



AINSLIE AUDIO TRANSCRIPT

Kindy Return to School Chat - 22 October 2021 (MP3, 5min 33sec running time, 8MB) – Harry Muir with Janelle Jack

HM: Hello everyone my name is Harry Muir and today I've got the preschool Exec Teacher Janelle with me today. How are you today Janelle?

JJ: Well thank you Harry. Thanks for having me.

HM: No worries at all, happy to have you. So first of all, we want to know how you and the Kindy Team are feeling about having all the kindies back at school.

JJ: Oh my goodness, we are so excited to see them return to school and to hear about the things that they've been working on with their families at home, and to extend their thinking about some special projects that they've been working on as well.

HM: Yes, very exciting times. In saying that, what are the return dates for the kindy team?

JJ: The kindy team return to face to face teaching on Monday the 25th of October.

HM: Awesome counting down the days are you?

JJ: Absolutely.

HM: So, with the ACT health guidelines that they've set out to all the schools what are some of the things that Ainslie School will be doing and how will they be implementing those things?

JJ: So, for our drop off routine, we have asked families to socially distance and line up on the Elder St pathway outside the school gate. And a Kindy Teacher will be meeting them at the gate to bring the children down into the Yerra play space for their morning routine.

HM: Awesome. And then I guess leading on with things such as sanitising and stuff like that, how you go about enforcing those sort of things, not necessarily 'enforcing' that, but working with the children to make sure they're safe.

JJ: Yes, so we have done a presentation slide through PowerPoint, which we are sharing with our families as well, which details those routines. And we have very specific signage around the classrooms that will explicitly teach those routines with the children once they're back on site as well. With the importance of keeping health and safety by washing and sanitising our hands as we enter and leave each space.

HM: There's been a lot of talk as well about different bubbles so what's the kindy the bubble going to be looking like?

JJ: So we have a predetermined boundary in the kindy bubble which we've spoken to the children about, and will be very obvious on site on Monday as well. And this sort of includes part of the senior Oval and the senior playground and the kindy playground alongside the Yerra building and we've spoken with the children about the importance of staying within our bubble and restricting our movements throughout the school to help maintain infection control and to reduce the chances of people getting sick.

HM: Yes, very good. I guess when we're talking about our programmes throughout the school, so like with our libraries and stuff like that, will we be having a library sessions? Or will we be having an in-class library?

JJ: We're continuing our routine of having our library sessions and borrowing books. However it is a little bit different and we have created our very own Kindy library in our Yerra space. Very excited about it. And so the children will still be able to look at a variety of books and choose series and things that they would like to take home as well and borrow with that routine.

HM: Yeah, very cool and I know that some of their cohorts have different break times are there any differences with the Kindy break times?

JJ: No, we haven't changed our break times. We will be having recess from 11:00 to 11:30 and lunch from one till two.

HM: Very good. And then with the canteen orders, what's going to be happening with canteen.

JJ: The canteen will be operating, but again slightly differently. So we've asked families to pre order their meals through flexi schools and there is a reduced menu available. And we won't be doing any face to face cash purchases at the canteen at this time.

HM: Yeah. Just all to sort of minimise movement, in a way.

Absolutely. Minimising movement and ensuring that we're keeping health, following those health and safety guidelines.

HM: Yeah, very good. Wow, you've flown through that Janelle. You've got it all sorted. So I guess wrapping up, obviously, it's a very challenging time for everyone right now, so what did you want to say to our families and to our students about how we're going to support them with the transition back to face to face learning.

JJ: Absolutely, the importance of keeping our routines and our systems in place the children already know helps them to feel familiar and connected to their space, so our daily routines of having our individual play planning sessions in our own classrooms, and then moving out to the Yerra together to work with their friends is vitally important for that that play based philosophy and the opportunity for children to reconnect with their friends and build those relationships up again. And that's the basis of our programmes. We are continuing the routine of generating our lessons and our inquiries and uploading those through Seesaw. A little bit in reverse so we've been doing remote learning we've been sharing the learning with the children and then they've been creating those learning opportunities with their families. Now we're going to flip that and be returning into the classroom and doing those routines in our classrooms where again we can feedback to our families what we've been doing on site with our learning and where those inquiries are going.

HM: Very cool, so a bit of two-way communication.

JJ: Absolutely.

HM: Yeah very cool. Well that sort of wraps up all I have to say. You have absolutely smashed it out of the park Janelle, so great job and to all that kindy families and students out there, were all very excited to see you return back to school. Even though we might not be able to see you face to face but from bubble to bubble in a way. Anyway so thank you Janelle thank you for giving up your time come chat with me and will see you all soon.

JJ: Appreciate it. Thanks very much Harry.