://accesscanberra.act.gov.au) or in person at an ACT Government shopfront. The card is free for volunteers.

Remember if you have any concerns at any time please don't hesitate to contact me. You can contact me by calling the school office on 6142 2200 or by email on [natasha.taylor@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:natasha.taylor@ed.act.edu.au).

We are excited about a wonderful year ahead and look forward to working with you this year!

## **Warm Regards**

Natasha Taylor and Michelle Crawford