

# THE KIDS COTTAGE TERMLY NEWSLETTER

Term 4, 2020 | Issue 7 | Date: 13th November 2020



## Important Dates

### December Vacation Care Dates:

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December

### January Vacation Care Dates:

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January

First day back at school for 2021 is **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January.**

Kindy Best Start will be taking place next year running 9am- 3pm from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> of February. It is a great opportunity for the new Kindy children to get to know the centre and the team that will be taking care of them whilst at Kids Cottage in a calmer environment without the rest of the children at the service. We will also take the Kindy's to their Best Start Interview taking the pressure off the parents. If you would like more details or to book your child in, please send us an email.

## Director's Message

Thank you to all who completed our Annual Feedback Survey. We are very thankful for all your value opinions and comments, as well as your suggestions into our programs. We are looking into incorporating some of those suggestions in the future. Please know that we are always welcome to feedback, suggestions for improvements and ideas of activities. Feel free to speak to any of our staff members at any time, send us an email or leave a note of our parent communication book.

Thank you to all our staff who helped with the pack up and move of Cottage into the Science room while renovations are taking place. Thank you also to the families who donated much need boxes. We are very excited for a new fresh Kids Cottage in a few weeks hopefully.

As 2021 Kindy prepare to start their new school life, we are happy to fill all their Before and After School Care needs. We are very excited to meet all our new Kindy's and families in 2021. New Kindy's can start in January Vacation Care, this is a good time for them to meet their Group Leaders, along with any other new kindy's and get to know Kids Cottage and the school.

If any families haven't already filled in the 2021 waitlist here is the link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXwE5tAOh-iJC0bey1\\_b5C5OB3PCH\\_jiO31XG4mWmVpaky5g/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXwE5tAOh-iJC0bey1_b5C5OB3PCH_jiO31XG4mWmVpaky5g/viewform)

We also have space for families if they need to pick up extra mornings or afternoons for 2021. Please contact us via email to add in bookings.

We are also open for Kindy Best start. Kindy Best start dates are Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February, if you would like to book in please contact us for the booking form.

# IMPORTANT REMINDERS

**XPLOR-** As we have recently moved over to XPLOR as our service provider we are needing all parents whose CRN is linked to their child's CCS rebate to log into their XPLOR HOME app and accept their CWA Parent Approval. Once this is completed you can also go through and update any details that may have changed since the beginning of the year.

**SPARE HATS-** Spare hats get assigned to a child if they do not have a Cottage hat so we can keep all children sun safe and differentiate who is in the care of Kids Cottage. Please look through your child's bag and around your home for any spare hats that your child may have brought home. If you have had any spare hats find their way home, please return them to Kids Cottage so we can keep all our children sun safe whilst at Cottage. If you are needing to purchase a new Cottage hat for your child, please let us know and we can provide your child with a new hat and charge the \$9 to your account.

## Spring Vacation Care Highlights

One of the highlights for everyone from our Spring Vacation care was our Hatch and Grow program. At the beginning of Vacation Care we had 14 duck eggs delivered to Cottage along with a hatching box and throughout the two weeks the children got to see the ducklings hatch right before their eyes, take their first steps and even their first swim! Everyone's favourite part of having the ducklings come to stay was getting the opportunity to hold them and pat their super soft feathers. It was a brilliant program and one we will have to get back at Cottage soon.



On the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, the Juniors got to participate in a Soccer Clinic run by Mosman Football Club. They got to test their skills in many different dribbling and shooting activities adding in a bit of healthy competition to keep the children engaged including Rob the Nest, Stuck in the Mud and Shark. The morning's activities culminated with a round robin of Soccer matches with the group being split into four teams and rotated through different mini soccer matches. It was great to see the children so engaged in the clinic and improving greatly throughout the morning.



On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> we held our first OOSHHELLA Festival which was a brilliant success. The children got to compete in the Hungry Hungry Hippo Jumping Castle as well as race their friends on the Jumping Castle obstacle course. It was an extremely hot day so thankfully we had a snow cone machine on hand to cool the children off and a DJ to keep the tunes going throughout the festival. It was a great day with both the children and Educators requesting for it to happen again next year!



## End of Year Christmas Celebration

We have had many families asking if our end of year Christmas party will be taking place this year. Our End of Year Christmas Party will be taking place during after school care on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of December.

Unlike previous years we will have to limit people attending our celebrations to children who are booked into Cottage that afternoon due to Covid restrictions, however this will not stop the fun! We will have lots of fun activities taking place to celebrate the end of a very strange year.

If you would like to book your child/ren into our End of Year Christmas Party please send us an email and we will book them in!

## What's That Racquet Tennis Clinic

From Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> of October and continuing every Tuesday for the remainder this term we will be having What's That Racquet joining us to run a 1-hour tennis clinic from 7:30-8:30am.

The Tennis Clinic will teach the kids core skills of Tennis, including serving, rally's, mini tennis matches and lots of fun games along the way. All equipment will be provided for a fun filled morning each Tuesday before School!

If you would like to book your child into the tennis clinic, please send us an email and we will book them in!



# Kids Cottage Renovation Update

It has been many years in the planning, but the Kids Cottage renovations will be commencing during term 4 with the work scheduled to be completed by the beginning of Term 1 next year. The internal structure of our Kids Cottage building will be receiving a full upgrade including a new Kitchen being placed in the back room of Cottage with a walk-in cool room attached.

During the renovations Kids Cottage will be operating out of the Hall, Science Room and Year 6 classrooms along with the current outdoor spaces each Before and After school care session enabling us to still provide the high-quality care for your children. Our sign in and out process will be the same using the new Xplor Home app located outside of the Science room next to the Hall for our after-school sessions. All our children's bags will be kept at O block outside the year 6 classrooms on the ground level of Kindy and year 2's and upstairs for the years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Our year 1 bags will be kept outside their classroom as per usual.

For our Before School Care sessions in the morning we will be running out of the year 6 classrooms with the sign in ipads placed outside the two-story building. We will still be offering breakfast each morning however it will be limited to toast and cereal due to lack of cooking facilities in the classroom.

We have also arranged for an external provider to cater our afternoon teas during the renovations whilst we do not have access to a kitchen. They will be providing a varied menu of fresh and healthy options for the children to enjoy. The menu will be posted on Xplor Home each week for the families to see!

We thank you all for your patience during this time and we cannot wait to welcome you all back into the new and improved Kids Cottage next year!

## 2020 Wrap Up

What a year 2020 has been for all involved at Kids Cottage! We have been through change in Management with Jacqui stepping up as Director, the closure of Kids Cottage for the Autumn School Holidays as a result of Covid-19, a dramatic change in the running of Cottage leading to out the box thinking when it came to socially distant activities that were still engaging for the kids and finally the Kids Cottage renovations finally taking place leading to a complete pack up of the entire building in less than two weeks! Through it all the children were our top priority and keeping Kids Cottage a fun, safe and welcoming place for them to come each and every day.

We want to take the opportunity to do a big shout out to our entire team, without your hard work and commitment to the service this year would not have been possible. To the parents that stuck with us through this turbulent year we would also like to thank you for having trust in us and to the kids for making us smile and laugh each and every day.

It is always a sad time of year as we say goodbye to our year 6 kids as they move off into High School. Some have been attending Kids Cottage since Kindy and they will be truly missed. We hope that they take their fond memories of their time at Kids Cottage with them into High School.

Through it all 2020 has had so many highlights for the Kids and the team. These include our OOSHELLA Festival during the Spring Vacation Care, our celebration of OOSH Educator Day during Term 3, our Before School Care sports clinics that have run throughout the year including rugby, soccer and tennis and ending with our 2020 Christmas Party taking place on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of December.

2020 is a year no one will forget, lets see what 2021 will have in store.

## Kids Cottage Christmas Closure

As per usual Kids Cottage will be closed for two weeks over the Christmas period. As Christmas is falling on a Friday this year Kids Cottage will be open for Vacation Care up until 4pm Christmas Eve and then re-opening on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup> for January Vacation Care.

Our December and Summer Vacation Care dates are as followed.

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December –Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>  
December

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January –Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>  
January

Our December Vacation Care program will be sent out and bookings opened on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> of November along with our January Vacation Care program 3 weeks later, the 11<sup>th</sup> of December.

If you have any questions about our Christmas Closure dates or our Summer Vacation Care program please contact us via [info@kidscottagemiddleharbour.com](mailto:info@kidscottagemiddleharbour.com)