

AVOCA SCHOOL CARE

A LITTLE NOTE FROM JULEE

Hello to all parents and carers,

The end of term 3 is almost with us and the year has flown by. The kindergarten children have well and truly settled in and it is such a joy to see how they have grown and matured in such a short space of time.

Most children walk themselves to class in the mornings and have shown they have the routine down pat.

They are even able to place a lunch order with confidence. The older children are so caring and supportive to the younger children and brings me such joy to see.

We have had changes to educators working at the Centre and happy to say Jasper Davies is back with us, he is studying at Macquarie University. The children enjoy his company and the games he organizes. Mitch is still with us but has cut back his days to accommodate his teaching degree so we have a good blend of carers for the children to interact with.



LOST PROPERTY

There is a significant amount of clothing and school equipment left in our lost property, please check for any items your child might be missing, as next week it will all be sent back to the corresponding school lost property.

PROVIDING NOTICE

Parents are reminded that when giving notice (2 weeks' Notice) your child must physically attend the service for the last two weeks or the absences are marked down as cessation of care, which means you will be charged the full fee with no rebates applied. This is the departments ruling and must be abided by always.

INITIAL 42 ABSENT DAYS

CCB is paid for up to 42 absence days for each child per financial year across all CCB approved LDC services, FDC services, IHC services and OSHC services. Absence days are referred to as 'Initial 42 days absence' in the family assistance law. Each child receives a new set of initial 42 absence days at the beginning of the financial year.

These absence days can be taken for any reason (provided the day being reported as an absence is a day on which care would have otherwise been provided). If a child is absent for one session or more than one session on the same day, it is counted as one absence day. For example, one absence day is counted where a child is absent from one or both sessions of before and after school care in a day. Absences are counted only if the session of care would have attracted CCB. If, for example, the hours charged have used all a child's eligible hours, then CCB will not be payable for the absence, and the absence will not be counted.

Once all the first 42 absence days have been used CCB will also be payable for absences taken for these reasons:

- illness (with a medical certificate)
- non-immunization (with written evidence)
- rostered days off/rotating shift work (with written evidence)
- temporary closure of a school or
- pupil-free days
- periods of local emergency
- shared care arrangements due to a court order, parenting plan or parenting order (with copy of documentation)
- attendance at preschool exceptional circumstances.

Absence days taken for the above reasons, after the first 42 absence days have been used, are called 'additional absence days'. There is no limit on the number of these days for which CCB may be paid, if: they are taken for the reasons specified above, and supporting documentation (where required) is provided, and they are days on which care would otherwise have been provided. Once a new financial year starts and the family has a new allocation of initial 42 absence days, additional absences may not be claimed until the initial 42 days have been used.

Notifying the service of an absence

Please be mindful of letting the service know if your child will not be attending on a booked day. The stress it brings when we cannot find a child is not pleasant. Did they catch a bus? Did they go home with a family member we are not aware of? did they walk out the back gate? The possibilities are endless and very stressful to say the least. Phone calls are not free, so from the beginning of term 4 any calls made to find children will incur a \$5 fee. a quick email is easy and lets us know.

The new child care package

From the first July 2018 the new child care package was rolled out. The current CCB which is now the CCR and rebate will be paid directly to the service and be more affordable to families. All parents must visit the MY GOV- website and link their children/child to the service. The government has made this rule to stop fraud being conducted within the industry



Our veggie Patch.

The children have been working really hard in the vegetable garden and we have been reaping the benefits of our work, the broccoli tasted fantastic and the snow peas have been so sweet. The parsley and chives are used most days when we do cook. The plum- and peach tree are loaded with fruit so let's hope we can get some fresh organic fruit before Christmas. We have got 3 veggie gardens in the old chook pen and this is working a treat and keeping the rabbits out.

The school has 4 veggie gardens and I have been supporting the school with watering them each day and weeding the gardens. If any parents have any tips to grow veggies please let us know.

Events at school.

The service is happy to support the community when school events come up, like, the disco or returning from an excursion or school camp. We receive no information from either school and so it is really important to email us with your requests. I must say, it does make me feel a little sad that we support the local community in so many ways and yet we are not advised on events that happen within the school.



School uniforms

It is getting close to the end of the year. If you have any school clothes that do not fit your children any more please bring them in and we will have a rack to sell them for a few dollars. This money will come back to you and may just help reduce the cost of the uniforms. Quite often parents need a backup uniforms or jumper in wet weather or just because finances may be a little tight.

Small thing like this support the community and is a good way to recycle. Please let me know your thoughts.

New enrolments.

If you have children that attend the service and have siblings that will be starting next year please call in and grab an enrolment to ensure you will have care for next and so I can work out ratios and see if I need to engage more educators to the service.

New educators.

It is not very often we change educators at the service but in vacation care time it is a bonus that we have additional people that are able to work. This gives educators hours they would normally have and still have time to regroup and have a small break.

All additional educators are screened and have had working with children checks done. A few are casual teachers that do not get paid in the holidays and need to support their families. It's a win win for all involved so please if you see someone you don't know go and have a chat.

The educators and myself are looking forward to the final term of 2018 and if you need to know anything please come see us. If you have any vacation care ideas please hit us up as we have a full month of holidays to program for. The school year finished on the 19th December and the teachers have 2 days training so we will be open for two days of vacation care and then will reopen on Monday the 7th January. Please let us know if you require care in the first week. The service needs at least 15 children each day to operate.