

FORREST PRIMARY SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS CENTRE NEWSLETTER



LEARNING FOR LIFE

FORREST PRIMARY SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS CENTRE IS A CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENT AND HAS A ZERO TOLERANCE OF BULLYING.

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Dear Forrest Families,

It has been a busy couple of weeks at Forrest with Science Week, Book Week and plenty of dancing keeping us all entertained!

SCIENCE WEEK

We had a fantastic time celebrating Science Week with students getting involved in some amazing experiments and hands-on activities. There was plenty of predicting, testing, observing as students explored different areas of science.

A big thank you to our staff for organising the activities and giving our students the chance to experiment,

investigate and have some fun with science.

BOOK WEEK

We also celebrated Book Week, which is always a

favourite on our school calendar. It was great to see everyone getting involved and celebrating our love of books and reading.

A very special thank you to Ash at the Forrest General Store, who organised a special treat for our students. We really appreciate the way our local

community gets behind our little school and helps make these occasions extra special.

BOOT SCOOTING

Maddie has been working with our students and teaching them some new moves as we start preparing for our End of Year Performance.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEPTEMBER

2nd Art (MACC)
7th Biolab Excursion Grade 5&6
9th Library (MARC)
15th School Council @3.45pm
16th Art (MACC)
17th Junior Room Sleepover
18th Last Day of Term 3

OCTOBER

5th Term 4 Commences
12-16th School Swimming Program
26th Pet Parade
27th School [Council@3.45pm](#)

NOVEMBER

2nd Student Free Day
3rd Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
24th Prep Transition Session 9-11

Students of the Week





There is still plenty of practice to come, but it has been great fun so far. We are looking forward to seeing it all come together later in the year!

PARENT OPINION SURVEY

A reminder to families that the Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Opinion Survey is currently open. Everyone is invited to complete the survey and we would really appreciate you taking the time to share your feedback.

The survey gives us valuable information about what is working well at our school and where we can continue to improve. As a small school,

every response really does make a difference, so thank you to those families who have already completed it.

FORREST PS AND EYC IS BACK ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

We are excited to be relaunching the Forrest Primary School and Early Years Facebook and Instagram pages.

We know there are lots of great things happening at our school and our social media pages will give us another way to share some of these moments with the wider community.

It is hard to believe we are already heading towards the end of Term 3. There is still plenty happening over the coming weeks, and we look forward to sharing more of it with you.

As always, thank you to our staff, families and wider Forrest community for all the different ways you support our students and our school.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK & PRINCIPAL AWARD (WEEK 4 & 5)

Principal Award – Hannah & Sunny J

Senior Room – Dori & Stella

Junior Room –

2026 Voluntary Parent Payment Schedule Available on Compass

Victorian schools provide students with free instruction to teach the standard curriculum. Your voluntary contributions help us to provide enhanced learning materials, special programs, and improved classroom resources. All contributions remain completely voluntary. The payment schedule is live and can be viewed and paid through your Compass Portal under "Course Confirmation/Payments".

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school community



SENIOR ROOM NEWS

THINKING ABOUT THINKING!

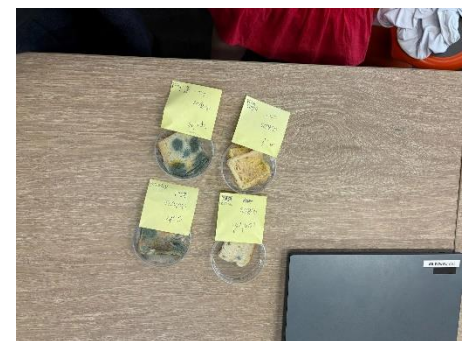
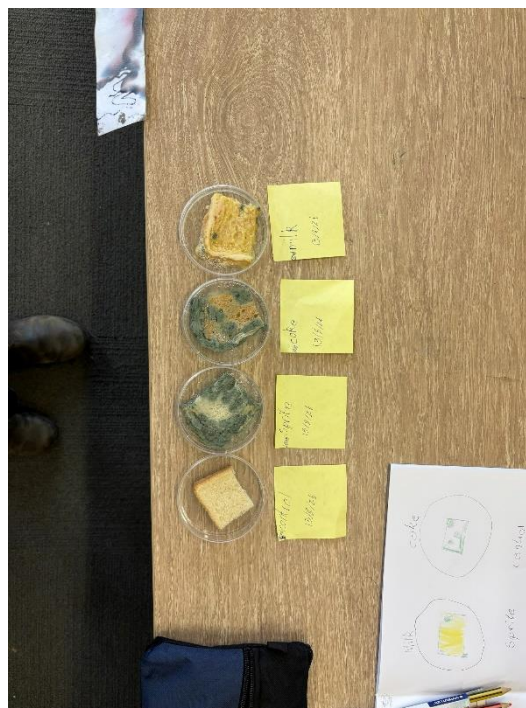
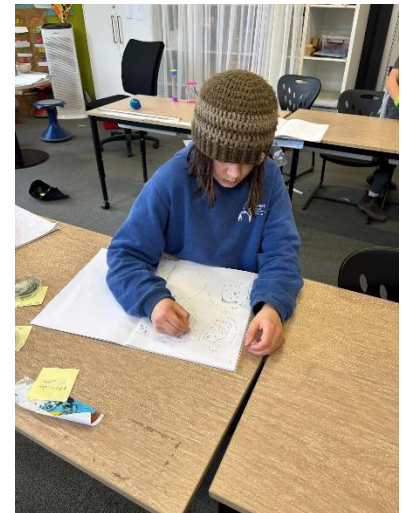
Our Senior Room students have been diving into "metacognition": thinking about how they learn! It is wonderful watching them benefit our classroom routines and rhythms. We are proud of their progress and how well they've responded to the explicit instruction approach. This brain-based method breaks learning down into bite-sized steps, moving from "I do" (modeling) to "we do" (guided practice) and finally "you do" (independent mastery). This term, we've really polished our maths model to ensure every student is supported exactly where they need it most. A big thank you to Liza for her fantastic support in this space!

TEAMWORK

Teamwork has also been a big focus as we explore social management. Whether it's making thoughtful choices in the garden or taking on specific roles in science groups, the students are collaborating well. Our Design and Technology pencil case project that we have just started, has been a highlight, learning how to measure precisely and think about the design as part of our whole class production, not an individual pursuit.

SCIENCE

In Science, our budding researchers have blown me away with their science inquiry skills. Growing mould on bread was a highlight—the curiosity, predictions, and observations of textures, colours and (of course!) smells were fabulous. We even had a technical masterclass from Tannar on penicillium and aspergillus.





OUTDOOR LEARNING

The seniors had a wonderful outdoor session this week. They explored themes, feelings and memories through poetry and added music to accompany their words in theme with 'symphony of stories' for book week which they shared by the fire. They also did a wonderful job gardening with Freya - there was pruning, mulching, and planting of sunflowers (yay) Lovely to see them in their calm & creative element outside!



STUDENT EXHIBITION

Finally, we can't wait to welcome you all to our Classroom Exhibition in Week 10! We have already been brainstorming which pieces of work to showcase and planning some fun interactive activities for you to enjoy. Stay tuned!



JUNIOR ROOM NEWS

Term 3 Week 8

In the Junior Room, we are learning that being good at maths isn't simply about knowing the answer. It is about understanding how numbers work, recognising patterns and relationships and, importantly, being able to explain our thinking.

Because sometimes a learner can tell you the answer...But they can't tell you how they got there. And sometimes, a learner doesn't know the answer immediately, but has lots of mathematical understanding and can use what they *do* know to work it out. **That is where the real learning happens.**

Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract

When we introduce new mathematical concepts, we use the **Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract approach**. We begin with something children can physically see and touch, counters, blocks, ten frames, number cards, objects that can be moved, grouped, shared and organised. This is the **concrete** stage.

Once learners have explored an idea using real materials, we begin representing their thinking using pictures, drawings and diagrams. This is the **pictorial** stage.

Eventually, learners can work with the numbers and symbols alone. This is the **abstract** stage.

But we don't rush through the first two stages just to get to the equations. The concrete materials and pictures help children build a picture in their minds of what the mathematics actually means.

"Tell Me How You Know"

One of the most important things you will hear in our maths sessions is: "**How do you know?**" Or..."**Tell me what you did.**" We want learners to use mathematical language. We want learners to explain their process. We want learners to listen to how someone else solved the same problem in a completely different way. Because understanding mathematics isn't about being the fastest person to shout out the answer.

So in the Junior Room, we celebrate the thinking. We celebrate trying a strategy. We celebrate noticing a pattern. We celebrate explaining our process. And sometimes, we celebrate getting something wrong...

Because mistakes give us something to talk about. And talking about mathematics is one of the ways learn to understand it.

After all, maths isn't just about finding the answer. **It's about understanding how we got there.**

Maths Looks Different for Different Learners

Just like reading, learners are all working at different stages in their mathematical journey. During our maths sessions, we work in ability groups so that learners can explore concepts at the level that is right for them. Our younger learners have been developing their understanding of the **Part-Part-Whole model**. They are discovering that numbers can be broken apart and put back together again. For example...**5 can be 2 and 3**. But it can also be 1 and 4. This understanding becomes the foundation for so much of the mathematics that comes next.

Other learners are exploring **number bonds, fact families, near doubles and related facts**. They are beginning to see that numbers are connected.

If I know:

$$5 + 5 = 10$$

Then I might be able to work out:

$$5 + 6 = 11$$

I can use what I already know to help me solve something new.

If I know:

$$7 + 3 = 10$$

Then I also know:

$$3 + 7 = 10$$

And...

$$10 - 7 = 3$$

$$10 - 3 = 7$$

These are not four completely separate facts.

They are part of the same mathematical family.

And that is a really important shift in learning.

We are moving away from trying to memorise hundreds of separate answers and instead learning to recognise **relationships and patterns**.



EARLY YEARS CENTRE NEWS

What a busy two weeks it has been in Kinder!

Over the past two weeks, the children have been busy exploring, experimenting, creating and learning together!

During Science Week, the children participated in a range of hands-on experiences that encouraged curiosity, problem-solving and a sense of wonder. They strengthened their fine motor skills by tying ribbons onto sticks to create wind gauges and explored cause and effect by discovering what happens when bicarbonate soda and vinegar are mixed, and how the mixture changes when egg whites are added. We also created our very own "hairy heads", using soil, water and alfalfa seeds to observe how plants grow over time. These experiences supported the



children to develop confidence as learners, make predictions, ask questions and explore their ideas through experimentation, connecting strongly with VEYLDF Outcome 4: Children are confident and involved learners.



This week we have had the pleasure of celebrating Book Week. The children have enjoyed reading a wonderful selection of books and sharing their favourite stories with each other. A very special thank you to Margot's family for sharing some of Margot's favourite books from home. We

have thoroughly enjoyed reading *E.T.* and *Are You My Mother?* together. We would also like to say a huge thank you to Nino and his beautiful family for gifting us *All of the Factors of Why I Love Tractors*. It has been wonderful to see the children's excitement as they explore these familiar and new stories. Sharing books, listening to stories and talking about characters and events supports VEYLDF Outcome 5:



Children are effective communicators, while also building a strong love of language and literacy.

Alongside these planned experiences, the children have continued to follow their own interests through play. They have been busy building train tracks, creating their own hairdressing salon, playing Snakes and Ladders, and exploring our new mirror table, discovering how colours and shapes change and how sunshine can create reflections. These experiences encourage creativity, imagination, cooperation, problem-solving and social interaction, supporting VEYLDF Outcomes 1, 2, 4 & 5.

It has been wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm, curiosity and growing confidence throughout these experiences. We look forward to continuing to build on their interests and extend their learning next term.

I have also sent home a letter regarding bike riding commencing next term, so please remember to check your parent pocket for this important information.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to speak to Di or Vicki or you can contact us on the service mobile – 0419 357 886. Cheers Di & Vicki.

WELLBEING NEWS



Wellbeing Update BOOT SCOOTIN'



Forrest Kids from prep to grade 6 have been stomping their feet and embracing a new style of movement in their first boot scootin' class. Together, students explored rhythm and tempo, singing, practiced listening and moving to the beat and began learning their first dance together. It was so lovely to watch all the students stay present and give it a go. I am super proud of everyone – especially those who felt out of their comfort zone but still participated with an open-mind!

Dancing is a wonderful way to support children's wellbeing. It encourages movement, coordination, confidence and self-expression, while also providing opportunities to connect with others and be apart of a group.



Some Benefits of Scootin':

Develops brain connections: remembering sequences, steps and patterns exercises memory and concentration.

Strengthens listening skills: students need to listen carefully to rhythm, tempo and instructions.

Encourages teamwork: dancing together requires students to notice others, move as a group and work towards a shared goal.

Builds resilience: dance can be tricky at first, encouraging children to practise, make mistakes and keep trying.

Boosts mood: music and movement can be a joyful way for children to release energy and experience positive emotions.

Develops body awareness: students learn how their bodies move through space and how to coordinate different movements.

Encourages risk-taking: getting up and trying something unfamiliar helps children become more comfortable stepping outside their comfort zone.



COMMUNITY NEWS



Department
of Education

2026 Parent / Carer Opinion Survey

WE WANT OUR PARENTS / CARERS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!

Our school is conducting the annual Parent / Carer Opinion Survey offered by the Department of Education and is seeking your feedback. The survey is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behavior, and student engagement. The survey is optional, but we encourage and appreciate your participation. Our school will use the survey results to assist in identifying areas for improvement and professional development needs in the school, to target school planning and improvement strategies.

The Parent / Carer Opinion Survey will be open online from **Monday 24 August to Friday 7 September 2026**.

All families are invited to participate in the survey.

The survey will be conducted **online**, only takes **20 minutes** to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones. **The link to the survey and the PIN to access will be sent to all parents via our School Portal, Compass.**

Please speak to your child's teacher if you would like more information.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Explore, Play, Discover.

From sporting legends to interactive displays, Geelong Sports Museum offers something for every member of the family.

Find us at GMHBA Stadium!



GEELONG SPORTS MUSEUM
BY GEORGINA PLACE

FREE for Colac Otway Shire Youth aged 12-25

YOUTH PODCAST & RADIO TRAINING

Learn, create and record!
Join our **FREE** Youth Podcast & Radio Training and learn about broadcasting, interviewing, audio production, and presenting.

Thursday 24 September
10:00am - 12:00pm

Colac Central Reserve Pavilion
32-40 Gravesend Street, Colac



www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/Youth-Events

Colac Otway Shire | VICTORIA State Government

Open to Colac Otway Shire Youth aged 12-25



2026 YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

FOCUS:

LOOKING THROUGH MY LENS

Enter now! Showcase your photography skills for a chance to win prizes!

Submit your entry:
colacotway.vic.gov.au/2026YouthPhotoComp
or scan the QR code



Entries Close:
Friday 4 September at 11:59pm

Colac Otway Shire | VICTORIA State Government



Tuesday September 1st
Time: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

PARENTS AND TODDLERS HARMONIC SOUNDS AND STORY TIME WITH AHHLEEYAH GRACE
FORREST NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

A fun and engaging wellbeing program designed for parents and toddlers to enjoy harmonic sounds creative new stories and active playtime.

Register now
forrest.NH@gmail.com

Wellbeing Warrior Walkabout Experience
Harmonic Sound, Movement and Relaxation with Ahhleeayah Grace.

Youth 6-11 years
Tuesday 1st September
4pm-5pm

Contact:
Forrest.NH@gmail.com

Save the Date
THURSDAY 10th DECEMBER 2026

Join us as we celebrate our Year 6 students and enjoy a whole school dance performance at
1:00 PM

Followed by afternoon tea - more details will be shared closer to the date.

Youth Photography Workshop
With Photographer Amber Noseda

FREE for Colac Otway Shire Youth aged 12-25

Snap Into Creativity!
Discover the fundamentals of photography and experiment with creative techniques. Bring your phone, tablet, device, or camera and let's get snapping. Suitable for beginners and emerging photographers aged 12-25.

Wednesday 23 September
10:00am - 12:00pm

Marrar Woom Neighbourhood House
6 Pengilly Avenue, Apollo Bay



Colac Otway VICTORIA www.colacotway.vic.gov.au/Youth-Events

YOUTH FEST
FREE workshops for young people aged 12-25!

YOUTH SOUNDCHECK WORKSHOP
Interested in music and live events? This workshop is for you! Learn about the basics of sound production, lighting, and event setup.

Friday 25 September
10:00am - 12:00pm
Colac Neighbourhood House
6 Myers Street, Colac

YOUTH DJ WORKSHOP WITH DJ BARKSY
Learn how to DJ including mixing, beat matching, and track selection

Friday 25 September
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Colac Neighbourhood House
6 Myers Street, Colac