

Birregurra Preschool Term One Newsletter



Welcome Back!

A warm welcome to all our families who are attending Birregurra Preschool this year. It has been a wonderful start to the year seeing all the children enter the kinder with excitement and begin to settle in. The team welcome everyone and wish to thank you for helping your child on arrival with navigating and completing their tasks. Each child has a named hook to place their bag, a named locker for lunch boxes, water bottles and hats. The children then wash their hands and dry using a hand towel which has a named hook- located near the wash basin. Then off to find an activity/friend and play.

The children have completed their first week and seem to be settling in very well. It has been lovely to spend time with each child and find out more about them. Some know the routine and are able to complete it independently, while others are just learning and may need support to pop things away and say goodbye to family. Every child is different and we understand that they all need different levels of support: whether it be on arrival, finding an activity, putting a smock on, asking a friend to play, toileting/ dressing & undressing and during eating or rest time.

Being early days, the children are getting used to being back at kinder and the 5 hour session. Currently we have some families picking up around 12.30/1pm as that is what is suiting the child, while other families are choosing to only do 2 sessions not three. This is absolutely fine.

Additionally social friendships will get stronger while some are just beginning. Staff will continue to support and encourage social growth and language in everyday play. We encourage the children to problem solve and make decisions based on what they are comfortable with.

The Program is available in our Floor Book which is located on the wooden table at the front door- alongside the children's art boxes. Please feel free to look at this book and please also check and take your child's artwork home. If you wish to collate your child's work over the year we suggest purchasing a scrap book and gluing in their craft.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WELCOME BBQ- for all families.
Feb – stay tuned for date

PANCAKE DAY

Tuesday 21st Feb

Friday 24th Feb

The children will be making
pancakes! YUM

Labor Day –

Monday 13th March

Kinder CLOSED

Teddy Bears Picnic at Kinder:

Tuesday 7th

Friday 10th March

Term one finishes

Thursday 6th April

Easter Celebrations:

Friday 31st March

Tuesday 4th April

Easter egg hunt at kinder.

President's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

We're excited for another fantastic year at our kinder! On behalf of the committee I'd like to offer a very warm welcome to all our families. We hope your child is settling in and enjoying their days at kinder so far.

A big thank you to all those who worked to prepare the kinder building and grounds in recent weeks. A special mention to Brad Stephens for completing some essential electrical work over the summer break, Benn Surtees for fixing our front fence and Dave Crittenden and Rob Lidgerwood for mending the side gate and digging up the mud area and other ground works. We also had the floorboards sanded and polished over the holidays and they look fantastic.

A reminder that the committee is here to assist with and queries or issues you might have. We work alongside our teachers and educators to ensure our children have a wonderful preschool experience. Please call or email if there's something you'd like to discuss or have feedback.

We are mixing up the meeting schedule this year and we hope this might help some families attend. Keep an eye out for meeting times and dates and we'd love to see you there. It's a great way to get involved and meet other parents.

Brydie Kilday, President



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Reminders:

Signing In/Out: We have reintroduced parents/carers signing in and out in the book which is located on the table at the front door. (this didn't happen during covid). Please also let us know who is picking up at the end of the day and ensure they are on your child's enrolment form.

Pockets: Sometimes there will be paper notes, messages and book club notices for families. There is a space provided for this at behind the front door. Please check this when it is out and take your child's notes. (We try and keep this to a minimum to save paper).

Morning Buses: This is now signed- Buses expected in the morning between 8.30-9am. Please ensure you leave this space free for buses. Buses do not attend Friday's.

One Way: The slip road into the kinder is now one way- new signs put up last week, please abide by the new road rules. They are in place to keep everyone safe.

Front Gate: Please do not hold the gate open as children/toddles can run out onto the road. Ensure you hold your child's hand all the way to your vehicle.

Handle with care cards: If your child didn't sleep well or is upset for any reason and you wish to let staff know please hand them this card on arrival. They will be available next to the sign in book in a basket. This alerts staff that your child may need a little extra support that day. Or send a text on the morning to the Birregurra Mobile 0474301789

Welcome BBQ - February 2023 at kinder. The Committee put on our annual welcome bbq which is a chance to meet and get to know other families who utilize the kinder.

EDUCA APP: Keep a look out on Educa for your child's learning stories, messages from staff/admin and feel free to leave comments. We hope you enjoy these little snippets of your child's learning journey. You can also communicate with your child's teacher via the app when it is an individual story. Other's will not see these comments. The app has been useful in keeping you up to date on current events, policies and resources. (See left hand column for important dates.)

If you require a new link for this app please contact:

jodiemcgregor@birregurra.kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Parent Roster: Thanks to the parents who have put their name down on the parent roster we really appreciate your help. This time can be used to have conversations with you about how your child is progressing, playing with your child, meeting their friends and just seeing how the kinder day runs. If you have any issues this is a good time to bring them up, although please feel you don't have to wait until then. Let staff know at drop off or via email, text 0474301789 if you would like to chat. Keep putting those names down. Roster is at the kinder entrance.

josizeland@birregurra.kindergarten.vic.gov.au

What do I need to bring to kinder?

Healthy Snack/Lunch/water bottle/wide brimmed hat, change of clothes in a bag big enough for the children to use independently. The **weather** is ever changeable so please ensure you have a variety of clothes for warm/cool days and a change of clothes for your child in their bag in case we have waterplay or they get dirty. We do have spare clothing but sometimes the children feel more comfortable in their own. An extra bag is useful too so we can put wet or dirty clothes in. Sunscreen-please sunscreen your child before arrival and staff can always reapply during the day.

Healthy food Ideas

Fruit- apples, banana, grapes, strawberries, watermelon, apricots, peaches, nectarines, oranges, mandarins, berries, mango, kiwi & cantaloupe.

Vegetables-carrots, cucumber, broccoli, capsicum, tomato, celery, beans, snow, corn cobs, cauliflower, peas and avocado.

Quiche, sushi, sandwiches, wraps, pizza, rolls, scrolls, boiled eggs, chicken, pasta, rice, pikelets, banana bread, leftovers, crossants, cheese, biscuits, dips, peanut butter, pizza muffins, fritters, soup, noodles.

Please save chocolate, chips and lollies for home/parties. Thanks.

Kinder Closures /Staff Professional Development Days

On **Monday 10th July**, the kinder will be closed to allow the teaching staff to set up the room after cleaning takes place over the holidays.

There will be a day during the year that the kinder will be closed to allow staff to complete professional development and work on the kinder's QIP- Quality Assessment Plan.

Kinder Tours/ Enrolments for 2024

Families are always welcome to tour the kinder. The kinder doesn't have an open day/night as such, but families are always welcome and encouraged to come and have a look. If you know anyone who has moved to the area and has a kinder aged child, please encourage them to give us a call and make an appointment, just in case we are out and about for the day. New families are required to fill in the expression of interest form on the Birregurra Preschool website.

The Birregurra Preschool Management Committee

Birregurra Kindergarten is a community, non-profit kinder that is run by a committee of parents/volunteers called the committee of management. There are many benefits of having a community-run kinder. These include freedom for the educators to adapt the curriculum to the interests and needs of the children, a greater level of individuality, a reduction in operating costs and a huge sense of community among the kindergarten's families and staff.

The committee of management is responsible for the kindergarten's business operations and reporting to regulatory bodies. Its smooth operation relies on parents, and people from the wider community, with a diversity of skills and experiences to volunteer their time. Through the committee, members are given the opportunity to have a say, be involved in the collaborative running of the kindergarten and play an active role in the wider kinder community.

As well as ensuring the kindergarten meets government regulations, other main responsibilities include:

- planning the budget
- maintaining finances and deciding how funds are spent
- appointing and supporting staff
- organising fundraising events and social activities

Committee Messages

Successful Grant Application

The Birregurra Preschool has been successful in obtaining a grant for \$4695 from ACCIONA that will go towards purchasing new outdoor blocks and an additional outdoor picnic table. A big Thank you to the fundraising team who completed the application on behalf of the kinder. Your time and effort is very much appreciated. The children will benefit immensely from this. More info & pictures to follow.

Fund Raising

Jemma, Al and Pippa Dennis have been busy sowing seed garlic to harvest for a kinder fundraiser at the end of the year. Pippa helped sort the bulbs and then did some soil PH tests to ensure the soil was perfect for optimal growth. They have planted over 700 bulbs!

Thank you to the Dennis Family for working on this fantastic project for the kinder. Students will have the opportunity to help sell the garlic at the Birregurra Market Stall later in the year. Keep an eye out for more progress reports and updates!

Committee Member Details

The committee is happy to be contacted regarding any kinder issues: Whether you have any questions, ideas, compliments or complaints/ grievances. We are here to help! Please find our contact details below.

Committee President: Brydie Kilday
president@birregurra.kindergarten.vic.gov.au
0400 564 755

Committee Vice President: Cassie Stephens
vicepresident@birregurra.kindergarten.vic.gov.au
0407 0566 62

Committee Secretary: Nickeeta Roache
Secretary@birregurra.kindergarten.vic.gov.au
0417 6885 58

Committee Treasurer: Stephanie Crittenden
treasurer@birregurra.kindergarten.vic.gov.au
0407 507 897

Next Committee Meeting:

**Tuesday 7th February 2023 –
7pm ALL WELCOME**



Meet the Team: Jo, Jodie, Carlie, Sala & Jodie Mc

Jo Sizeland- Nominated Supervisor/Ed Leader/Kindergarten Teacher-

Hours Monday- Friday 8am-3.30pm.

Hi everyone, I've been working at Birre Preschool for 5 years now and absolutely love it. We are so lucky to have such a beautiful space here with amazing resources. I live in Moriac and spend most of my down time with my Husband Ian, two children Isaac and Chelsea and my wonderful active kelpies Blaze and Cherry. My favorite Colour is Blue, I enjoy science, maths, reading, walking, cooking and keeping fit/healthy.

Jodie Simpson- Co- Educator- Hours Monday- Thursday 8am-3pm

Hello families, my name is Jodie and I have been working here for 23 years. The kinder has changed so much in that time but what hasn't changed is the lovely families that attend. I have the best job in the world and am so grateful to be working here and meeting so many wonderful people. Currently I'm living in Forrest but have spent the majority of my adult life here in Birregurra raising my now adult children Tilly and Jack. My passion is my garden and I like to share that with the children, I also enjoy cooking, walking my dog "Sailor Moon", camping/traveling and can't wait to be a Nanna. I love a good curry and like to look after/care for nature and repurpose things when I can.

Carlie Smith- Co Educator- Hours Monday, Tuesday and Friday 8.45-3pm

Welcome all to a new year! My name is Carlie and I have been working here casually and now part time for a few years. I live in the beautiful town of Deans Marsh raising my 2 girls. I have worked in early childhood education for 15 years ranging from occasional care, family daycare and preschools. I love going to work with children and helping them learn, grow and most of all, hearing their laughter.

Sala Spowart- Co Educator- Hours Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8am-3pm

Hi my name is Sala and I live locally here in Birre with my soon to be husband Matt and my to-fury friends, I have lived in the Birregurra community for 26 years and enjoy what this small community brings to Birregurra. I have worked in long day care setting for 10 years.

I look forward to being a part of each child's learning and growth journey and building a connection with the children to ensure they feel safe and secure within their learning environment is important to me as an educator.

Jodie McGregor- Office Administrator - Hours Monday's 8.30-3pm

I live in Winchelsea with my husband and two teenage girls running a tree nursery and a project management business. I love working in the Birregurra community and enjoy helping our staff, the committee and parents.



2023 Term Dates

	Start Date	End Date
Term One	Monday 30 th January 2023	Thursday 6 th April 2023
Term Two	Monday 24 th April 2023	Friday 23 rd June 2023
Term Three	Monday 10 th July 2023	Friday 15 th September 2023
Term Four	Monday 2 nd October 2023	Monday 20 th December 2023



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