

# 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,**

### WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to the start of the school year. It has been wonderful to see students return with smiles, stories and plenty of energy. We have had a really positive start to learning across the school and Early Years, and thank you to all the families who attended our Welcome Back BBQ on Wednesday afternoon.

You will be pleased to hear that the snake in the chicken coop was captured on Friday. At this stage, students are still not accessing the chicken coop or garden due to the ongoing warm weather.

### FIRE SAFETY

I would like to acknowledge that the summer break was not an easy one for many families, with ongoing fire risk and recent evacuations impacting our community. These situations can be unsettling, and I want families to know that we continue to plan carefully and prioritise safety at all times. Fire plan kits are available at the front office for

any families who would like one, please feel free to collect one.

### STUDENT SUPPORT

If the holidays have been unsettling for your child, please know that support is available at school. We understand that children can respond in different ways after periods of uncertainty, and our staff are keeping a close eye on students as they settle back into routines. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns or feel your child may need a little extra support.

### EXTREME WEATHER

As a reminder, on days of extreme weather, Forrest Primary School will relocate to Colac South West Primary School. If relocation is required, I will communicate this with families the evening prior, usually around 5–6pm, via Compass. Please ensure you are checking Compass regularly during high-risk periods.

### UNIFORM

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### FEBRUARY

- 10 School Excursion
- 11 Meet & Greet Parent Meetings
- 11 MARC Library
- 16 Bike Ed Session 1
- 16 Responsible Pet Incursion
- 18 MACC Art
- 23 Bike Ed Session 2
- 25 MARC Library
- 27 Polwarth Sports Day @ Beac
- 28 Otway Odyssey Fundraising

### MARCH

- 1 Otway Odyssey Fundraising
- 2 Bike Ed Session 3
- 4 MACC Art
- 6 Curriculum Day – Student Free
- 9 Labour Day Public Holiday
- 10 - 18 Somers Camp
- 11 MARC Library
- 11–23 Naplan
- 16 Bike Ed Session 4
- 18 MACC Art
- 25 MARC Library
- 27 Student Expo
- 31 P-6 Excursion to Deans Marsh

### APRIL

- 1 MACC Art
- 2 Last Day of Term 1

Belated Birthdays

River & Marlon



A reminder to families about school uniform expectations. Students are expected to be in full school uniform each day, including wearing a hat when outdoors this term. Please ensure children are wearing **blue or black pants** as part of the school uniform. For safety and comfort, long hair should be tied back during the school day. Thank you for your support in helping students arrive at school ready to learn and participate fully in all activities.

### LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

We have had a great start to the year and are looking forward to lots of exciting learning experiences ahead. A big thank you to **Nick John** for organising our excursion to Lorne tomorrow. We really appreciate the time and effort that goes into creating these opportunities for our students.

### KEY DATES

Families will find a hard copy of our key dates in their child's bag. Please keep this handy, and don't hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions.

We look forward to a great Term 1.

Warm regards,  
**Megan Murfitt**



### WEEK 2 TERM 1 & PRINCIPAL AWARD

Junior - Isaac

Senior - Loch

Principal – Sunny H



*Hello families,*

*The Otway Odyssey is fast approaching on 28 Feb-1 March. Carparking at the event is one of our biggest fundraisers and for relatively low effort (yes, it is an early start but only takes a few hours) and as this is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition we're hoping for an even better fundraising result than ever before.*

*But we need YOU! Please volunteer to help with carparking on the Saturday or Sunday morning - shifts are 1.5 hours and all you need to bring is your enthusiasm and maybe a torch if you're on the early shift 😊*

*Shifts are:*

- 1. Saturday 5.30-7am*
- 2. Saturday 7- 8.30am*
- 3. Sunday 6- 7.30am*
- 4. Sunday 7.30-9am*

*Please contact Nicky or Freya to nominate for a shift, including your preferred shift number/time. Nicky – 0422 371 040. Freya – 0409 958 039. A paper version of this detail has also been sent home with students today to further capture responses!*

## THE OTWAY ODYSSEY WEEKEND

FORGING MTB AND GRAVEL LEGENDS FOR 20 YEARS - PRESENTED BY SHIMANO

## SENIOR ROOM NEWS

### Beginning Week 1 Reflections

#### WELCOME TO 2026!

Ella and I were extremely happy to be back in the classroom with the Senior Room students. We've enjoyed getting to know your activities, establishing classroom routines and classroom organisation.

We kicked things off with speed friending, where students took part in timed one-on-one conversations to learn something new about each person in the senior room and then share back as a group. We've been playing lots of games that require teamwork and develop positive relationships which underpin creating an excellent learning environment. We've been using and revisiting the Berry St approach principles and the Resilience Project language and the students are all enjoying the challenges and changes of a new classroom group.

In our first kitchen garden session with Liza, students explored the space, searching for different fruits, vegetables and herbs, categorising what they found and sharing conversations about the dishes they have made using them. We also harvested fresh spearmint and held a welcome back to school tea ceremony. This provided a beautiful opportunity to slow down, practise mindfulness

and intentionally reflect on how we were feeling at the start of the year, while also trying something new together. To finish off, students got creative designing and making new vegetable garden signs. We are looking forward to getting the tinkering shed up and running so we can bring these ideas to life and

add even more colour and personality to our garden.

On a practical note, we will be practising athletics during the coming weeks, so if student would wear their runners each day that would be helpful. Monday is allocated to Sport but we will be trying to brush up on athletic skills each day.

### Meet Moose!

#### Forrest Primary Schools newest (and fluffiest) addition



#### About Moose:

- Kind and Smiley
- Makes you feel calm
- Loves a pat
- Gentle and Caring
- Great with kids
- Loves the Forest and the beach (does NOT like to swim)

Ella's dog Moose has been promoted to 'Wellbeing Dog' this year. He will be with Ella on Mondays and Wednesdays. With Sunny taking the Tuesday and Thursday shifts. The kids will be briefed on this and have a refresher on the expectations with both Moose and Sunny. We also have an upcoming 'Responsible Pet Program' incursion in Week 4 to support the students understanding.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ella or Megan.



We really looking forward to this school year with lots of exciting learning opportunities planned. Shoutout to all the senior room kids for an awesome first week back – we are so proud of your efforts in embracing the change, giving things a go, spreading kindness and being patient with each other.





## JUNIOR ROOM NEWS



# Introducing The Junior Room 2026







## Getting to know us...


 Archie loves dirt bikes, but doesn't like that playdough isn't stretchy! 


Hannah loves her family  
But not brussel sprouts!


 Sunny. J loves drawing and is looking forward to mindfulness this year 

Oliver loves his computer and is looking forward to going on some excursions in 2026 


  Jack loves coming to school and really dislikes annoying people. 

Ned loves to ride his bike and he really doesn't like fruit! He can't wait to have fun with his friends in the Junior Room. 

 Just a bit of housekeeping...

 Please send in whole fruit or fruit in a separate container for fruit snack.

 Diaries will come home tonight. Please sign and return daily.

 Lorne excursion on Tuesday. Lunch box, hat, drink bottle are needed and \$6 for an ice cream treat.

Looking forward to a quick catch up with you all on Wednesday afternoon.

Jo   



## EARLY YEARS CENTRE NEWS

What an amazing start to 2026 we have had! Welcome back to everyone for 2026.

It has been a lovely and smooth start to the year. We have been focusing on establishing routines, getting to know the children and helping them to find their way in their new environment.

We would like to welcome back Georgia and Margot and their families and also extend a very big welcome to both Henry and Zeppelin and their

families to the kinder family. It is so wonderful to see new faces around and we look forward to fun and happy 2026

The sandpit relocation is 95% complete with just the roof to go on and it is looking amazing, opening up the yard giving us more space to run and explore.

Our hours this year have changed with Wednesday and Thursday running times being 9.00-3.30pm and Fridays 9.00-

11.00am. Fridays will consist of Bush Kinder only.

Assembly is now at 9.00am on Friday morning with all welcome.

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

The sandtray space is currently being moved to the old childcare room. We are hoping to start sessions next week and hoping for all children to access it this term

For those that are unsure, sand tray therapy is a type of play therapy that offers children a chance to play out their emotions or built up tension through creating their own unique sand world without the need to talk. They choose from a variety of toys, symbolic items and natural materials and can choose between wet and dry sand for different sensory needs or preferences. The tray is always blue to symbolise water and together with the sand they symbolise the therapeutic power of nature.

There are a few items we are seeking to build on our

collection. If anyone has any of the items listed below lying around to donate we would be very grateful before a trip to the op shop!

### ITEMS (NEEDS TO BE FAIRLY SMALL)

- Sea creatures
- Small blue glass stones
- Miniature books
- Sand sifters
- Tractor w trailer
- More dogs cats
- Graveyard /Halloween toys
- Little pumpkin /miniature food
- Harvester
- Mini bottles
- Bridges
- Fences
- Magpies , more birds
- Ruler
- Love hearts
- Dragons

- Chickens
- Digger
- Pretty ornaments
- Heart biscuit mould
- Something to symbolise fire
- Crosses/religious symbols

### FAMILY FOOD BOXES 🍎

Hello there,

As part of our school breakfast program we are able to order family boxes quite regularly and can often top it up with extra food from the breakfast order. Please get in contact with the school if you would like to be in the list to receive one asap, as I am going to place an order this week.

Regards, Liza



COMMUNITY NEWS



**FESTIVAL OF SPORT**  
at KARDINIA PARK



**FREE EVENT**


LABOUR DAY LONG WEEKEND  
FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH  
5PM - 8PM

PRESENTED BY **KARDINIA PARK**

SUPPORTED BY **DEARIN UNIVERSITY**

- 30+ interactive sporting activities
- Experience the thrill of playing on the field at GMHBA Stadium
- Enjoy entertainment and food trucks
- Connect with the local sporting community

[WWW.FESTIVALOFSPORT.COM.AU](http://WWW.FESTIVALOFSPORT.COM.AU)



**Community update**  
Forrest Wastewater Project

Summer 2025 - 2026

**Preferred option**

Our current preferred option is to install a pressure sewer system, a network of sealed pipes and small, below-ground pump stations at connected properties within the Forrest township. The pump stations will collect household sewage and pump it to the sewer main, located in the street. From here, the wastewater would be transferred to a new water recycling facility in Gerangamete, where it will be treated and reused.

Our proposed wastewater solution will be subject to a viable business case, Board approval, and ongoing community support.

**Timeline**

2023: Concept refinement stage

2024 - 2026: Concept design and consideration of draft business case

2026 - 2028: Detailed design of sewer network and water recycling facility (subject to approval of detailed business case and securing an affordable outcome for all).


**Find out more about the Forrest Wastewater Project**

Visit the project's Your Say page to find out more about the project by scanning the QR code.

Contact our friendly Community Engagement team via [projects@barwonwater.vic.gov.au](mailto:projects@barwonwater.vic.gov.au) or by calling 1300 656 007.

Alternatively please join us in early February 2026 where you can speak directly with the project team.

Keep an eye out for times and locations on the project's Your Say page. We'll also advertise in the local newspaper and via social media.



[www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/forrest-hub-for-rest-wastewater](http://www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/forrest-hub-for-rest-wastewater)

1300 656 007 | [info@barwonwater.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@barwonwater.vic.gov.au) | [www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au](http://www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au) | f t i n



**OCR FM**

**OPEN STUDIO & RECORDING DAY**

**SATURDAY**  
**14th**  
**FEBRUARY**

**FROM 10AM TO 1PM**

**Drop in and check out behind the scenes at the radio station!**

*Plus take the opportunity to record an announcement for airplay!*

**Piano Lessons**

David Stewart  
Piano Teacher



Grad dip Mus

0402474925  
[dcsmusic@me.com](mailto:dcsmusic@me.com)

