

THE KIDS COTTAGE TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

Term 2, 2021 | Issue 12 | Date June 2021



Term 3 Updates

Winter Vacation Care Dates: Vacation Care will be running from Monday 28th of June to Monday 12th July with lots of fun filled activities to keep your children entertained during the school holidays!

AFL Free Trial: We will be having a free AFL taster class taking place on Thursday 24th of June for your child/ren to try out AFL before booking into the Term 3 extra-curricular program. If you would like to sign your child/ren up, please send us an email and we will put them on the attendance list.

OOSH Educator's Day: We will be celebrating OOSH Educators day on Wednesday 28th of July thanking the team for all the hard work they do each and every day.

Term 3 Extra Curricular Programs: We will be having two extra-curricular programs running in Term 3. The first is an 8-week BSC Art classes running from 7:30am- 8:30am each Thursday morning. The second is an ASC AFL program running from 4pm-5pm each Wednesday afternoon. Please see below for more info and signing your children up for either programs, or both!

Director's Message

Wow how is it almost Term 3! Thank you to all children and parents who cheered us on during our Assessment and Rating. We are still waiting to get our rating back. Thank you to all the staff who helped for the preparation and running of the day. Assessment and Rating is a good reflection for us here at Cottage to see where we are great and what areas we can improve on. For only my second assessment and rating while working over the last 7 years, I can honestly say I am very proud of all the staff and how they showcased Kids Cottage.

As the Tokyo Olympics are coming up, keep an eye out for one of our own Faith Nathan who is the Junior co-group leader. Faith is currently training to make the Olympics for the Rugby Women's Aussie 7's. Faith has worked at Cottage for just over 2 years now and has been hard at work training away over the last few years. Faith is a great role model for Women's Rugby and not just our Kids Cottage kids but all children, Go Faith!!

If you have not already check out our awesome Winter Vacation Care, what are you waiting for. The group leaders have planned a great program with a range of activities which will suit all children. We are excited to try out the new Tru Ninja course in Penrith with the Year 3 & 4 group. Third times a charm as we attempt to head off to Palm Beach for a beautiful lighthouse walk with year 5 & 6. There are so many engaging activities in centre and on excursion so book in fast!

If you have any ideas for group leaders or staff for any activities, you would like us to add to our vacation care or before and after school care program send them all in. We love to try new fun activities.

We are looking for new casual staff to join our amazing, fun team at Kids Cottage. If you know anyone who would be interested in joining our team, please give them our email address and ask them to send through their resume. All applications must be over 18 years old and have a current, valid working with children check.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

JUMPERS: As part of our Winter Policy in the colder months any children outside after 5pm must be wearing a long sleeve shirt or jumper. If a child does not have a jumper to put on or a long sleeve shirt on, they must head inside Kids Cottage to play. Please make sure that if your child is coming to Cottage in the afternoons that they have a jumper packed in their bag as it is getting very chilly as the sun sets in the afternoons.

XPLOR: Did you know you can mark your child as absent through the Xplor Home app and request additional casual before and after school care days. When you open the Xplor Home app, head to the bookings tab which will bring up a calendar showing all your current bookings. You can either request an additional day by pressing the + button in the top right-hand corner or mark your child as absent by selecting the booking, scrolling down, and selecting absent.

Kids Cottage currently has **full Before and After School Care availability** in Term 3. If you would like to increase your permanent bookings, please contact us.

Winter Vacation Care 2021



Our **Kindy + Yr 1** program is jam packed to keep your children entertained during the Winter School Holidays. We will be heading off to ride the fire engine at Penrith Fire Museum, testing their gymnastic abilities at My First Gym and meeting some natives at the Australian Reptile Park. Staying in Centre we will also be joined by Jenny to complete pottery painting and letting our imaginations run wild on Imaginative Play Day. If you have not sent in your booking forms yet do so as soon as possible so you do not miss out on days.

Our **Year 2** program has something for everyone with a wide variety of days planned to keep all children entertained. They will be bouncing up a storm at Inflatable World, getting up close and personal with native animals at the Australian Reptile Park and scaling to new heights at Clip N Climb Alexandria. If you have not sent in your booking forms yet do so as soon as possible so you do not miss out on days.



Yr 3 + Yr 4 will be setting off on a bike riding adventure around Centennial Park, testing their agility at Tru Ninja Penrith and enjoying the culinary experience of Osaka Teppanyaki whilst enjoying a delicious lunch prepared by chefs. Staying in centre they will be competing in their very own Kids Cottage escape room, learn Junior First Aid from Surf Life Saving NSW and becoming a Cub Scout for the day.

We have kept the best for last with **Yr 5 + Yr 6** heading across Sydney these school holidays from testing their abilities at Laser Tag Menai to showing off their climbing skills at Clip N Climb Central Coast and fulfilling all thrill seekers at Archie Brothers! Staying closer to home they will be competing in a Kids Cottage Survivor Day and trying out their acting abilities at The Cottage Oscars. If you have not sent in your booking forms yet do so as soon as possible so you do not miss out on days.



Kids Cottage Christmas Closure Poll

This year is flying by and so we have started to look at our 2-week closure period over the Christmas to New Year holidays.

As Christmas Day is falling on a Saturday this year, we are wanting to ask for the parents as to whether we are open right up until Friday 24th of December. This was the case last year however we only had very small numbers book in for Christmas Eve at Kids Cottage.

Due to this we have decided to create a poll to see how many families maybe needing care right up until Christmas Eve this year. Please find attached below the link to complete the poll, it will only take a few minutes (if not less) and it will help us decide what care our community needs over the holiday period.

Our Christmas Closure is for two weeks and so Kids Cottage will be back open in January for the January Vacation Care.

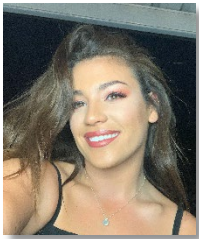
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T76BGJV>



STAFFING SPOTLIGHT

To end Term 2, we thought we would introduce some of our newer Educators who have joined the team. Some of them are new to us, some have returned after some time away and others have either come up through the ranks of Junior Staff or worked with us for Vacation Care but are now part of the team. Our Casual team work tirelessly each morning and afternoon to make your children's time at Cottage as fun as possible. They can often be found at Kids Cottage during before school care, after school care and the twice a week attending team meetings, training on child development and best practices within the out-of-school hours care industry.

Brittany Merlo



Brittany has recently re-joined the team at Kids Cottage after some time away. She comes back to the team with a wealth of knowledge after years of experience working in the OOSH industry. Brittany has thrown herself back into all aspects of Cottage and can be found working with all different year groups both morning and afternoon.

Aaliyah Paki



Aaliyah has worked at Cottage as a Vacation Care Educator for over a year now however since the start of this term has transitioned over to become a Casual Educator at Kids Cottage. Aaliyah brings lots of experience in the OOSH industry having her Diploma in School Age Education and Care. When at Cottage she can be found with the Kids Club group building great relationships with the children!

Matt Crellin



Matt followed in his brother's footsteps starting at Kids Cottage as a Junior Staff member and now having turned 18 moved up to a Casual Educator. When at Cottage Matt can be found with the Juniors helping them develop their gross motor skills whilst have lots of fun playing outdoor games.

Taye Bell



Taye started at Kids Cottage over the April School Holidays coming to us from another OOSH service on the Northern Beaches. When at Cottage Taye can be found with the Kids Club group getting the older children engaged and enthusiastic for the outdoor active activity. Taye's favourite part of Kids Cottage is the close-knit team he gets to work with.

Term 3 Extra Curricular Activities

We have two Extra Curricular activities lined up for Term 3 2021 for your child/ren to get involved with. They will both be an 8-week program commencing week 2 at a cost of \$9 per session totaling \$72 for the entire program. We are offering if your child/ren would like to try out the program a trial session where you will only be charged the one off \$9 for the first session to see if your child/ren enjoy it. If they do, we will then book them in for the remaining 7 weeks of the program. The first trial \$9 charge will be added during week 2 of term with the remaining 7 weeks charge being added the following week if your child wishes to continue with the program. **Once your child is signed up there will be no refund for change of mind.**

Kids Cottage is pleased to announce that Bring It On Sports will be joining Kids Cottage during Term 3 to run a 1-hour program each Wednesday afternoon from 4pm commencing week 2. The AFL program will be focusing on the fundamental skills, rules and tactics of AFL playing three modified games plus a final game where the students get to test their skills in a fun, inclusive, safe environment which encourages high involvement and participation.

We have also lined up an 8-week Art program on Thursday morning that will commence week 2 of Term 3 for ages K-Yr6. These will again be one-hour sessions from 7:30am- 8:30am where the children will discover some fun new processes learning about colour, line, shape, texture, and pattern finishing each lesson with an exciting, completed artwork!

If you would like to book your child/ren in for either one of our programs (or both!) please send us an email and we will book them in.

Kids Cottage Instagram

Kids Cottage has set up their own Instagram account for our community to get updates and insights into the daily running of Kids Cottage.

We will be posting about our dynamic team, brilliant activities that we run each morning and afternoon, special events that are taking place, vacation care programs and any additional Kids Cottage updates for families.

There will be no posts of images of children on the Instagram page with all posts being edited by the Management Team before going online.

We would like as much traction as possible to the page and so please head over and start following us to find out all things Kids Cottage.

Our Instagram account username is @thekidscottagemiddleharbour

Whilst you are there, feel free to head over to our website and have a look around, the link can be found in our bio.