

Rainbows Dec 2020

Here we are in the final stages of yet another kinder year and what a year. This year we have had a rotational group of 4 sub-groups with a total of 29 children. The children once again attended for three 5 hour sessions. Again, this year, Genevieve and I team taught the whole group with us each teaching two days a week. It has been great for both the children and teachers to have Jo as the co-educator each day.

Some very close friendships have formed throughout what has been a challenging year and I am sure these will remain strong regardless of which school the children attend in 2021. Another year of fun, excitement, development, changes, new friends and growth has almost come to an end. It is always sad saying good bye but everything and everyone reaches a time when they need to move on. For these young people that time has come.

This is where I normally remind everyone of all the fun events that have happened throughout the year but sadly this is not the case for 2020. Most children have really only had two terms of attendance. Throughout term two and three whilst most children remained at home, the Rainbow group staff were busy teaching face to face as normal and then supporting those children at home with activity ideas, activity packs and videos. This certainly proved to be a challenging time for everyone.

The children have returned to term four as if nothing has happened. Children are certainly resilient. There was no settling in issues and we have certainly been in full COVID swing whilst still having fun. They have grown and developed beautifully despite Covid and all its challenges.

This year parents will again receive a full two-year record of their child's development. The children's Memory folders will become part of your child's developmental record and as such something to be treasured.

They require a lot of extra work by the teachers however the benefits are enormous. It is amazing how much more you notice when documenting in this way. Memory folders will be given to parents to keep at the end of the year. This is however not the only documentation we do throughout the year. Each child is assessed throughout the year, teachers then reflect on this assessment and the observations taken to complete the assessment. From this information we plan our program to meet the individual needs and interests of each child. As you can imagine this can be very time consuming but very beneficial for the children and staff as it allows us to build a complete picture of each child. Despite Covid this has still been taking place.

Transition statements have been written for all children attending school in 2021. The feedback after past years statements has been very positive and I would like to thank the parents and committee for their support in this area.

With kinder photos cancelled due to Covid, a huge thank you to Sarah Jackson for saving the day and taking our kinder photos - we really appreciate it.

We are now in the final stages of preparation for a fun end to the year. Graduation will soon be here however we are unsure at this stage as to what form it will take.

We thank every family for allowing us the honour of teaching your child this year. We hope that everyone takes away many great memories from a great year of kinder and we are sure that whatever lays ahead these great children will all succeed in 2021.

Thank you

Belinda Niezen, Genevieve Brown & Jo Kennedy