

St Lucia Kindergarten News



WELCOME NEWSLETTER - TERM 1, 2021

4th February 2021

Welcome to Kindy!



Welcome back to those families who attended St Lucia Kindy in 2020, and a big welcome to the new children and families who are joining us in 2021. We are so excited for the year ahead with you all.

We want your family to feel happy, safe and secure at Kindy — St Lucia Kindy belongs to you.

You will receive two newsletters like this one each term, with general updates and reminders.



2021 Kindy Staff:

Lucy O'Brien - Director / Kookaburra 2 Teacher (new to St Lucia Kindy)

Wendy Burton - Kookaburra 1 Teacher

Catherine O'Dwyer - Magpie 1 Teacher

Rochelle Ellis - Magpie 2 Teacher

Yamuna Abeyratne - Kookaburra 1 Assistant Teacher

Sue Hines - Magpie 1 & Magpie 2 Assistant Teacher

Hanny Crosbie - Kookaburra 2 Assistant Teacher (new to St Lucia Kindy)

Anne Riachi - Administration

Ann Inoka - Additional Assistant Teacher / House-keeper

Jingrong Zhu - Inclusion Support Assistant (new to St Lucia Kindy)

Fiona Yeates - After Kindy Care Lead Educator - end of week (new to St Lucia Kindy)

To be appointed - Additional After Kindy Care Educators



I (Lucy) would like to introduce myself as the new Director of St Lucia Kindergarten and Teacher in the Kookaburra 2 room. I have a Bachelor of Education, specialising in Early Childhood, and have worked as a Kindergarten Teacher for the past 6 years.

I began my teaching career at a similar C&K Kindy in Central QLD and then relocated to Tasmania, where I lived for four years and worked in a long-day care centre. I am also a trained Kids Yoga Teacher, and teach at my own studio. I am passionate about play-based learning and listening to children's voices. I also love nature and encouraging children's empathy and care for the environment.

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, please don't hesitate to speak with your child's Teacher or contact me via phone or email. I am in the Kindy Office alternate Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Thank you for your support! - Lucy

After Kindy Care / Kindy Club:

St Lucia Kindy is now offering After Kindy Care 5 days a week. We have decided to name this program "Kindy Club" - we hope you like it!

Kindy Club provides a fun and safe learning environment for your child for those times you need additional care.

The Kindy Club session operates from 2:40pm until 5:30pm.

We can take casual bookings or permanent bookings (same day each week for a term). For casual bookings, please request care via email or phone as soon as possible (but we can also take bookings on the day if necessary).

Casual - \$15 per hour, Permanent - \$30 per session

Afternoon tea is provided!

Please remember to **write your child's name on all items** with a label or marker - everything from spare clothes to lunch boxes and sheet bags!

Thank you.

Key Dates for Term 1:

WELCOME BBQ	Sun 7 Feb
PARENT INFO NIGHT	Wed 10 Feb
COMMITTEE AGM	Wed 10 Feb
1ST WORKING BEE	Sun 7 March
INTER-NATIONAL BREAKFASTS (HARMONY DAY)	Tues 16 March Thurs 18 March
END TERM 1	Thursday 1 April



Kindy Session Hours: 8:30am - 2:40pm
After Care Hours: 2:40pm - 5:30pm
Phone: (07) 3870 9213
Email: stluciakindy@gmail.com
Administration Days: Monday & Thursday

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Separation Anxiety

Each child is different, but some children experience “separation anxiety” at the beginning of the year. This is normal and we are experienced in supporting children through this. As their family, you are their “safe place” when Kindy can be new and unfamiliar.

As adults, we can:

- ◇ reduce their distress by reassuring them that you will come back at the end of the day e.g. after rest time
- ◇ talk positively about Kindy - when children hear you say it is a fun and safe place, they feel more secure
- ◇ stay and play for a few minutes but give 5 and 2 minute warnings before you leave
- ◇ Always have “one last cuddle” and say goodbye - even if they are crying (or screaming!)
- ◇ Please remember that we will take care of them - we will always call you if we feel your child is too distressed. Also, remember it will get easier!

We need a Parent Management Committee for 2021!

St Lucia Kindy is affiliated with C&K, but **we are community run**, so we are directly managed by an elected Volunteer Management Committee each year. The Committee is a vital part of our Kindy.

Two Committee meetings are held per term (some via Zoom and some at Kindy) with staff to discuss the operation of the Kindy e.g. future plans, improvements, decision-making. All parents are welcome at Committee meetings. Please talk to your child’s teacher if you are interested - it is a great way to meet other parents, feel part of a community and have your voice heard.

Storypark - please check and comment!

We use an online program called Storypark to share photos and information about your child’s time at Kindy, including what they are learning and notes about their development. **Please look out for an email from Storypark in your inbox if you haven’t joined already.**

You will be given a link to access their individual online profile, and you will then be able to see notices about Kindy and our weekly group stories. You can access Storypark through their app or browser version on your phone or computer.

Don't forget to apply sunscreen, and sign in every morning!

**Welcome BBQ for Families - Sunday 7th
February 4-6pm at BATY ST PARK**

**Please RSVP. Bring drinks, a rug or chairs -
we will provide food.**

**Please supervise your children - their
safety is your responsibility.**

Wellbeing / COVID Safe

All of us have a part to play in keeping our community healthy and safe. At all times, but especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, we ask that parents please:

- ⇒ *Keep your child at home if they are sick, even with a runny nose, as germs can spread quickly between children*
- ⇒ *Do not administer fever-reducing medication before sending your child to Kindy*
- ⇒ *Promptly collect your child if they become unwell whilst at Kindy*
- ⇒ *Use hand sanitiser when you arrive and help your child to use it too*
- ⇒ *Use a “clean” pen for signing in*
- ⇒ *Practice social distancing at Kindy*
- ⇒ *Inform us when your child or a family member is tested for COVID-19*

