

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

What a wonderful few weeks it has been at Forrest Primary School. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Forrest Men's Shed, Noor, Al, Pete and all the members, for their incredible work supporting our Forrest Formula 1. A special thank you goes to Noor for her organisation, creativity and coordination.

Thank you as well to Renee from the Neighbourhood House and to Matt, our local police officer, for their continued support of our school programs and activities.

We truly appreciate the community partnerships that make Forrest such a special place.

Our attention now turns fully to the end-of-year play, *Peter Pan*. Students will be trying on costumes this Friday. The excitement is definitely building!

We warmly invite all community members, families and friends to join us on Thursday the 11th of December:

- Graduation Ceremony at 11:30am
- End-of-Year Play at 1:30pm

STAFFING UPDATES FOR 2026

At the end of this year, Jess Bennett will be taking a year's leave to explore another position in education. We thank Jess for all she has contributed and wish her every success as she takes on this new opportunity.

2026 Class Structure

We are pleased to announce our class structure for 2026:

- Foundation – Year 2: Jo
- Year 3 – Year 6: Kaz and Ella (shared grade)

We look forward to another year of strong teaching, collaborative learning and rich



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER

- 24 Senior Room Gym with Matt
- 25 Art (MACC Visit)
- 26 Prep Transition 9-11.30am

DECEMBER

- 1 Senior Room Gym with Matt
- 2 Library (MARC Visit)
- 2 Small Schools Transition Day – Grade 6's
- 3 Prep Transition 9-1pm
- 8 Senior Room Gym with Matt
- 9 School Council@ 3.45pm
- 9 Art (MACC Visit)
- 9 Statewide Transition Day - Prep Transition 9-11.30am
- 11 End of Year Concert/Graduation 11.30am
- 11 School Play 1.30pm
- 19 End of Term 4 1.30pm finish



educational experiences for our students.

Thank you once again to our families and community members for your ongoing support. Forrest Primary School continues to thrive because of the people around it.

Warm regards,
Megan Murfitt

WELLBEING NEWS

Encouraging Positive Friendships

How to help children navigate friendships, conflict, and inclusion

Friendships play a huge role in children's happiness and confidence. As children grow, they're learning how to share, cooperate, problem-solve, and bounce back from disagreements.

Here are some simple ways families can support positive relationships at home:

1. Talk about what makes a good friend

Encourage children to think about kindness, fairness, taking turns, and using gentle words. Simple conversations help them recognise these qualities in themselves and others.

2. Normalize conflict

Disagreements are a natural part of friendships. Instead of

seeing conflict as "bad," help children learn the skills to repair it—listening, apologising sincerely, and finding a compromise.

3. Role-play tricky situations

Practice can make real-life moments easier. You might act out scenarios like feeling left out, asking to join a game, or solving hurt feelings. This builds confidence and emotional understanding.

4. Encourage inclusivity

Remind children that everyone wants to feel welcome. Challenge them to look for someone who might be alone at playtime and invite them to join in. Small acts of inclusion make a big difference.

5. Model positive relationships

Children learn from what they see. Let them observe you using calm communication, setting healthy boundaries, and resolving disagreements respectfully.

By supporting these skills, we help children build strong, healthy friendships that make school a happier and more connected place for everyone.

WEEK 6 & 7 TERM 4 & PRINCIPAL AWARD

Maya for her kind and helpful attitude and for her wonderful reading to the kindy kids. Well done Maya. You are a star!

Archie W, for your amazing effort with our school play. You have taken on a main role with courage and persistence and are putting in your best effort. Well done and keep up the great work!

Archie D, It's so wonderful to see you work so hard and celebrate your success.

Jasmine for her persistence and dedication to the school play.

Micah - for being a great community member. You have shown teamwork, respect, kindness and lots of persistence today. Well done!

Audrey, You are an all-round good egg. You are a great friend. You help with keeping the classroom organised and you work so very hard. What a legend!

Audrey and Archie W - for great persistence during our Formula 1 event. You never give up and always try your best!

Upcoming Birthdays- Stella Dw



SENIOR ROOM NEWS

We are nearing the end of the term already and things are busy in the senior room!

LITERACY

We are continuing with our text-based unit '*His Name was Walter*' and have continued to get through the chapters. Students are loving this story, particularly following along with the audio book to hear the expression - which helps them to further understand punctuation and author techniques.

NUMERACY

Students will be moving on to 3D shape this coming week. Students have a good knowledge of this already, and through our pretest data we have been able to narrow down some specific areas to focus on such as naming and classifying and identifying vertices.

PLAY REHEARSAL

Play rehearsals are a main focus the next few weeks as performance day is fastly approaching! Students are excited to work with props and costumes this Friday and are all doing an incredible job with their rehearsals.

FORREST FORMULA 1

The seniors had a great morning participating in our Forrest Formula 1 race day! It was so great to see so much

encouragement, kindness and appreciation from students. A big thank you to Noor, Pete, Al and all the members of the Men's Shed for organising the day and helping students create their amazing cars. A big thank you also goes to



our grade 6 students for being MC's for the day!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE SENIOR FAMILIES AT FPS

As I am sure most of you have heard, I will be taking 12 months leave in 2026. I have taken a position at a Geelong school, working as a learning adjustment coach. I have been studying my Bachelor of Psychological Science (Child and Adolescent Health) for the last 3 years (I am almost finished - YAY!) and my goal has been to expand into a space that focuses on student health and wellbeing. While I am sad to be stepping away from FPS and the Forrest community next year, I am excited to step into a new role and develop my skills in the coaching and wellbeing space. The senior students and families have been beautiful to work with and I am incredibly grateful to have been the senior teacher for the last few years. Thank you so much to all the senior families for making my time at FPS so enjoyable.



MIDDLE ROOM NEWS

MIDDLE ROOM WEEK 6 AND 7 UPDATE!

This term is flying by and we've been keeping busy in and out of the classroom these 2 weeks!!

We kicked it off with a walk to Hennegan crescent with the Juniors for our Land Care excursion. A big thanks to Freya and Mary, as well as the Park rangers Michael and James for organising and educating us on the local bird life in our area. It was so fun to see the kids work together to observe and identify different types of birds. We are very lucky to go to school near some of the most serene spots in Victoria!



WRITING

We build on our understanding of information reports from last term to reflect on our Monday land care excursion. The middles planned, researched and published their own information report on a native bird of choice. The students then to their work over to the Kindy where they confidently

shared their findings with them. It's been so wonderful see the grade 2 and 3s take on such awesome ownership and confidence in sharing their learning to the little(er) kids. Along side this, we have also continued to review and identify our word types (nouns, verbs and adjectives) and

practiced putting these into full sentences, as well as including them in our narratives.

MATHS

We are getting into our Space: Location and Direction unit. Students have taken it in turns,

planning and mapping treasure hunts around the school. They are building on their location and direction vocabulary and how to read and follow instructions based on mapping keys and a compass.

FORREST FORMULA 1!!!

What a fun day, the kids worked really hard on their cars. Despite wheels flying off and cars tumbling on the day, I was so proud of the kids resilience and persistence in the car races and their sportsmanship to their peers! They really made the most of it! I wonder what we'll do next?

PLAY REHEARSALS

The grade 2 and 3s are making great progress for our upcoming play. They are doing a wonderful job as both a performer and audience member as they wait their turn. We will now start to make more time during the week to practice and build confidence to make sure everyone is ready for play day!



As we near the end of the term, students are working hard to get through their learning. We also have some fun days planned – the Middles are currently planning out their Student Teacher Workshop, where they will teach myself and the other middles something they really enjoy. Date yet to be decided for this 😊 I look forward to lots of exciting learning from them!



JUNIOR ROOM NEWS

A Junior Room reflection

As we head towards the end of the term, it's always great to reflect and celebrate the learning, collaboration and fun we are having in the Junior Room .



So much gratitude to be working with these little learners!



EARLY YEARS CENTRE NEWS

The children have started their transition to Foundation at their respective schools which is so exciting for all of them. It is lovely to see them developing into these amazing young school children and we look forward to watching them from behind the fence as they go on their learning journey through school.

The children participated in the car rally down Blundy Street on Friday and I can attest that there was a lot of fun and laughter had watched their cars roll down the hill in every which direction!



Over the last couple of weeks, the children have had much fun exploring topics such as Kindness Day, Nursery Rhyme week and World Toilet Day!!

Last Friday we had a visit from Erika from Barwon Health Speech to discuss school readiness and lots of other amusing topics, I would like to say thank you to those parents who came to this info session, It was lovely to see you there and hear that all of your concerns are normal and in

time fixable even if we did have a good laugh along the way.

Please note this service will be closed on Friday 19th December for the Christmas break and will reopen on Thursday 28th January 2026.

Term 4 means hats are now expected to be worn so please make sure that all children have a hat in their bags.

Please remember to send your child with many changes of clothes, a jacket for outdoor play and if your child appears to be unwell, please keep them home to stop any spreading of illness throughout the service.

Cheers Di, Vicki, Indi & Britt.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Apollo Bay Wants Nippers!

SUN, SAND, SURF, AND FUN, NIPPERS TIME FOR EVERYONE!

- JOIN THE APOLLO BAY LITTLE NIPPERS.
- MAKE NEW MEMORIES.
- MEET NEW PEOPLE.
- LEARN IMPORTANT LIFE SKILLS.

<https://www.apollobayslsc.com.au/nippers>

Contact Colleen
Stephens.secretary@apollobayslsc.com.au or
telephone 0419374751



2026



SAVE THE DATE

Our End of Year School Play and Year 6 Graduation will be held on 11th December.

Year 6- and 4-Year-Old Kindergarten students will be graduating in the morning, and the School Play will be in the afternoon, so all students will be able to join in the fun!