Dear preschool families and caregivers,

We are already coming towards the middle of our first term of preschool for 2015. We have had a great start to the year, with children settling into preschool life with eagerness and joy. We will be seeking your input about our transition program in the next few weeks to improve on the transition process and ensure a smooth transition for our 2016 children. Governing Council members have already provided some valuable feedback.

The children have been building a strong sense of belonging and identity. Through our learning experiences and interactions we aim to build connections with each other, build on or create new relationships with others and our new environment, and establish group norms, rules and responsibilities to ensure that we keep ourselves and each other safe. Our numeracy focus has been on collecting and analysing data and exploring quantity. Thank you to all the families who have returned their form about quantity. It is not too late for families to return these forms.

Our 2015 Governing Council met for the first time on the 11th of February. We have 15 members and they are Luke Fitzgerald (Bennett), Matthew Gavin (Jasper), Rikki Amos (Marnie), Ke and Li Sun (Yiming), Jennie Hartwell (Ella), Maxine Gavros (Beau), Shannon Mckee (Monique), Sarah Gilmour (Erik), Jeff McDonald (Hamish), Craig Hendry (Isaac), Yvette Lagozzino (Annie), Amanda Hubycz (Lily), Ramanuj Parihar (Charvi), Sonia Sardana (Ari) and Melissa Pryor (Ruby). Their photo will be placed on the parent notice board.

Term 1 Preschool Fees are over due. If you haven’t paid your fees please pay promptly. If you are having difficulty paying, please see Sharron.

A copy of the 2014 Annual report will be placed on the sign in table for families to view. Please keep it in this area and if you require your own copy, ask a staff member for one.

We are looking forward to a wonderful term of learning together and would appreciate family participation.

### Diary Dates

**Monday 23rd & Wednesday 25th February**
- Children’s photos

**Tuesday 3rd March**
- Twilight Preschool
  - 5-6.30pm

**Monday 9th March**
- Adelaide Cup

**Wednesday 11th March**
- Child, Youth Health Checks
- RAN Training (Parents)

**Wednesday 18th March**
- Governing Council meeting

**Monday 23rd March**

**Thursday April 2nd**
- Interviews

**3rd-6th April**
- Easter

**Thursday 9th April**
- Last Day of Term 1

### FEES

Term 1 Preschool Fees are over due. If you haven’t paid your fees please pay promptly. If you are having difficulty paying, please see Sharron.
Celebrations are an important element of our preschool program. They provide an opportunity for children to broaden their understanding of the world and to learn about other cultures and traditions. Celebrating important cultural events relevant to the children and families attending our preschool contributes to a feeling of belonging and a sense of community.

If you would like to be involved or know of someone who can help us celebrate these festivals in our preschool, please contact us or speak with a staff member.

One of the DECD requirements for families who are involved in the preschool includes participating in a Responding to Abuse and Neglect course. It is important that volunteers who work in environments with children and young people are aware of the contribution they can make to helping keep children and young people safe.

Preschool staff will present this course on Wednesday 11th of March at 7pm at the preschool and it should last for about an hour and a half.

If you are thinking about volunteering on excursions, Governing Council and helping at the preschool it is important you attend and receive a certificate.

This certificate is valid for 3 years and is transferable to the schooling sector. If you would like to volunteer at preschool but are unable to attend this course Vale Park Primary School is holding a session on Wednesday 18th March at 2pm.

Vale Park Primary School is committed to supporting our children’s transition to school. Last year the children visited the school library on a fortnightly basis. We will be continuing this practice during 2015. On Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10.45 the children will visit the school library for 20 minutes. The first visit will be on Tuesday 3rd March. The children will be divided into two groups and visit on alternative weeks. Two staff members will go with each group.

If you do not want your child to attend please speak to Danielle or Sharron.

On Tuesday 3rd March we are having a special session at preschool from 5 to 6.30pm called Twilight Preschool. This session provides an opportunity for parents who have not had the opportunity to visit the preschool to come with their child. You may like to come for the entire time or just for a short period of time. During the night your child will show you around the preschool and you will have the opportunity to participate alongside them in their favourite play experiences.

Positive Parenting Seminar

**Understanding your Child’s Temperament**

**Wed 11 March 7.30pm**

Presenter – Donna Broadhurst

Understanding a child’s temperament is needed to develop effective parenting strategies for each child. Donna will give some practical ideas for relating to your spirited or sensitive child’s particular needs to help them flourish.

Bookings essential and online at [www.effectiveliving.org/positive-parenting](http://www.effectiveliving.org/positive-parenting)
Library Helper
We are implementing a new library system at the preschool and are seeking a helper to help us set up the new system, place barcodes on books and mend broken books. If you are interested or know of someone who may be able to help please see Danielle.

Ambulance
We are currently trying to organise an ambulance to visit the preschool. If anyone is able to help with a contact please see Danielle.

Child and Family Health Service
Women’s and Children’s Health Network, through CAFHS offers free child health checks at key ages be- tween birth and 5 years. As part of this service, CAFHS nurses visit preschools throughout SA to offer health checks to all chil- dren between 4 & 5 years of age. The health check includes a discussion with you about your child’s growth and development, immunisation status and they will also assess your child’s distance vision, hearing, height and weight and oral health. There are still a few appointment times left for Wednesday the 11th of March. If your child has been identified as being eligible for the first the term 1 appoint- ments and you would like an appointment please speak to a staff member.

Washing Roster
At the end of each week we have a small bag of washing that requires washing. All families are put on a roster to complete this task once during their time at preschool. We understand that family life can be busy and if this roster does not suit, can you please speak with another parent on the list and swap with them or speak to Joo Nee. The roster for term 1 is on the noticeboard and will be put in your pocket. Thank you to: Nishka Prajapati—week 5 Elka Ridwanullah—week 6 Liam Dunlop—week 7 Gemma Clark—week 8 Jordy Dalton—week 9 Isabel Gartland —week 10 Siaan Chau—week 11

Handwriting
Many children come to preschool showing an interest in writing and in particular writing their name. It is important that children are supported to follow their interests and also to form letters in a way that supports latter writing experiences. Holding the pencil, using uppercase and lower case letters and forming letters correctly are important writing skills. The following link contains charts that explain the way to formulate letters and numerals using the South Australian style of handwriting. www.sacsa.sa.edu.au/index_fsfc.asp?t=Home

Scarecrow
We have just begun a project of making a boy and girl, child size scarecrow. We would like to ask for any spare clothes you may be able to donate for this project. Please see Danielle if you have any donations or ques- tions.

Family Tress/profiles
Family tree photos can still be hung on our tree. The family tree encourages children to use their language and explain who is in their family, things the family do and special events they attend. Our wall is looking a bit bare. Profiles can still be brought in. Children are invited to share their profiles during small group times and explain the details of their picture and some information about themselves.