



OSHC Newsletter – March 2024

Welcome to the first OSHC newsletter for the year. It's been wonderful to meet so many new families this year and we warmly welcome back our existing connections.

Reminder about bookings via Spike app

On your invoice is a link to an app where you can VIEW, BOOK, and CANCEL your child's sessions for before and after school care. Collection authorities, health and medical needs of your child can also be updated through this app.

The account holder can use the email address that we invoice you with and the PIN you use when collecting or signing your child in/out. If you have changed your PIN, you will need to reset it by using the "Forgot Password" option. This takes 24 hours to come into effect.

Your permanent, booked sessions are already in our system for the remainder of 2024. This includes sessions that are fortnightly or on a rotating roster.

There are no planned changes for Vacation Care due to consents having to be signed.

We are very busy

We are currently not taking permanent bookings for Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings, and Tuesday afternoons. This may change in the future. For now, these sessions remain available on a casual basis only. Please use the online booking app as your first line of contact. If you cannot access a spot on the app then contact the OSHC mobile.

It is important that you understand the Our Lady Queen of Peace School OSHC Cancellation Policy.

To cancel sessions, and not be charged, we require 24 working hours notice. This includes sick days.

Cancellations for Monday morning must be made before 7am on the Friday before.

If your child is sick, and notification is received in a timely manner, consideration will be given to waive fees. For example, a notification Monday at noon that a child is away sick would incur a fee for that day but if the child was going to also be away on Tuesday, the fee for Tuesday before school care would be waived. If your child is absent, with a fee, you are still eligible to receive your childcare subsidy (CCS). This is called an Allowable Absence. Each child has 42 days of Allowable Absences per year.

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Staff are rostered in advance to cater for the correct child/staff ratio. We also plan and purchase food in relation to the number of children attending and their dietary needs. This is a requirement under the National Quality Standards Quality Areas 2 and 4, with a focus on safeguarding children's health, safety, and staff. As the number of children increases so must our staff numbers. If children do not attend, as planned, we are overstaffed. As you can understand, child safety and support is paramount, though being overstaffed is a burden on our expenses.

Always book as early as possible to secure care, give a minimum of 24 hours notice if a spot is not needed, and to notify OSHC if your child is absent from school due to illness. By taking these steps, we are better able to help you. Cancellations done in a timely manner open up spaces for other families. Care will not be available if ratios are not met.

Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 12 March 2024 is a day when staff will undertake professional development and training. There is no school. Care will be available, however places are limited. Please let staff know if you need care.

OSHC Parent Committee

Parents are invited to become involved in the planning and running of OSHC by nominating to become a member of the OSHC Parent Committee. This group meets once a term at a time that suits all parties. This is a great opportunity to be involved as OSHC is an important part of your child's school journey. Please see Jo Fahey or Lee Abela if you would like to become involved or for more information.

Vacation Care

We are always asking your children for ideas for upcoming vacation care programs. We would value your input also. If you visit a park or venue or enjoy an event that you think we would like, we would love to hear about it. The April program will be available in Week 7.

Sustainability

The National Quality Standards Area 3 requires us to be active in sustainability. Our practices include children collecting food scraps and paper towels for composting in the school's green council bins. We also collect 10 cent recycling drink containers that we give to Ms Hackett to process. This money goes back into our school community. Cardboard and paper are collected to recycle.

Children are encouraged and reminded to use and empty these bins. To support this understanding of the importance of caring for our environment we refer to all other rubbish as "landfill" and promote choices that have a positive effect.

Term 3 New Students

If you have a child starting school in Term 3 and need OSHC, can you please complete an enrolment form and submit your bookings soon.

Kind regards

Jo Fahey and the OSHC team