



BEECHWORTH KINDERGARTEN

Welcome! 2027 Family Information Booklet

The teaching team and Committee of Management would like to warmly welcome all parents, guardians and children to the Beechworth Kindergarten for the year 2027.

This information booklet has been designed to provide information about the Kindergarten and how it operates.

Our Kindergarten depends on, and highly values the involvement and support of the families and friends of our children to enable its operation.

education ✨ play ✨ imagination ✨ nature ✨ community



0494 154 381

Child's Way, Beechworth VIC 3747

beechworth.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

beechworthkinder.com.au



Beechworth Kindergarten

Beechworth Kindergarten has been operating for over 60 years, in various locations around Beechworth, with a strong history of providing early childhood education to the local children.

We often have parents of our children reminiscing about their time at the kindergarten many years ago and we enjoy sharing their stories.

Things have changed over the years in education, facilities, staffing etc but the ongoing kinder principles remain – to provide high quality education, in a nurturing environment that is available to all families.

2026 Beechworth Kindergarten Staff

Teacher/Educational Leader:	Nicky Isaac
Teacher:	Kayla Collier
Teacher:	Emily Alcock
Teacher/Educator/Admin:	Katie Skinner
Teacher/Educator:	Jo McGrath
Educator:	Abbie Gladstone

Kindergarten Contacts

During session phone:	0494 154 381
Email:	beechworth.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

General Information

Licensee:	Beechworth Kindergarten Inc.
Primary Nominee:	Nicky Isaac
Educational Leader:	Nicky Isaac

Responsible Gov. Dept:

Department of Education and Training (DET)
PO Box 403, Benalla, Victoria 3672
Dept. contact: Jo Bruce Phone: 02 60557777





**Best Start
Best Life**

**We're proud to
offer Pre-Prep!**



2027 Hours of Operation

In 2027, 4-year-olds can attend up to 20 hours of fully funded (free) pre-prep, and 3-year-olds can attend up to 15 hours of fully funded (free) kindergarten. Our Bush Kinder program for 4-year-olds will continue in Terms 2 and 3, running for approximately 3 hours each week.

We will also offer additional hours and days, subject to availability. These extra sessions are optional, paid for by families, and require families to opt in for the term.

For 2027, the timetable has been designed so that the 4-year-old group attends together on Monday and Tuesday, and then splits across Wednesday and Thursday, joining the full 3-year-old group. This mixed-age structure supports peer mentoring, with our confident 4-year-olds helping younger children learn routines, expectations, and social skills.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		Cross Age Groups		
4yo A	4yo A	4yo A	4yo A Optional Extra Paid Day	Closed
4yo B	4yo B	4yo B Optional Extra Paid Day	4yo B	
	(Bush Kinder Term 2 & 3)			
8:30am	8:30am	8:30am	8:30am	
4:00pm	4:00pm	1:30pm	1:30pm	
		1:30pm-4:00pm	1:30pm-4:00pm	
		* Optional extra paid hours	* Optional extra paid hours	
3yo Extra Paid Day Optional	No 3yo Program	3yo	3yo	
8:30am		8:30am	8:30am	
4:00pm		4:00pm	4:00pm	

Families of 4-year-olds are welcome to indicate a preference for Group A or Group B. However, final group placements are determined by the kindergarten based on overall numbers and cohort needs, and **we cannot guarantee that preferences will be accommodated.**



Immunisation requirements

Under the "No Jab, No Play" legislation that came into effect on 1st January 2016, children are required to be fully vaccinated for their age before they can be enrolled in a Kindergarten program. Therefore, our Kindergarten is required to obtain written evidence that your child is fully immunised for their age, is on a vaccination catch-up program or is unable to be fully immunised for medical reasons. Conscientious objection is not an exemption.

Planned Term Dates for 2027 align with the Victorian School Calendar:

TERM 1 DATES: Thursday 28th January - Thursday 25th March

TERM 2 DATES: Monday 12th April - Friday 25th June

TERM 3 DATES: Monday 12th July - Friday 17th September

TERM 4 DATES: Monday 4th October - Friday 17th December



Public Holidays for 2027

The Beechworth Kindergarten will be closed on all Victorian Public Holidays. *You will be reminded of these days beforehand.*

- Labour Day: Monday 8th March
- King's Birthday: Monday 14th June
- Friday before the AFL Grand Final: Subject to AFL Schedule
- Melbourne Cup Day: Tuesday 2nd November

Pupil Free Days

Teaching staff are allocated up to 4 pupil-free days per year. These are usually taken at the beginning and/or the end of the year for set-up and pack-up days, as well as transition report writing. They are also used for Professional Development when deemed appropriate. You will be advised with advanced warning of these days.

Fees

In 2027, sessional kindergarten services that participate in the Victorian Government's 'Free Kinder' program receive a per child payment to provide a free, up to 20-hour Pre-Prep kindergarten program for all 4-year-old students. As well as up to 15 hours funded for 3-year-old students. Any additional hours will need to be paid for by families and will be invoiced each term. As part of our funded 4-year-old program, we offer a rich Pre-Prep experience designed to support children as they move toward school.

Pre-Prep at Beechworth Kindergarten

Our 4-year-old program provides a gentle, play-based introduction to the skills, routines and confidence children need as they move toward school. While we do not replicate a school



environment, we intentionally build the foundations that help children feel capable, curious and ready for their next learning journey.

Children learn best through meaningful play, strong relationships and opportunities to explore their world. Our Pre-Prep approach reflects this by focusing on:

- **Social and emotional development** – building friendships, managing emotions, developing resilience, and learning to work with others.
- **Independence and self-help skills** – encouraging children to take responsibility for their belongings, make choices, solve problems and persist with challenges.
- **Early literacy and numeracy foundations** – through songs, stories, conversations, mark-making, counting, sorting, patterning and real-life experiences woven naturally into play.
- **Curiosity, creativity and imagination** – providing open-ended materials, nature-based learning, and opportunities for children to express ideas in many ways.
- **Physical development** – strengthening fine-motor and gross-motor skills through climbing, building, drawing, threading, running, balancing and outdoor exploration.
- **Connection to Country and community** – learning through our natural environment, Bush Kinder program, and shared community experiences.

Our Pre-Prep program supports each child at their own developmental stage. We work closely with families throughout the year, offering ongoing communication, informal conversations, and a formal Transition Statement at the end of the year to support a smooth and positive start to school.

Our Philosophy

We recognise the First Nations people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we educate and learn. We respect and value their knowledge, culture and history, which we endeavour to learn about and learn from. We believe in the importance of families as their child's first teacher and we recognise that family relationships are crucial in a child's life. We value and embrace the sharing of information and ideas to enhance the child's learning, and we actively encourage family partnerships and participation.

We believe there is value in the natural environment and materials. We teach children how to care for, respect and maintain natural spaces and materials, whilst learning about, and having respect for, the indigenous stories of the space that they play in.

We are committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and nurturing environment. Children are free to experiment, make choices, take risks and support each other in an environment where they are active participants in their own learning. We provide a child directed, play-based program with a strong emphasis on developing and facilitating respectful relationships and kindness. We believe that this fosters life skills such as resilience, flexibility, communication and confidence, as well as promoting a sense of wonder, wellbeing and belonging.

We value the individuality, knowledge, qualifications, and experience of all staff. We encourage personal and team growth within a positive environment that encourages enthusiasm, dedication and contribution. We believe continual reflection that involves educators, families and children helps our practice, program and environment evolve in a way that incorporates



the needs and values of our community. We respect, value and accept each child, and any person who forms a part of our community, as an individual; embracing and celebrating all forms of abilities, genders, religions, cultures and family backgrounds. Everyone is welcome.

Our Values

- *Education*
- *Play*
- *Imagination*
- *Nature*
- *Community*



Policies

You can find information on each policy in the 'Beechworth Kindergarten Policy Book'. Please see staff if you would like access to this. All policies are also available on Google Drive via a QR code by request.

Health and Wellbeing

We strive to create an environment that assists all members of the service to experience physical, mental, emotional and social wellbeing, and we recognise the importance of a whole-service approach to Health and Wellbeing. We have a Health Promotion Charter and are recognised as a Health Promoting Early Childhood Service. We work in partnership with local health providers to implement the Achievement Program Framework to further develop activities, policy and practice that supports health and wellbeing.

Communication

- Newsletters: Staff and Committee members endeavour to keep you informed on all upcoming events; this happens via a newsletter each term from staff, a copy of which can be found on the noticeboard at the door, or sent via email if your email address is provided on the kindergarten enrolment form.
- Email: Important information, events and other business of parent interest may also be sent to families via the email address provided on the enrolment form.
- Meeting minutes: Minutes of the Committee of Management's monthly meeting can be made available upon request.
- KindyHub: Staff use KindyHub to keep families up to date with the goings-on of the learning program. This includes reminders, photos and learning insights. A consent form will need to be signed in order to receive this communication.

Progress Reports



- 4-year-olds: There will be a Transition Statement at the end of Term 4 with parent/teacher interviews.
- 3 and 4-year-olds: If you have any concerns about your child throughout the year, you can talk to the teacher by making an appointment, or parents are welcome to email any queries or call the Kindergarten.

Privacy

Our kindergarten strives to protect the privacy of our children's personal information. The kindergarten has a privacy policy to ensure sensitive information regarding our children remains respectfully confidential. Personal information such as medical conditions, behaviours, developmental diagnoses and social circumstances should not be discussed outside the kindergarten. If you have concerns regarding privacy, please feel free to discuss with the kindergarten teachers.



Child Behaviour

Beechworth Kindergarten is an inclusive organisation that understands all children learn and behave differently. Children may be at different developmental stages and therefore have a variety of subsequent behaviours and needs. If you have any concerns regarding your child or a child at the kindergarten, please discuss it directly with the kindergarten teacher. It is important to respect our children by not discussing individual behaviour with those who are not directly involved in their care.

Committee of Management

- Volunteer parents manage many kindergartens in Victoria as part of an incorporated committee.
- An incorporated committee of management consists of parents and interested community members who are elected at the Annual General Meeting to manage the legal, financial and employment responsibilities of the kindergarten.
- The committee members are volunteers who are prepared to dedicate many hours to ensure the centre operates in the best interests of the children and families within the community, and without the committee, the kindergarten could not run. We really encourage as many families as possible to get involved where possible!
- **AGM AND INFORMATION NIGHT WILL BE SCHEDULED SHORTLY**

What does the Committee of Management do?

The Beechworth Kindergarten Committee of Management manages all affairs pertaining to the Beechworth Kindergarten. This includes:

- Providing support and encouragement to our teaching team
- Setting and reviewing policies
- All staffing issues including recruitment, staff training, payroll and performance appraisal



- All financial and budgeting matters
- Child enrolments and Government funding arrangements
- Quality Assurance
- Fundraising
- Maintenance and upgrading of grounds and equipment.

At all times we are mindful of our role to ensure we are providing a safe and happy learning environment for our children. We liaise with parents and families, State and Local Government bodies, other community organisations and local businesses.

The Beechworth Kindergarten Committee of Management consists of five Executive Members and General Members. The Committee meets once per month. At meetings we discuss matters relating to all the above mentioned areas. We make decisions and, providing we have a quorum, make, and change policies as deemed necessary. All parents are welcome to attend.

We plan special general meetings aimed at providing interesting and informative evenings in a semi-formal environment, where the parents of all our children can meet and socialise and learn a little more about the kindergarten.

We discuss and plan projects to enhance and improve the grounds. When deemed necessary, we schedule working bees and encourage families to participate.

We keep a constant eye on our budget to ensure it is not exceeded, whilst capitalising on all our funds to ensure that our kindergarten is the best it can possibly be.

We discuss, debate and plan fundraising activities to help raise money, so that new equipment can be purchased for the centre.

Whilst the Committee of Management can be somewhat time consuming, and at times challenging, it is also very rewarding and provides a great opportunity to learn and be part of a management team, as well as connect with other local families.

New Committee members are always welcome. If you would like to know more or are interested in getting involved, please talk to our Kindergarten Teaching Team, Committee President or any Committee member.

The kindergarten's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is the time a new Committee is elected, for without a Committee of Management the kindergarten cannot operate. Parents who will have children enrolled at the kindergarten the next year should consider whether they could contribute as a member of the committee. If parents require more information about this, please do not hesitate to ask. The AGM is usually held in Term 3 each year, with the specific date notified by email four weeks prior to the meeting.

The 2026 Kinder Committee Executive Team

President: Rebecca Spiteri

Vice President: Jennifer Leigh





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Treasurer: Belinda Scott

Secretary: Chris Jacobs

General Members: Kayla Collier, Averil Halleur, Lara Lynch, Georgia O'Connor, Holly Benedetti, Catherine Rees

Committee email: beechworth.committee@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Fundraising

The involvement of parents/guardians and friends in fundraising is vital in raising funds to purchase new equipment for the kindergarten. We appreciate all your input to help to achieve our goals.



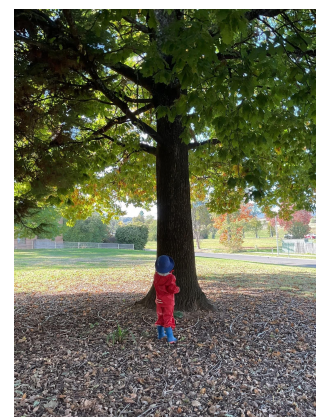
YOU AND YOUR CHILD

Your child's first few weeks:

Subject to current government health and safety regulations/the DET, you are welcome to stay if your child needs you. If you do stay, move away from your child occasionally, talk to other parents or children while staying within your child's sight. When you decide to leave, reassure your child that you will return to pick them up. Tell the staff you have decided to leave so they can be with your child. If your child is distressed or becomes distressed during the session, the teacher will telephone you to discuss the next step. In most cases, the child will settle and be playing within five minutes.

What clothes to wear:

- We encourage the kinder uniform which is available for purchase through Beechworth Kindergarten's uniform provider - Steers Co Wangaratta. More information below.
- If you choose not to wear the uniform, appropriate clothing as per the Sunsmart policy is encouraged.
 - o Clothing should cover the shoulders; singlets are discouraged for outside play.
 - o Wearing dresses should be avoided as they get in the way of crawling and climbing activities.
 - o It is recommended to pack spare undies, socks, pants, and a top in your child's backpack.
 - o Please avoid sending your child in thongs or crocs as they become a tripping hazard. Sneakers or enclosed sandals are a great choice.
 - o We perform a lot of messy activities, so please don't send your child in their best clothes.
 - o Gumboots are great for winter, especially in our digging/mud patch. You are welcome to leave a pair of gumboots at the kindergarten for use throughout the year.
 - o During wet weather children may still have the opportunity to play outside with the use of appropriate waterproof jackets and gumboots. If any parent/guardian has any issues with this please speak to our staff.
 - o Please ensure all clothing and belongings are clearly labelled.
- **Hats** - We encourage a broad-brim hat to shade the face, neck and ears in accordance with our Sunsmart policy (baseball caps are not to be worn as they do not protect the neck and ears). **Your child is required to wear a broad-brim hat for Term 1 and Term 4.** However, we encourage hats all year round. This also follows the local school's policy. You may choose to purchase a kindergarten hat through the kindergarten uniform provider or alternatively purchase your own hat.
- **Sunscreen** - We supply sunscreen for the children to wear, however if you would prefer your child wears a specific sunscreen due to skin sensitivity, please provide it in your child's kindergarten bag with a name clearly labelled.





What food to provide with your child:

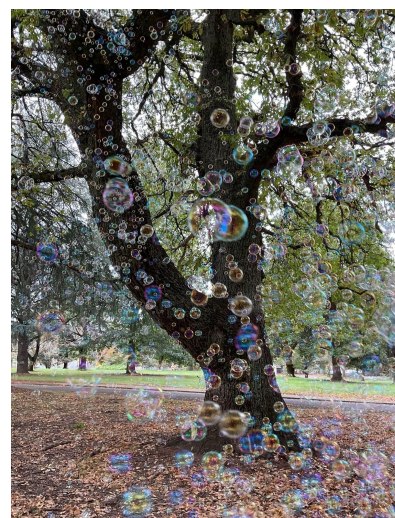
- Fruit, vegetables, cheese, plain dry biscuits or dried fruit would be good choices for snack time. When children are attending kindergarten, children will require a healthy morning fruit snack, plus lunch, which may be a wholesome sandwich or bread roll and an extra piece of fruit/vegetable etc as well as an afternoon snack.
- Healthy food is essential for your child's growth and learning, *so we strongly discourage unhealthy snack foods* such as chips, biscuits, chocolate bars, roll-ups and even muesli bars.
- If your child has special dietary needs, please speak to the staff.
- A drink bottle with water only will also be required.
- Please make sure your child can easily *open and close* both the lunch box and drink bottle and that their *name is clearly marked on them*.
- Beechworth Kindergarten is a **NUT FREE** organisation. Please do not send nuts or nut products to kindergarten with your child. Read the label of pre-packaged food to ensure there are no nuts in any of the ingredients.
- Leave treats for home. Our Kindergarten implements the Achievement Program Health and Wellbeing Framework and we have been recognised and awarded as meeting the Healthy Eating and Oral Health Benchmarks. We ask that no treats or sweet drinks are to be sent to kindergarten. Water only for drinking.

Signing In / Out

It is a legal obligation to physically handover your child to the teacher each day. You must sign in your child each day and indicate who will be picking them up and when. You must remain with your child at the Kindergarten until the commencement of the session, or when a staff member is present to accept your child. **The Kindergarten cannot take children early as we are only licensed for the operating hours provided in this booklet.** Similarly, only people you have indicated on your child's enrolment form can pick them up, so it is important to ensure these records are accurate and that you are timely at pick-up to avoid any late pick-up fees that may occur.

Children's Work

Some of your child's artwork will be on display in the room. Other artwork can be found in the boxes above students' bags. Please check regularly as your child has spent a lot of time creating their masterpieces. Not all work can be kept intact (e.g. block building), but it can always be talked about and reflected upon. We do take numerous photos and photocopies of children's work, that are either sent home, shared on the KindyHub App, or filed in their journal books (which families receive at the end of the year).





How sick is too sick?

If your child has a temperature, has vomited, or had diarrhoea in the last 24 hours, has conjunctivitis, head lice or any of the infectious diseases listed on the '*exclusion table*' (found in the Policy and Procedure Manual or online at

<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion-table>, they must be kept at home until they are better or until a doctor certifies that they are no longer infectious. It is important to contact the kindergarten if your child is absent and to detail if they have a contagious illness.

Parent feedback

The teachers/educators at Beechworth Kindergarten are very approachable and encourage you to discuss any concerns you may have with them. If you are not comfortable doing this, please discuss your matter with a committee member.

Uniform

Uniform is encouraged but not compulsory. Families may choose items that suit their child's comfort and needs.

All uniform orders are made directly through Steers Co in Wangaratta <https://www.steersco.com.au>. Keep an eye out for communication regarding 2027 ordering. Uniform consists of:

- A teal Beechworth Kindergarten embroidered t-shirt
- A navy Beechworth Kindergarten embroidered polar fleece jumper
- A navy Beechworth Kindergarten embroidered bucket hat

