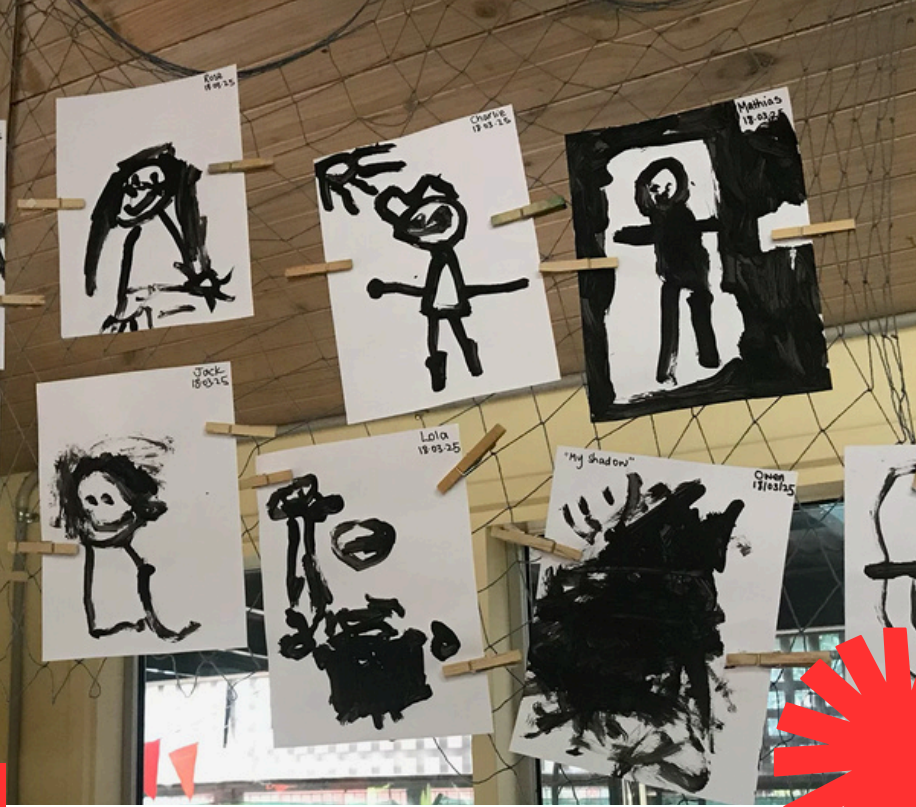




Bentleigh West Kindergarten Inc.

ISSUE 1 | April 2025



Upcoming Events

Friday | 4th April

Last Day of Term 1 Purple Group

Tuesday | 22nd April

First Day of Term 2 Yellow Group

Tuesday | 20th May

Student Free Day - Yellow Group

Saturday | 31st May | 2.00pm

Smoking Ceremony - All Welcome

Saturday | 21st June | 10am - 12pm

Yellow Group Working Bee. - All Yellow group families encouraged to attend.



**Kinder closed for
Easter break**

5th April 2025 - 21st April 2025

Director Report



"A true community is not just about being geographically close to someone or part of the same social web network. It's about feeling connected and responsible for what happens. Humanity is our ultimate community, and everyone plays a crucial role."

Yehuda Berg

Term 1 has flown! And it has been wonderful to observe the children and families happily settling into the new year at BWK.

There has been lots of exploring, creativity, collaboration and most importantly learning through play, and we hope each family is feeling welcomed and supported as part of our community. We are very proud of our community kindergarten and the learning program and experiences we provide for each child. Community is essential to quality outcomes of children, and provides an important relationship environment; promoting belonging, a sense of identity and learning; and connects children and families to supportive relationship and resource networks.

I would like to thank our amazing staff for all their hard work this term - they really work above and beyond with such dedication and care. The relationship that a child has with their teacher is of pivotal importance to the process of creating a sense of belonging. When children spend their day feeling secure and valued, they grow and develop a sense of themselves as valued, worthy of value and empowered within that value. This is the baseline of confidence and self-belief. A sense of security and identity, ability to read social cues, to understand and interpret the behaviours of others is facilitated through early childhood interactions (Vygotzky 1976).

Our recent Bunnings Sausage sizzle was a great success - thank you to our amazing fundraising team and all the volunteers that helped! This sense of community continued with our Green Group working bee and our recent Open Day.

There is lots of wonderful experiences being planned for Term 2: Purple and Yellow Group will be participating in the Resilience Project Early Years Wellbeing Program, thanks to the generosity of the Jellis Craig Foundation funding. Wishing everyone happy and safe holidays!

Kate Bennett

Bentleigh West Kindergarten Director



President Report



On behalf of the Committee, I'd like to thank everyone for a wonderful start to the year. Walking into the Kinder each week this term, the sense of joy and community spirit is obvious.

My name is Kellie and my two daughters are both at Bentleigh West Kinder this year: Darcy in Purple Group and Paige in Green Group. This year, I have taken on the role as President and I am really enjoying being part of the Committee and working so closely with Kate and the team. I have been delighted to see that the staff have immediately formed strong relationships with the children and the parents. I've also been impressed by the variety in the learning activities offered to the children, and the adaptive approach as the activities and resources appear to change frequently, in line with what the children are taking an interest in and enjoying. Speaking on behalf of the parents, I'd like to thank the teaching team for their thoughtful guidance of our children.

A highlight of my term was the social event at Grill'd. My family and I attended both the Green and Purple Group nights and we had lots of fun socialising outside of kinder. Seeing the kids enthusiastically place their tokens in the BWK jar for the Local Matters fundraising program was an added bonus. I look forward to more social opportunities throughout the year, be it organised events or just staying at the playground for a play after kinder.

Our two Committee meetings so far this year have been productive, positive and collaborative. Brianna, as Vice President, brings a wealth of experience of knowledge and a proactive nature to the team. Nadalie is our Secretary this year and her organisational skills are fantastic. Our Treasurer, Dylan, is paying close attention to our finances and offering suggestions about how we could do things better. The fundraising team of Claudia, Leanne and Ele have had a busy start to the year, co-ordinating a very successful Bunnings Barbecue fundraiser. They have lots more planned and are giving up their spare time to create opportunities to raise money and also connect our families through social events. Our Group Reps, Sairah, Carly and Kristie, have done a wonderful job at bringing the families of each group together and making sure information is passed on. Daniel, our Maintenance Officer, ensured the Kinder was ready for the first week of the year and has been helping with lots of tasks, including preparing for the Working Bee. In his position as Sustainability Officer, Myles has some great ideas for programs we can run, as well as working hard on our Reconciliation Action Plan and the upcoming Welcome to Country Smoking Ceremony. Gabriel, as Purchasing Officer, has been supporting Kate and the staff to buy items that they need to run the learning activities and daily functioning of the kinder. Shae has joined our Committee as the Grants Officer and has been managing the acquittal of previous grants, as well as looking into new possibilities for future grants. The volunteer nature of community-run kinders is something very special that we can feel proud of, and grateful for.

One of our main goals for this year is to work towards possibilities of increasing the number of children who can attend our kinder, as well as increasing the number of hours offered to the three year old groups. It is no surprise that our kinder is highly sought after, evidenced by the long wait lists. Our challenge is how to increase our capacity without losing what makes this kinder so special.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge Ann Arundell's retirement. After taking Long Service Leave for Term 1, Ann has decided to retire. After over 40 years of service to Bentleigh West Kinder, beginning as a parent on the 1984 Committee and then as an educator, there will be hundreds of children and families who have known Ann. On behalf of those families, thank you, Ann.

I look forward to sharing an exciting Kinder year with you and your families. I am more than happy for you to contact me with any ideas, questions or concerns regarding your family's year at Bentleigh West Kindergarten. I can be contacted at president@bentleighwestkinder.org.au

Kellie Dickson
Bentleigh West Kindergarten President

2025 COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The current structure and Office Bearers for the 2024 Committee are as follows:

President – Kellie Dickson – president@bentleighwestkinder.org.au

Vice President – Brianna Dangerfield

Secretary – Nadalie Abraham

Treasurer – Dylan Raeburn

HR – Vacant – Nadalie Abraham (interim assisting)

Fundraising Sub Committee – Eleanor, Leanne and Claudia

Sustainability Officer – Myles Coker

OHS&S Officer – Stuart Dangerfield

General Member Green – Sairah Subramaniam

General Member Purple – Carly McKinnon

General Member Yellow – Kristie Giannakis

Purchasing – Gabriel Dalfe

Grants Officer – Shae Higgins

Maintenance – Daniel Worrell

Enrolment, Event and Admin Support – Linda Andonopoulos



Parent managed community kindergartens

It's us – there's nobody else. Kindergartens like BWK are run by parents and carers ... many don't understand this until they have a child at Kinder. While there is some funding and advice from the Department of Education, the running of the Kinder from hiring and paying teachers, to purchasing the loo paper, is up to the people reading this newsletter. We all have different capacities for helping and that is understood, but as the year goes on and different cries for action, assistance and help go out, please remember ... it really is just us – there's nobody else!

If you have a particular set of skills, amazing generous contacts or businesses that can help provide financial or physical items for our events or fundraisers, we would LOVE to hear from you. Or if you can commit to assisting one of two of our events during the year as a helper, we would really appreciate it!



Our 2025 Executive Committee

Bentleigh West Kindergarten Inc.

Enrolment Dates

2026 3 Year Old Program
Thursday 1st May 2025
<https://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/services/family-and-children/kindergarten>

2026 4 Year Old Program
Already Open
<https://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/services/family-and-children/kindergarten>

2027 4 Year Old Program
Thursday 1st May 2025
<https://www.gleneira.vic.gov.au/services/family-and-children/kindergarten>

Bentleigh West Kindergarten
21 Patterson Road, Bentleigh
www.bentleighwestkinder.org.au
For more information: 9557 8365



Four Year Old Yellow Group Kindergarten Report

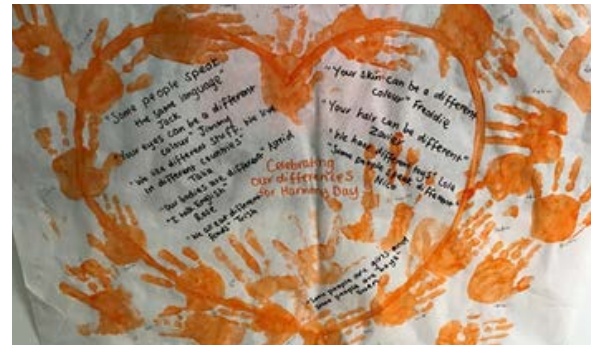


What a wonderful start to 2025 for the yellow group!

Throughout the term and as a group the children have helped create classroom expectations, a focus during our mat times. These have revolved around three ideas – “Be safe”, “Be kind” and “Be responsible.” The children were initially asked what they thought each of these phrases mean, brainstorming and sharing their ideas and thoughts with their peers. Educators have then modelled these actions in day to day interactions, encouraging the children to reflect on behaviours, and to also actively engage in creating a positive learning environment for all. We have participated in many activities and games to help each of us get to know one another, including the use of individual photo flashcards to recognise peers, and the sharing of self-portraits completed at the painting easel. We have also discussed what our favourite experiences are that we enjoy engaging in at kindergarten, creating displays with drawings and photos. During Harmony Day celebrations we have shared ways we say ‘hello’ in our language, and have celebrated our differences but how we are all the same through a whole group art display.

The children have spent much time in our garden at the front of the kindergarten. They have been busy helping with the planting of new vegetables, watering our garden, adding to our compost and feeding our worms.

The children have enjoyed eating fruits and vegetables from the garden including strawberries, figs and zucchini. They are also now enjoying many of their meal times in this space. In the last week for the term the children participated in their first community walk, a stroll down to Estia Aged Care in Bentleigh. They delighted the residents with songs they have been learning at kindergarten, a favourite being ‘Rat a tat tat’ and also some old classics such as ‘Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.’ The children each proudly presented the residents different pieces of art they had created during the term, including collage and paintings. There were many smiles and lovely words shared, a wonderful way for the children to engage with their community



After an incredible 40-year journey with Bentleigh West Kindergarten, Ann has decided to retire, leaving behind a legacy of love, dedication, and immeasurable impact. Ann has been a cornerstone of our community—an educator whose warmth and passion have nurtured generations of children.

Ann's incredible ability to connect with families and get to know every member personally is something truly special. She made every child feel seen, every parent welcomed, and every family a part of the Bentleigh West Kinder story. Her kindness and care have fostered a strong sense of community that we will treasure for years to come.

On behalf of hundreds of families whose lives Ann has been a part of, we extend our deepest gratitude. Thank you, Ann, for your remarkable service, your unwavering dedication, and the magic you've brought into our lives. As you step into retirement, may your days be filled with joy, relaxation, and the fulfillment you so richly deserve. Your legacy will forever be a cherished part of Bentleigh West Kindergarten.

Four Year Old Kindergarten Report continued....

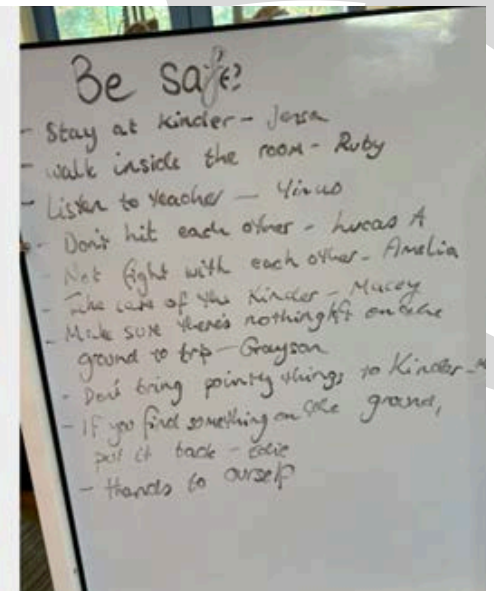
Purple Group



The learning intentions for Purple Group in Term One were firstly to support the children's sense of belonging and wellbeing in the kindergarten environment and secondly for children to familiarise themselves with the group's agreement to be kind, safe and responsible. Throughout the term, children have settled in at their own pace, taking responsibility for their belongings and increasingly for their own learning during group yarning circle. We join together at the beginning of the day to set our intention for the day, discuss our plans and reminders as well as visit some pertinent learning.

Purple Group have become a strong group who help each other when needed - together we work as a team. This is evident when children offer to help their classmate pack their bag at the end of the day, or assist a peer when they have hurt themselves. We see kindness in everyday moments and provide the children with positive feedback. We have been learning a song about kindness which the children have shared with the aged care residents at ESTIA.

Together this term, Purple Group have drawn self portraits, shown a keen interest in caring for the garden and have been lucky enough to have Chantel from Bunnings to come and plant some beautiful citrus trees as well as help us begin our Indigenous garden. The children show great enthusiasm to use scissors and glue, exhibiting their creativity and dexterity. We have discussed and learned about how cyclones work as well as recycling and making paper. We tasted beetroot grown in our garden and made multiple potions.



Three Year Old Kindergarten Report



What a great start to the year for Green Group!

The children have settled in well to kindergarten and say a confident goodbye to their families. Our visual board has supported children to learn the routines of the day - washing hands, sitting together for our Yarning Circle and for snack times, wearing their hats outside, and helping to pack away.

As we continue to settle into the year and kinder routine, Wendy and I are supporting children to feel secure and confident in their learning environment, and to make connections with us, the teachers, and each other. Children have been exploring their kinder environment and demonstrated their growing confidence, trying the new experiences offered.

Using photos of the children and our "Green Group, Group Group, Who do you see?" book has helped children to learn each other's names and build their understanding of what it means to be part of a group.

We have talked about the meaning of "Be Safe" and "Be Kind" with children expressing what this means for them, and then demonstrating being safe and kind in their words and actions. Relating to this, we have also talked about our emotions, naming them and understanding that our emotions can change - we don't stay sad all the time! Children expressed that when they are feeling these big emotions, they can change how they are feeling - by asking an adult for help, or going to a quiet space, or taking deep breaths. We will continue to teach basic regulation techniques and practice this with them. Building resilience and managing their self regulation is important for young children's social and emotional development.

Sensory experiences such as water play, sand play, mud kitchen and finger painting have also supported children to regulate their emotions, being soothing and calming experiences.

Children have expressed their creativity through play dough, collage, painting, and drawing. These open ended art experiences allow children to explore the resources available and make their own choices of how to use them, promoting problem solving and critical thinking skills. Through these experiences children are also building their fine motor skills, holding pencils and paint brushes, rolling and squashing the dough, and placing the items on their paper.





Fundraising News

A huge thank you to all the families who supported our **Bunnings BBQ fundraiser** on March 23rd! Thanks to your generosity, we raised over **\$2,700**, an amazing result that will go directly toward purchasing much-needed equipment for the children. This is such an exciting achievement, and we couldn't have done it without your support! It was wonderful to see so many of you at **Grill'd Carnegie** during Local Matters month in March. We eagerly await the result, but we were pleased to see how many tokens were in our jar so far — fingers crossed! Regardless it was lovely to see some families come together over some yummy food to kick start the year.

The children have also been busy creating their beautiful self-portrait designs for the Expressions Tea Towels, and we want to remind everyone that orders for these gorgeous keepsake creations are **due by Friday, April 4th**, with full payment required.

Please note that no late orders can be accepted, so be sure to grab a few extras for Mother's Day or other gifting throughout the year! For more information, please refer to the poster, WhatsApp updates, or feel free to reach out via email at fundraising@bentleighwestkinder.org.au.

Moving forward, our fundraising sub-committee has been hard at work planning the rest of the year, and after the success of previous years' social nights, we're looking towards planning social events for both **Mums and Dads this May!** These nights will be a great opportunity for parents to connect and have fun. Stay tuned for more details coming soon! If you're interested in volunteering for any events throughout the year or have ideas on how you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you. Please don't hesitate to reach out.



Policy Review

Policy Evaluation is an important stage of Bentleigh West Kindergarten's policy development process. It enables BWK to review the effects of a policy and identify new issues for consideration. A date for a formal review is set either annually or bi-annually and documented in the policy. This effectively starts the policy cycle again and ensures that it is continually moving. A copy of BWK's most recent policies can be found published on our website or hard copies can be found in the kindergarten foyer.

Policies approved by the Committee of Management - March 2025

Occupational Health and Safety
Sun Protection
Asthma

Policies currently in review - April 2025

Child Safe Environment and Wellbeing
Compliments and Complaint

Bentleigh West Kindergarten Inc. encourages a collaboration with families when reviewing of policies. Please feel free to provide input or contribute your time to aid in the review process of a particular policy, currently under review

Reminders.....



Join your 2025 WhatsApp group..

- for regular class reminders
- a space to ask questions
- get to know the families in your group



Community & Corporate Grants



To help maintain and extend the wonderful programs and facilities at our kindergarten as well as assist us in fulfilling our annual 'wish list' for larger improvements, the committee are continually seeking out relevant grants for which to apply. Previous successful grants have been used to help improve the kinder's sustainability, fund new furniture or fittings.

The committee does its best to be aware of any relevant grants, however we would be most grateful for any assistance from the parents or wider community regarding grants available for not-for-profit/community organisations provided by corporations, businesses, financial institutions etc.. If you have any information on the above please let us know by emailing: grants@bentleighwestkinder.org.au

REUSE PROGRAM

Our 'Reuse Program' encourages families to donate items for our craft and collage table.

This helps us reduce our impact on the environment and provides the children with a range of engaging resources. Please bring in unwanted boxes and place in our collection tubs in the kinder foyer. Below is a list of suggested items that we can use.

Please remember that we are educating children with anaphylaxis to nuts, therefore not all boxes can be accepted as they pose a risk.

Yes please

- Please bring assorted cardboard boxes: tissue boxes, shoe boxes, toothpaste boxes, soap boxes, golf ball sleeves, boxes from coffee pods, boxes from glad bags, cylinders/rolls from paper towel, cling wrap (not from toilet paper)
- Please bring washed containers: butter, yoghurt tubs, milk bottle lids, jar lids and coffee pods.

No thank you

- Please don't bring boxes that contained foods e.g. cereal boxes, dry biscuit boxes, muesli bar boxes etc.
- Please don't bring toilet paper cylinders/rolls
- Please don't bring large boxes or containers (nothing bigger than a shoe box please)

We are collecting office paper which has been used on one side. The children can use the other side. If you have access to this type of paper, we would appreciate your kind donation.

Thank you for helping us reduce our impact on our wonderful planet!



Bentleigh West Kindergarten Inc.



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025
Bridging Now to Next

Please join us at Bentleigh West Kindergarten
2pm Saturday 31st May 2025
 together with Bunurong community leaders for a
Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony
 to commemorate National Reconciliation Week
 and learn about our kindergarten's first
Reconciliation Action Plan.

Event Location: Bentleigh West Kindergarten,
 21 Patterson Road (Victory Park), Bentleigh, VIC

RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA

Bentleigh West Kindergarten Inc.

We acknowledge the **Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation** as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet, learn and play at our kinder and pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging.

We recognise the **Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation** as a Traditional Owner organisation that represents the Bunurong people of the South-Eastern Kulin Nation. We support their goals to preserve and protect the sacred lands and waterways of the Bunurong people, and their places, traditional cultural practices, and stories.

About our Reconciliation Action Plan
 We believe that education has a critical role to play in the realisation of genuine reconciliation, and our kinder can play an important part. We are committed to fostering a culturally safe and nurturing environment, through learning, playing, growing and walking together in reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Our Reconciliation Action Plan outlines how we make a strong and positive contribution to this goal.

Easter Family Night

Bunnings Moorabbin



Thursday 10th of April
5:00pm - 7:00pm

Activities and fun for the whole family

Enjoy a variety of activities including Easter-themed crafts, face painting, egg hunt, refreshments, games, animal farm, a special visit from the Easter Bunny and more!
 Bookings are essential, scan the QR code to book!

Don't miss out, register now!



Scan Me

BUNNINGS warehouse

Friends of BWK ...

We are so fortunate to have such a generous community. Please consider supporting the businesses that help us out and let them know we care, when you do!



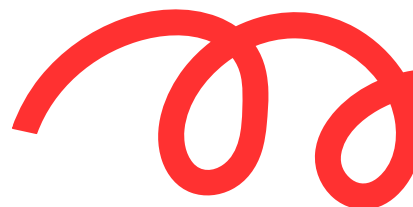
YELLOW GROUP
 Bentleigh West Kindergarten Inc.

WORKING BEE

SATURDAY
 21st JUNE 2025



Term 2
SAVE THE DATE



Exchange 10c containers for kinder donations!

COLLECT

Collect eligible containers (check for the 10c mark on empty glass, plastic, cans and cartons)

EXCHANGE

Scan your empties at a Vic CDS exchange in eastern Melbourne.

DONATE

Enter Zone ID Barcode number **C2000033858** to donate the proceeds to our kinder!



Bentleigh West Kindergarten Inc.

THANK YOU!

buxton

Thank you once again to the fabulous people at Buxton for organising our Open Day Billboards this year. Thank you to Woolworths, Bentleigh West Primary School and the Dangerfield family for hosting the boards for the past couple of weeks. We had another very successful Open Day!



GROOVE AND GRAZE

Featuring **THE CARTRIDGE FAMILY**

WITH LOCAL BANDS

**HALLEY PARK
JASPER ROAD, BENTLEIGH**

**SATURDAY 5 APRIL
12pm-7pm**

Live music | Food trucks
Family-friendly | Pop-up bar
Good times

FREE ENTRY

St Finbars School Tours

Upcoming School Tour Dates starting at 9:15am

**Wed 2nd April
Wed 30th April**

Tours of the school can be made via the website appointment through the office at any time - 03 9592 4479



FREE 88 Page MAGAZINE

ELC - Primary Learning

From 48 - 4th March 2025 - 4th 2025

READ NOW



THANKS FOR READING!





Respect • Accountability • Inclusion

Perserverance • Resilience • Empathy

TUCKER ROAD BENTLEIGH PRIMARY SCHOOL PREP 2026

Parents/Caregivers are invited to attend one of the following school tours:

DATE	TIME
Tuesday 11th of March	9:30am – 10:30am
Tuesday 1st of April	9:30am – 10:30am
Thursday 1st of May	2:30pm – 3:30pm
Wednesday 18th of June	9:30am – 10:30am
Tuesday 22nd of July	2:30pm – 3:30pm

To book a school tour please contact the office on 9557 2044.

There will be a Prep 2026 information session for prospective parents on **Wednesday 7th of May** from 5pm – 6pm in the Prep building. Please enter the school via the gate near the school crossing. Enrolments for Prep 2026 open Term 2, 2025 and close on **Friday 25th of July 2025.**

We look forward to welcoming you and your children to our fantastic school community.

BOOK A TOUR

TEL: 03 9557 2044

www.tucker-road.vic.edu.au