

January

2026

Newsletter

Dreamtime Sisters by Colleen Wallace



Little Assets Forest Hill respectfully acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which the centre is based on, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, and pays our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

This Month at Little Assets

Happy New Year and welcome to 2026!

We hope you had a joyful and relaxing festive break with your loved ones. As we begin a new year, we are excited to welcome our children and families back and look forward to another year of learning, growth, and connection together.

What's On in JANUARY

1st – New Year's Day
Centre closed

26th – Australia Day / Survival Day / Invasion Day
Centre closed

26th to 30th - New Classrooms
Orientation begins

We're excited to welcome Rajat, our new Educational Leader, to the Little Assets family.



"Hello everyone! My name is Rajat, and I am genuinely thrilled to be taking on the role of Educational Leader here at Little Assets Forest Hill.

As a dedicated Early Childhood professional, I believe our greatest strength is our shared commitment to the children. In the words of the incredible educator Rita Pierson, 'Every child deserves a champion...' and I believe that holds true for every person here, educator or child.

My job is to support, inspire, and collaborate with every educator to refine our curriculum, promote inquiry-based learning, and ensure our centre's philosophy is truly brought to life. I look forward to connecting with each of you, and with our families, to build on the wonderful foundation that is already here and grow together as a leading team. I look forward to partnering with you all."



Happy Graduation to our Yellow Room children!!

Announcements

New Classroom

Children's transition to their new classroom will take place on 2nd Feb 2026, Orientation will start a week before.

Water Play

This month our children will engage in a lot of water play, please ensure there are spare clothes and hats packed in their bags!

3.5YO MCH

Our centre offers in-site MCH checks for all children, Maternal Health Nurse from Whitehorse Council will be conducting the visits. Appointments ONLY.

MEDIA UPLOAD ON STORYPARK

25 photos ONLY

From January 2026, media limits will apply to any images, videos, and PDFs uploaded within a single Storypark post.

This supports our shared commitment to keeping children's digital presence safe, respectful and meaningful.

At Little Assets Forest Hill, we will be setting a limit of 25 media items per story.

What does this mean for families?

- Daily Journals will include up to 25 photos
- Educators will select the most meaningful moments from the day rather than uploading large numbers of similar images.
- More focus on children, less on screens
- With fewer photos to upload, educators can spend more time engaging, observing, teaching and supporting children's learning and wellbeing.
- Higher quality documentation
- Families will continue to receive rich, thoughtful updates that focus on learning, relationships and key moments, not just quantity of photos.

This approach aligns with our Child Safe Standards, Digital Safety Guidelines and the National Model Code, ensuring children's images are shared thoughtfully and with respect.

Thank you for supporting this important step in protecting children's privacy while strengthening meaningful learning documentation

Transitioning into the new classroom

Orientation will start from 26th January 2026, children will spend time during the week in their new classrooms, get to know the environment, and build bonds with educators and peers. From 2nd February 2026, children will officially move up to their new classroom.

We would like to inform you that our children will soon begin their transition into their new classroom.

This transition will take place gradually to help ensure that each child feels comfortable, confident, and supported in their new environment. During this time, the children will have opportunities to become familiar with their new classroom during orientation, educators and routines. Our goal is to make this change as smooth as possible.

Orientation will start around 10am when all educators are in for the day. The Orientation will take place daily according to the children's attendance, we will try our best to accommodate each child's needs, and allocate them ample time to ensure smooth transition. You will be receiving the new '**Goal Setting Sheet**' for you to fill in your expectations and learning you wish your child to achieve and complete in 2026. This will help our educators to include those learning goals into their daily and weekly plan.

Before the Transition (Preparation)

Introducing the new classroom : Short visits to the new room for play and exploration before the official start date.

Familiarize with Educators: Engage with the new educators and friends and talk about their Favourite activities.

Create a Ritual: Develop a special morning routine or a "transition buddy" (a small toy) to carry with them.

Read Books: Use stories about change and new experiences to help them understand.

During the Transition (Settling In)

Gradual Increase: Start with shorter stays in the new room and gradually increase the duration.

Familiar Comforts: Let them bring a favourite blanket, toy, or family photo for comfort.

Maintain Routines: Keep meal, nap, and play routines as consistent as possible.

Involve Them: Let them help pack their bag or choose outfits to give them a sense of control.

Role-Play: Practice new routines (like circle time) at home through play.
Key Support from Educators & Parents

Communicate Constantly: Maintain open dialogue with educators about the child's progress and needs.

Be Patient & Positive: Acknowledge feelings but remain calm and supportive.

Look for Small Wins: Notice subtle signs of adaptation, like less resistance at drop-off or talking about new friends.

Build Partnerships: Work with management and classroom educators to create a consistent approach.

simple strategies
for **EFFECTIVE**
CLASSROOM
TRANSITIONS

Book your child 3.5YO MHC and have it done at Little Assets



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Dear Families,

Has your child had their 3½-year-old Key Ages and Stages Assessment with your local Maternal Child Health Nurse yet? Are you finding it difficult to get to your local MCH centre?

We're excited to let you know that the Whitehorse City Council Maternal Child Health Nurse Service is now offering to complete this important assessment right here at your kinder/childcare if you are unable to attend your MCH centre. This is a wonderful opportunity to ensure your child has the best start to their learning and development as they prepare for 4-year-old kindergarten and school.

What happens during the 3½-year Key Ages and Stages Assessment?

- Growth check
- Vision check
- Developmental review
- Oral check

A friendly Maternal Child Health Nurse will carry out the assessment in a group setting at the kindergarten/childcare service.

Once you express your interest to your kinder/childcare service, the MCH nurse will provide further information for you and forms/consent for to complete prior to the assessment date.

If you'd like to discuss your child's development or have any concerns, feel free to book an individual appointment with a Maternal Child Health Nurse by calling our team at 9837 1116.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out — we're here to help!

Warm regards,
The Whitehorse Maternal and Child Health Team

Express your interest by emailing or calling us!

Introducing Slow Pedagogy in 2026

What is Slow Pedagogy?

Slow pedagogy is all about:

- valuing the present moment
- being attentive to children's pace, rhythm and interests
- enabling children to revisit their ideas and creations, places and stories
- creating opportunities for children to go deeper in their learning
- supporting time for observation, listening, reflection and documentation
- encouraging unhurried everyday routines with time for wonder and care.

What changes will happen?

- Children's Portfolio will be re-introduced to children and families.
- There will be more documentation completed on the floor with both educators and children, to spend time reflecting on the program together.

Stay tuned for more information:)

Mini Rainbow Veggie Pita Pizzas

Mini Rainbow Veggie Pita Pizzas

A fun, healthy cooking activity children can help prepare and watch transform in the oven.

Ingredients

Wholemeal pita breads

Tomato pasta sauce

Grated mozzarella or tasty cheese

Zucchini (grated)

Capsicum (finely chopped)

Mushrooms (finely sliced)

Corn kernels

Baby spinach (chopped)

Optional: cooked chicken or chickpeas

Method

Preheat oven to 180°C.

Place pita breads on a baking tray.

Spread tomato sauce on each base.

Sprinkle cheese evenly.

Children add vegetables and toppings.

Bake for 10-12 minutes until cheese is melted and golden.

Allow to cool before cutting into child-sized pieces.





**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**