

LOVE & MERCY FAMILY DAY CARE NEWSLETTER

January and February 2021

Hello Educators and Families,

We hope you are doing well. This newsletter is for **January and February 2021**. In our newsletters we cover any important news, updates, special events or general things to consider being family day care educators and families.

New updates and restrictions for Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Visitors allowed at residence

- up to 5 visitors from any number of households may visit another on any day.
 - If there are more than 5 visitors at a home, every person will be held individually responsible for a breach of the public health order.
- Outdoor public gatherings
 - No more than 30 people can gather outside in a public place which includes public parks, reserves, beaches, public gardens and spaces.

Face Masks

- A face mask (fitted face covering) is mandatory in the following indoor settings:
 - Shopping (retails, supermarkets and shopping centre)
 - Public and community transport
 - Indoor entertainment (including cinemas and theatres)
 - Places of public worship
 - Hair and beauty premises
 - Tattoo parlours
 - Massage parlours
 - Gaming areas in license premises



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UPCOMING EVENTS

January:

1st – New Year's Day

26th – Australia Day

27th – Term 1 Commences

February:

12th – Chinese New Year

14th – Valentine's Day

You may be **fined \$200** on the spot for not wearing a face mask.

Children aged 12 and under, are exempt but are encouraged to wear masks where practicable.

Exemptions from wearing a face mask

The public health order includes a number of excuses for not wearing or removing a mask under certain circumstances. You are required to wear a mask if you:

- Eating or drinking
- Communicating with another person who is deaf or hard of hearing
- At work and the nature of your work
 - Makes wearing a face mask a risk to you or another person's health and safety
 - Means clear enunciation or visibility of your mouth is essential
- Asked to remove your masks for identity purposes.



Australia Day

On Australia Day we celebrate all the things we love about Australia: land, sense of fair go, lifestyle, democracy the freedoms we enjoy but particularly our people.

Australia Day is about acknowledging and celebrating that every Australian makes to our contemporary and dynamic nation. From our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples – who have been here for more than 65,000 years – to those who have lived here for generations, to those who have come from all corners of the globe to call our country home.

The making of 26th January is an important date in Australia's history and has changed over time: starting as a celebration for emancipated convicts and evolving into what is now a celebration of Australia that reflects the nations diverse people.



Australia Day continues to be a hugely popular, with 3 in 4 Australians believing it has a bigger meaning beyond being just a day off.

More than half of all Australians participate in Australia Day attending events organised by the state Governments, local councils, community groups or getting together with families and friends.

Australian Day Activities

- **Australian map puzzle** - <https://www.kidspot.com.au/things-to-do/activity-articles/australia-map-puzzle/news-story/b1866d491cd0f5c8631b7449d0dab65d>

- **Sticky dot map of Australian craft** - <https://www.kidspot.com.au/things-to-do/activity-articles/sticky-dot-map-of-australia-craft/news-story/9be78b24f7722d5ead7a0a16a92bfff2>
- **Australian flag collage** - <https://www.kidspot.com.au/things-to-do/activity-articles/australian-flag-collage/news-story/3b77d8338efb26a2d064dfccbcf69fec>
- **How to make a Sydney Opera House collage** - <https://www.kidspot.com.au/things-to-do/activity-articles/sydney-opera-house-collage-craft/news-story/f12f1e64c60ede3107d57341136b8bfa>

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year (spring festival) is the most important festival in China and a major event in other Asian countries in Asia. Chinese Lunar New Year 2021 falls on Friday, February 12th.

Usually, Chinese New Year festival period lasts for 16 days, starting from Chinese New Year's Eve to the lantern festival. In 2021, it is from February 11th to February 26th. As 2021 is the year of the Ox, Chinese will often greet with: “wish you Ox year lucky”.



Chinese New Year is an important tradition for every family to thoroughly cleanse the house, in order to sweep away any ill-fortune and to make way for good incoming luck. On Chinese New Year, the themes of happiness, wealth and longevity are celebrated. On this special day, families reunite, special foods are eaten, fireworks are lit, and children receive money in lucky red paper envelopes.

Chinese New Year Activities:

- **Make Chinese lanterns (paper lantern)** - <https://nurturestore.co.uk/make-chinese-lanterns>
- **DIY paper fortune cookies** - <https://unsophisticook.com/how-to-make-paper-fortune-cookies>
- **DIY Chinese Musical Drums** - <https://www.giftofcuriosity.com/chinese-new-year-drum-craft-for-kids/>
- **Make a Chinese New Year candle holder** - <https://www.firstpalette.com/craft/chinese-new-year-candle-holder.html>
- **Sensory play with spice playdough for Chinese New Year** - <https://nurturestore.co.uk/chinese-new-year-sensory-play>
- **Cherry Blossom art from recycled soda bottles** - <https://alphamom.com/family-fun/holidays/cherry-blossom-art-from-a-recycled-soda-bottle/>

