

# Bermagui Preschool Newsletter - 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025



## 2025 Term Dates

**Welcome to Preschool Pizza Party** (see below): Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 4pm-6pm

**Bermagui Preschool Annual General Meeting** (see below): Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 9:15am

**Governance Training:** Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 3pm

**End of Term 1:** Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April

**Autumn Vacation Care:** Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April to Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April

**Good Friday:** Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April (Preschool **CLOSED**)

**Easter Monday:** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April (Preschool **CLOSED**)

**ANZAC Day Public Holiday:** Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April (Preschool **CLOSED**)

**Preschool Professional Development Day:** Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April (Preschool **CLOSED**)

**Start of Term 2:** Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April

**Winter Vacation Care:** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July

**Preschool Professional Development Day:** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July (Preschool **CLOSED**)

**Start of Term 3:** Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

**Spring Vacation Care:** Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October

**Labour Day Public Holiday:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October

**Preschool Professional Development Day:** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October (Preschool **CLOSED**)

**Start of Term 4:** Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October

**End of Term 4:** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December

**Preschool Annual Shut Down:** Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

**Summer Vacation Care:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Please note these dates may be subject to change.

## Welcome to Preschool and Pizza Party!!!

We are so glad to welcome you all to Bermagui Preschool. We are looking forward to a wonderful 2025 at Preschool with all our gorgeous children and families.

We would like to invite all our preschool families to a "Welcome to Preschool Pizza Party" on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February, from 4pm-6pm at the Bermagui All Abilities Playground (opposite the Bermagui Country Club). All parents, children and friends are welcome. The Preschool will provide pizza. Please bring your own drinks. Please [click this link to RSVP](#) and let us know if you and your family will be coming along. We look forward to seeing you there.

## What's On at Preschool...

Our program is currently focusing on getting to know the children, families and Preschool routines, as well as developing friendships. Local artist Nicole Grimm-Hewitt will soon be starting an "Artist in Residence" program. This will be an opportunity for the children to work collaboratively to create a beautiful art work for our Bilima Room. We are also getting ready for the Sculptures on the Edge Exhibit, creating our own sculpture for the exhibit. These projects will help us to express our ideas, thoughts, feelings and emotions through art, as well as learn more about art concepts, develop our creativity and learn about our world, connecting with our community and working together. Stay tuned for further information about this fabulous event!!!

## Missing Drink Bottles

Two drink bottles have gone missing- a green Yeti Drink Bottle labelled with the name Grace and an orange Yeti Drink Bottle labelled with the name Hazel. If you have taken these home accidentally, please return them to Preschool. Thank you 😊

## Staffing for 2025

We would like to officially welcome Sarah, Paige and Cammi to our Preschool team. We continue to work closely with our new team members to ensure the highest quality education and care, as well as a cohesive team. This includes support for staff development and extension of staff qualifications to ensure all staff are qualified and able to provide the highest quality education and care to your children. A huge congratulations to Lara who has completed her Bachelor of Education and Niketa who has completed her Cert 3 Traineeship. Paige is commencing a traineeship to undertake a Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care. Mia continues her Cert 3 studies and Manda and Tilly continue their Bachelor of Education. Staff have also recently attended a Teacher Talk Language Development Workshop and First Aid Training.

Your friendly Preschool team will be working the following days this year:

**Early Childhood Teacher** - Narelle Myers - Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays (Director - Admin) and Fridays (Bidhu Room (4-5-year-olds))

**Early Childhood Teacher**- Manda Spooner- Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (Bilima Room 3-year-olds)

**Early Childhood Teacher**- Lara Crew- Thursdays (Bidhu Room) and Fridays (Bilima Room)

**Early Childhood Educators Bidhu/Bilima Room (3-5-year-olds):**

- Paige Nicholls - Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
- Naomi Hawkins - Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays

**Early Childhood Educators Bungaree Room (0-3-year-olds):**

- Lindsay Trower- Tuesdays (Assistant Director - Admin), Wednesdays and Fridays
- Bec Linfoot- Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
- Mia Jessop- Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays

**Early Childhood Educators (Support)**

- Jasmin McLean - Thursdays, Fridays
- Angelita Hochkins- Fridays
- Sarah Cooper - Tuesdays and Fridays
- Niketa Spires - Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

**Administration** - Kirsty Sunderland - Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

**Cleaner** - Tim Hoare - Monday to Friday

**Casual/Relief Staff** - Cammi Moyle and Sarah Pitsonis

**Parental Leave** - Tilly Vass

## Preschool Hours

Bermagui Preschool's hours of operation are 8:15am-3:45pm. Children will need to be signed out by 3:45pm to avoid late fee charges. We thank our families, educators and children for their support and understanding that the 15 minutes before and after these times each day is important non-contact time for our teachers and educators to develop preschool programs, prepare preschool activities, attend to cleaning and engage in staff meetings and critical reflection. Please see Narelle for further information if needed.

## Children's Lockers

Inside your child's Preschool room there are lockers for all children. This space is where each child can keep their bags and personal belongings. We will put artwork and other important Preschool information in these lockers. Newsletters and fees notices are sent electronically, unless families request a paper copy. We ask that families please provide a bag, drink bottle and lunch box that a child can manage independently (i.e. not too big, not too small, able to be opened and closed independently).

## Sharing Information with our Families

We post Preschool information through our online system "Educate", the Bermagui Preschool Facebook page, emails and our noticeboard at the front gate at Preschool for families to read. A reminder to families that a HubHello App is available to easily access Preschool information regarding your child, including photos, learning stories and enrolment information. The Preschool children will also keep work in their portfolios that will be presented at the end of each year.

***Remember to like us on Facebook and download the HubHello App***

## Pick Up and Drop Off at Bermagui Preschool:

Educators will be available to meet and greet you in each room. We invite families to come into the room, help their child unpack their lunch box and drink bottle and find a locker for their bag. If families need support to help say goodbye to their children our teachers and educators can be there to help.

If families require a detailed conversation with our educators, please discuss a mutually convenient time to organise a meeting, as at times it can be quite busy, and exchange of important information can be challenging.

On arrival and at the end of the day please remember to sign your child in and out. Children eligible for 2 days of Preschool need to sign into the Preschool iPad/QR Code for the first two days of the week and then the Long Day Care iPad/QR Code for all additional days. All other children need to sign into the Long Day Care iPad/QR Code. A reminder to all families, it is a legal requirement to sign your child in and out of Preschool each day. This can be done on your own mobile device using our QR codes or on the iPads provided.

A reminder to all families if your child is absent, please contact Preschool via email [bermikids@hotmail.com](mailto:bermikids@hotmail.com) or phone (6493 4183).

## Settling in at Preschool

Although we hope to have a happy start to Preschool, occasionally separation anxiety may occur when you drop your child off at Preschool. If you find your child is a clingy, crying or needing support, you may find the following tips helpful.

- ☺ Bring a comforter, a favourite toy, book, photo or activity from home that your child is excited about and can share with their teachers and friends and can be used to comfort them if they are anxious.
- ☺ Help settle your child in at Preschool by joining in an activity happily and enthusiastically. Children pick up on adult vibes very easily. If you show enjoyment and happiness about Preschool activities, they are more likely to also be enthusiastic about Preschool.
- ☺ When it is time to go, say goodbye quickly, as this is the most stressful period, and anxiety will be lessened if goodbyes are warm and brief. Try not to sneak off without saying goodbye as this can lead to further anxiety, mistrust and doesn't allow children to develop the skills needed to separate positively. Please let staff know if you and your child need help before you say goodbye.
- ☺ If your child senses that you are confident in leaving them in our caring hands it will help them to also feel strong.

If you have ongoing concerns about separation anxiety, please talk to staff so the best support can be given.

## Fees Information

A fee notice will be sent out shortly. Fees are due to be paid each term and are due 2 weeks after receipt of your fee notice. Parents can arrange a regular payment plan with Kirsty in the office if this is more convenient for your family. Details regarding the Child Care Subsidy are available online through Centrelink (myGov). Families become members of the Bermagui Preschool Cooperative Society when fees are paid and are then able to vote at the AGM.

## Preschool T-Shirts

Bermagui Preschool has t-shirts for sale for \$20 each in various sizes. Children learn through their senses and active hands-on experiences, which are quite often tactile, messy and of course lots of fun!!! Preschool t-shirts are a great idea so good clothes from home don't get dirty or stained. Please let Kirsty in the office know if you would like to make a purchase.

## 2024 Family Survey Results & 2025 Strategic Plan

Thank you to all our families who took the time to fill out our evaluation surveys at the end of last year. Your wonderful feedback regarding the Preschool was much appreciated and your valuable ideas and information have helped us in our strategic planning and Quality Improvement Plan for this year. Some of your ideas that we hope to follow up on include:

- ☺ Playground and garden development, including the Front Entrance and upgrade of main Playground.
- ☺ Create an all-weather staff area
- ☺ Staff support for pedagogical training and mental health and wellbeing support
- ☺ Develop special programmes (e.g. art, music)
- ☺ Family support (e.g. workshops, links with services, information to families)
- ☺ Continue to support staff development and extension of staff qualifications.
- ☺ Review and update preschool policies to reflect the Early Years Learning Framework, National Quality Framework and Children's Services Regulations.

If you have any further ideas or would like to be involved with the above projects, please see staff.

## Board of Directors and AGM

We are looking for people (parents, grandparents or community members) interested in joining the Preschool Board of Directors for 2025. Our Annual General Meeting will be held in March on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 @ 9:15am, in the Bilma Room at Preschool. At our AGM our 7 Board Members for 2025 will be elected. These Board Members will represent our families at our Board meetings for 2025. Meetings are held approximately once a month on a Friday at 9:15am (at the Preschool and/or via Messenger Video). The fabulous Catherine Chen will be available for governance training, for anyone interested in learning about or enhancing their Board Member/Committee skills.

As Bermagui Preschool is a community-based Preschool we cannot operate without a voluntary Board of Directors, so we really need your support. If you are interested or know someone in the community who may be interested in becoming a board member, information is available in the office or please see Narelle. Being a Board Member and a part of the Preschool is a very interesting and rewarding responsibility and a great way to be active in your child's early childhood education.

## Message From Preschool

Preschool is a time for children to enjoy the company of others their own age, to socialise, interact, develop responsibilities, express their ideas and feelings and above all, have fun!! We aim to encourage each individual child to reach the best of their abilities whilst enjoying their time at Preschool. We will try to encourage independence, develop good self-esteem, an understanding of others, the appreciation of friendship and the enjoyment of achievement.

Our curriculum focuses on the following areas, as outlined in the Early Years Learning Framework:

- ☺ Strong sense of identity
- ☺ Connected and contributing to the world
- ☺ Strong sense of well being
- ☺ Confident and involved learners
- ☺ Effective communicators

Our major concern is that children and parents are happy with the Preschool. Please talk to staff if you have any concerns or suggestions in any area. Parent interviews can be arranged through Narelle when necessary.

A copy of the Bermagui Preschool Policy and Procedures Folder is available at preschool. Policies are also published on our website. The policy folder is unable to be removed from the Preschool, however staff can email or photocopy policies for families on request.

We look forward to sharing your child's journey of discovery with you during their preschool years.