

# 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,

As we reach the end of another wonderful year at Forrest Primary School & Early Years Centre, we want to thank our families, students, staff, and the wider community for their ongoing support. It has been a year filled with learning, connection and memorable experiences and we are proud of everything our students have achieved.

We are delighted to invite **our whole community** to join us for our End of Year Celebration Day **this Thursday, 11th December**. This includes our valued community partners who have supported us throughout the year: the **Men's Shed**, **Landcare**, and the **Lions Club**. Their contributions make a meaningful difference in the experiences we can offer our students.

**The day will run as follows:**

**11:30am – Graduation Ceremony**  
Celebrating our **Year 6** and



**Kindergarten** graduates and acknowledging their achievements as they take their next steps.

**12:30pm – Shared Lunch**  
Families and community members are warmly invited to share lunch together. Please bring something to contribute.

**1:30pm – 'Peter Pan' The Play**  
Forrest Primary School and Early Years Centre proudly present *Peter Pan*. The students have worked incredibly hard, and we are excited to showcase their talents in this magical performance.

This is a special day on our school calendar and a wonderful opportunity for us all to come together to celebrate our students and our community. We look forward to seeing you there.

Kind regards,  
Megan Murfitt



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### DECEMBER

**9** Art (MACC Visit)  
**9** Statewide Transition Day - Prep Transition 9am-1pm  
**11** End of Year Concert/Graduation 11.30am  
**11** School Play 1.30pm  
**18** EYC Christmas Party 1pm  
**19** School End of Term 4 1.30pm finish

### JANUARY

**27** Curriculum Day  
**28** Student Free Day  
**29** First Day of Term 4 2026



**Special Assembly Thank You to Noor**



**Student of the Week Awards**



## WELLBEING NEWS

### TRANSITIONING TO A NEW GRADE IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Moving up to a new grade is an exciting milestone for primary students. It brings new learning opportunities, new routines, and sometimes new teachers or classmates. While many children look forward to these changes, it's also normal for them to feel a little nervous. Understanding this transition—and supporting children through it—helps set them up for a positive start.

### WHY TRANSITIONS MATTER

Transitions can affect a child's confidence, sense of belonging, and readiness to learn. When children feel prepared for the move, they settle more quickly and feel safer in their new environment. A smooth transition helps them:

- Build trust with new teachers
- Adjust to new expectations
- Feel confident in their abilities
- Maintain strong friendships

### COMMON FEELINGS CHILDREN EXPERIENCE

Primary students often feel a mix of:

- **Excitement** about new topics and activities
- **Worry** about unfamiliar

- **Curiosity** about their teacher and classmates
- **Pride** in becoming "older" or taking on more responsibility

All these feelings are normal and can be great starting points for conversations.

### WHAT SCHOOLS CAN DO TO SUPPORT THE TRANSITION

Schools play an important role in helping children feel secure. Effective transition practices may include:

- **Meet-the-teacher** sessions or class visits before the end of the year
- **Transition booklets** with photos of classrooms, teachers, and routines
- **Buddy systems** to help children feel connected
- **Consistent, reassuring messages** about expectations and support
- **Time for questions** so children can express concerns

These steps help children understand what's coming next and reduce uncertainty.

### WHAT FAMILIES CAN DO AT HOME

Parents and carers can support their child by:

- Talking openly about the move to the new grade
- Focusing on the positive—new friends, new learning, new experiences

- Reassuring children that it's okay to feel nervous
- Practising school routines before the first day back
- Visiting the school grounds during the holidays if possible

A calm and confident approach at home helps children feel more secure.

### HELPING CHILDREN BUILD CONFIDENCE

Encouraging children to use simple skills can make the transition easier:

- **Asking for help** when they need it
- **Introducing themselves** to new classmates
- **Using positive self-talk**, such as "I can do this"
- **Taking small steps**, like learning classroom routines one at a time

Celebrating small successes helps build resilience.

### A FRESH START

Transitioning to a new grade is a chance for children to grow, discover new interests, and strengthen their independence. With support from teachers, families, and peers, students can approach their new grade with confidence and curiosity. Every new year is a fresh start—full of potential and possibilities.

Upcoming Birthdays—  
Hannah & Margot



## SENIOR ROOM NEWS

It is the final newsletter of 2025! I have had such an incredible year with the seniors and they have all worked so hard, shown so much growth and have been an absolute pleasure to teach. The seniors have been so kind, caring and accepting of one another and their growth both personally and academically has been amazing.



## LITERACY AND NUMERACY

We will be finishing off our text based unit within the next two weeks and students have really enjoyed our focus text this term. It has been great to see so many students volunteer to read aloud and have discussions about what has been happening in the story. Students will be finalising our unit on 3D shape this week and then we will be doing some revision of key concepts throughout the last week.



## PLAY REHEARSAL

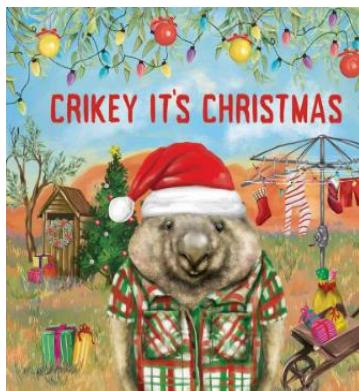
Our school play is fastly approaching and students have done an amazing job at getting through rehearsals and preparing for the performance - a huge effort and a massive well done to all the seniors!

## GRADUATION

A MASSIVE congratulations to all our year 6 students who will be graduating this week! I am so proud of you all and all the hard work you have put in this year! I know you will all have so much fun in high school!

## MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

I would like to wish all the senior students and families a very safe and happy holiday period and wonderful new year! Thank you all for all your support with the senior room this year, it has been a fantastic year!



## WEEK 8 TERM 4 & PRINCIPAL AWARD

The whole of the Junior class . I felt so very proud of the amazing role models you were when the new Preps came for their second visit this week. Well done EVERYONE!

Loch for having a calm, creative and focused attitude this week in the classroom and during play rehearsals.

The Grade 6 students (from Mrs. Melican) - for being wonderful leaders and helpers around our school (mist of the time!) Good luck on your secondary school journeys!

Stella Dv for consistently demonstrating her commitment to her schoolwork. Your hard work shows in everything you do Stella. Keep it up!

Lochlan - for great listening during our play rehearsal today. You are doing a fantastic job Loch!

Aubrey - for going about your play so nicely and doing some great listening when not many others were.

Isaac – Wow! What a week! I loved seeing you work alongside Sunny H on transition day AND you did some amazing story writing AND you are doing a fantastic job for the show. I am super proud.



## MIDDLE ROOM NEWS

### MIDDLE NEWS!

Wow, the term is flying by! The Middle Room has had another two weeks full of fun and creativity. We've been getting into the Christmas spirit with DIY decorations - creating what might be one of the most colourful Christmas trees around. Pop into the room to see the students' craft and enjoy a few of their Christmas jokes hanging on the tree! We also celebrated with the Kindy class by decorating delicious Christmas cookies and sharing a festive story together.



As one of our final projects for the year, the Grade 2s and 3s combined inquiry, art, and history to research the origins of an art form of their choice. They gathered information, turned it into well-structured sentences, and shared their findings with the class.

We learned fascinating facts about Architecture, Stop Motion, Karate, Pottery, Painting, and Music - including when each began, what the name means, and how it has evolved over time. I've already found

myself sharing some of their discoveries in conversations. Did you know "karate" means 'empty hand'??

The Middles have also been busy preparing for the school play, with multiple rehearsals each week. Their hard work is really paying off, and I can't wait to see everything come together. Many of them have surprised themselves with how

much they're enjoying this art form!

I have truly loved teaching the Middle Room this year and getting to know each of the students. I've appreciated their kindness, curiosity, helpfulness, storytelling, and wonderful sense of humour. A huge shout-out to all the Grade 2s and 3s for making my first classroom one I will always remember. I look forward to continuing their learning journey with them next year.

- Ella 😊

### COMING UP:

**Monday 8/12:** Students become the teacher for a lesson! (please message me if your child wants to bring something from home and this date doesn't work)

**Thursday 18/12:** Christmas Kringle and Party Day!

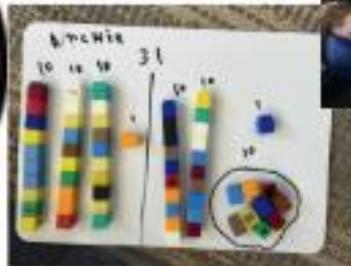


## JUNIOR ROOM NEWS

A big 'happy holidays' from the Junior Room.

What a privilege it has been to spend this term with your little people. I've loved building connections, sharing in their learning, and celebrating their growth. Thank you for your support throughout the term. I'm excited for the year ahead in 2026.

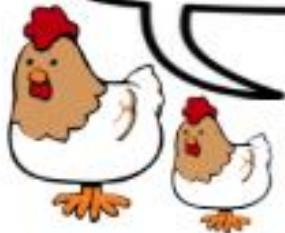
Jack - I have loved playing and creating with boxes, with my friends. Audrey was good at making boxes with me



Oliver - I created a rock person using egg cartons during creative play. I liked the way it looked.



Sunny- I have liked drawing and colouring.  
I have liked helping others learn.



Archie - I liked making Snowflakes. I was good at it.



Leah - I like it when we were with V and she made me do Grade 1 work





## EARLY YEARS CENTRE NEWS

With the last newsletter of 2025 I wanted to say big thank you to everyone who has been a part of the Forrest family this year. It will be a bittersweet goodbye to many of our families who have made up the EYC group for many years and while it will be lovely to watch the children continue their learning journey through school it will be sad that we will no longer see all of your smiling faces every day.

A big Goodbye and Good luck must go to both the Shawcross, Borton & Trebilcock/Bell families who are going off to different schools in 2026, we wish you all the very best in the future. To Laura, Fraser, Albie, Elka, Hannah, Troy, Louis and Margot, Merrin, Shani & Remi you will all be missed around the service and we hope that you find the time pop in and say hello if you are ever near.

Play rehearsals are coming along nicely and we can't wait

to see everyone there to watch all the hard work that the children have put in.

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December** is the big day for both the play and our 4-year-old Graduation ceremony starting at 11.30am with graduation then 1.30 for the play. We do hope to see you all at the hall to experience this milestone in your child's life.

Don't forget our **Christmas Party** in the eyc this year is **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 1pm**, if everyone could bring a plate to share that would be amazing, it would be a lovely way to end the year with and to say goodbye to our beautiful families.

Next year's timetable will look a little different from previous due to many factors including the incorporation of the new Child Safe standards. We will be offering a Kindergarten program for both 3- & 4-year-old, however, we will no

longer be offering sessions of after kinder/school care.

The kindergarten program will change in 2027 as we move to more hours as per government guidelines.

We will be running the following timetable:

Wednesday – 9.00am-3.30pm

Thursday – 9.00am-3.30pm

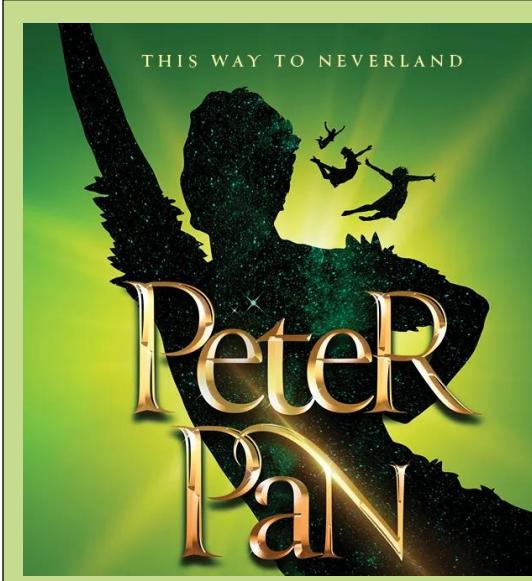
Friday – 9.00am- 11.00am  
(Bush Kinder only)

Please note the EYC will be closed on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December** for the Christmas break and will reopen on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January**.

We hope you all have a very Merry Christmas, a safe and Happy New Year and we will see you in 2026.

Cheers Di, Vicki, Indi & Britt.

## COMMUNITY NEWS



### You're invited!

**Our End of Year School Play and Year 6 Graduation will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> 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!**

## Piano Lessons

David Stewart  
Piano Teacher



Grad dip Mus

0402474925  
desmusic@me.com

Respect

# Colac Christmas Lights Tour Bus

Bus loads from 8:30pm for 8:45pm  
departure at Colac Tenpin Bowl Carpark



**Wednesday 17th December**

**Monday 22nd December**

Trip runs for two hours

Tickets \$8 per person

Prebook your seat by visiting  
[www.trybooking.com/DGRWP](http://www.trybooking.com/DGRWP) or limited  
seats available on the night (cash or card)

For more information phone 52 321 991 or  
email [admin@ocrfm.org.au](mailto:admin@ocrfm.org.au)



## COLAC CHRISTMAS CAVE Log Cabin Scout Hall

Friday 12th Dec 6:00pm to 8:30pm

Sunday 14th Dec 3:00pm to 6:30pm

Saturday 20th Dec 3:00pm to 6:30pm

Sunday 21st Dec 3:00pm to 6:30pm



**\$5 ENTRY PER PERSON**

