

February

2026

# Newsletter

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.

9<sup>th</sup> International Pizza Day

14<sup>th</sup> Valentine's Day

17th Pancake Day / Shrove Tuesday

17th February - 3rd March  
Chinese New Year

26<sup>th</sup> Feb Dental Visit

28<sup>th</sup> Feb - 8th March  
Ocean Week

## Ocean Week



### What Children Will Learn during this week

- Names of ocean animals, Ocean colors, sounds, and movement
- The importance of taking care of our oceans
- Sensory exploration using water and textures
- Creativity through ocean-themed art and music

### Activities This Week

- Ocean animal crafts & paintings.

# Chinese New Year



**HAPPY CHINESE  
NEW YEAR  
2026**

**YEAR OF THE HORSE**

## **The Year of Horse 17th February - 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

We will be celebrating Chinese New Year at the service as part of our focus on cultural diversity and inclusion. Children will engage in fun learning experiences such as creative art, storytelling, dumpling making and music while learning about the traditions and meanings behind this celebration. Families are welcome to share any cultural knowledge, stories, or traditions with us.

### **Dumpling Making Session - 17<sup>th</sup> February at 10:30AM**

Our children will be making their own dumplings for lunch in our Indoor Garden, enjoying a hands-on cooking experience together with their educators.

We would love to invite families to join us and share this special moment with the children as they explore food preparation, teamwork, and cultural experiences.

More details will be shared soon, stay tuned!



# Reggio Emilia Philosophy



Our centre is deeply guided by the Reggio Emilia philosophy, a world-renowned approach that respects every child as a competent, curious, and capable learner. This perspective frames our daily interactions and curriculum design. Core elements include:

- **Slow Pedagogy:** We embrace the "gift of time." This intentional, slower pace allows children the freedom to revisit ideas, practice new skills, and immerse themselves in deep, meaningful play without the pressure of a hurried schedule.
- **Inquiry-Based Learning:** The curriculum is not a set plan, but a dynamic journey. It evolves naturally from the children's own questions and discoveries. Educators act as co-learners, guiding these investigations through hands-on projects and open-ended exploration.

We are also going to focus on making the children's learning quite visible and apparent. Documentation is a vital tool for that with which we capture the learning process to help children reflect on their journey and ensure transparency for families and the community:

- **Storypark:** Our primary communication hub. Keep an eye out for our "Welcome Post" which will introduce you to your new teaching team, specific classroom routines, and essential details.
- **Children's Portfolios:** Access a physical record of your child's individual work and learning progress anytime.
- **Floorbooks & Displays:** Our large Floorbooks and wall displays showcase ongoing group projects, literally making the children's thoughts, voices, and ideas a visible part of our shared environment.

## Goal Setting Sheet

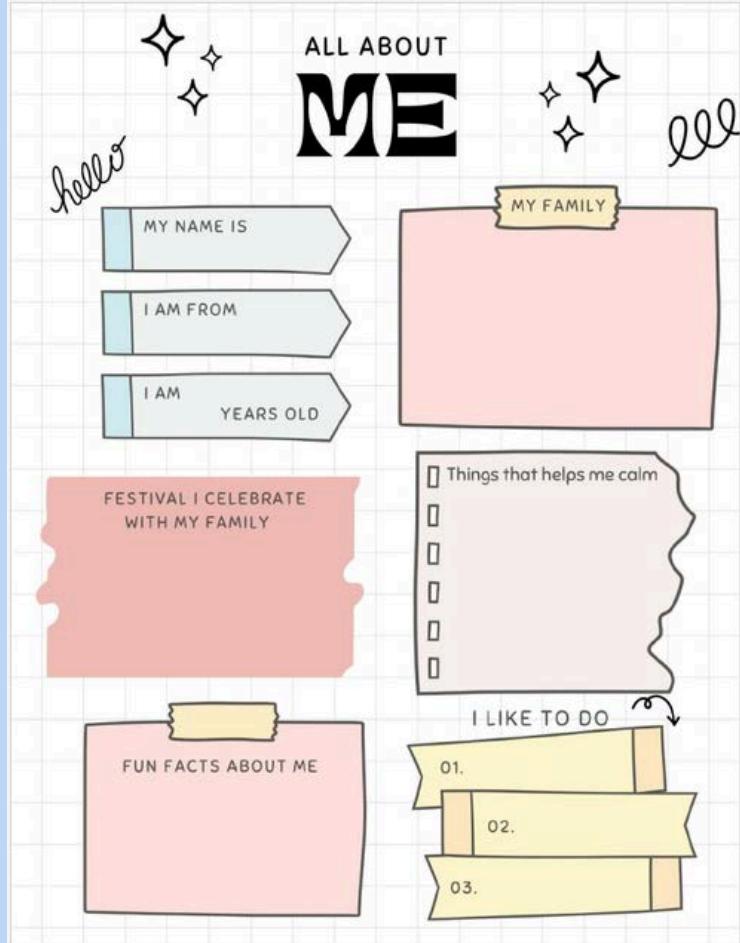
You will also be receiving the new 'Goal Setting Sheet' for you to fill in your expectations and learning you wish your child to explore more about in 2026. This will help our educators to include those learning goals into their daily and weekly plan.

### Family Goal Setting with EYALT domains

Identity and Community – Social: Focuses on children communicating wants/needs and building relationships.	Wellbeing – Emotion: Assesses how children express emotions and their self-esteem during play.
Wellbeing – Movement: Tracks motor skill development and physical coordination.	Learning Dispositions: Monitors traits like curiosity, perseverance, and asking questions.
Learning and Identity – Thinking Skills: Assesses inquiry skills and how children explore their world.	Learning and Communication – Numeracy: Covers mathematical concepts and number recognition.
Communication – Interactions: Observes eye contact, gestures, and attention during engagement.	Communication – Symbols and Texts: Focuses on recognizing signs, text, and early literacy symbols.

## All about me form

The educators will be inviting families to complete our 'All About Me' form. The 'All About Me' form is a wonderful way for us to learn about your child's current world, their unique personality, likes, dislikes, their family and community.



## Transitioning into new classrooms

From this month the children will start their new classroom. During last 2 weeks of January the children had orientation in their new classroom and new environment, made connection with new educators and peers. As the children will begin in the new room, we are focusing on helping all children feel safe, secure, and confident. Our educator will support this transition through consistent routines and familiar activities. The educator will be focused to build strong relationships with children and their families.

### How can you help?

- Keep drop-offs calm, confident, quick and consistent, as this helps children feel reassured.
- Encourage independence by allowing your child to do small tasks on their own, such as putting on shoes or packing their bag.
- Share any changes or concerns with staff so we can provide extra support if needed.
- Settling into the new room takes time, and every child adjusts at their own pace.

### What to Bring?

Please ensure all belongings are labelled, including:

Drink bottle

Hat

Extra pair of clothes

Jackets or sweaters

Comfort items

# Weekly incursions

Starting this month



Monday-Music Incursion



Thursday-Sport Incursion



Friday-Dance Incursion



# On-site Dental Visit

## 26th February, Thursday

We will be having a dental visit at our centre by Dental Squad on Thursday, February 26. If your child does not attend on this day you will be contacted by their team to book in a time to come into the centre on this day.

They provide a mobile dental healthcare service specialising in dentistry for kids of all ages. If you would like your child to be seen, please complete a consent form. You may click on the link below or alternately, scan the QR code found around the centre to register.

<https://dentsquad.com.au/consent-form/>

Dental Squad will check if your child is covered by Medicare for free bulk billing under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule which gives some children access to a benefit cap of \$1,158. It may be used towards a Check-up, Clean and application of a Remineralizing agent/Fluoride (with no out of pocket cost).

\*Eligibility criteria applies. To be eligible, you or the child must be claiming one of the following benefits: Family Tax Benefits Part A, Parenting Payment, Abstudy, Youth Allowance, Carer's Payment, Disability Support Pension, Special Benefits or Double Orphan Pension.

If your child is not covered, you may choose one of the following:

· Check-up only including a parent report for \$59

Or

· Check-up and Clean including a parent report for \$79 (Remineralizing agent/Fluoride is applied which helps to strengthen the teeth and prevent against decay)

Payment options (once the child is seen):

· Bank transfer- you will be emailed an invoice. A bank transfer can be made to the account mentioned on the invoice. Please mention the invoice number.

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· Payment link- you will receive a text with a secure payment link by Medipass requested by Dental Squad. If you have private health insurance, you can claim the money back from your insurance provider with the receipt you will be emailed once the payment is received.

If the child is not seen on the day, there is no charge

A parent report will be emailed to the parent within 24-48 hours for all the children who were seen.



**DentalSQUAD**



# Marry Me Tortellini

## Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons oil from sun-dried tomato jar
- 1½ cups cherry tomatoes (from 1 pint)
- 2 medium shallots, chopped (about ½ cup)
- ½ cup drained oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes, chopped
- 5 medium cloves garlic, finely chopped (about 2 tablespoons)
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon ground pepper, plus more for garnish
- 1½ cups lower-sodium vegetable broth
- ½ cup water
- 1 (20-ounce) package refrigerated cheese-filled tortellini
- 1 (5-ounce) package baby spinach (about 5 cups)
- 1 cup fresh or frozen green peas
- ½ cup heavy cream
- ½ cup Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, divided
- 2 tablespoons loosely packed fresh small basil leaves

## Directions

- Heat 2 tablespoons sun-dried tomato oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add 1½ cups cherry tomatoes and the chopped shallots; cook, stirring occasionally, until the tomatoes have mostly blistered and the liquid has released and started to evaporate, about 5 minutes. Add ½ cup chopped sun-dried tomatoes, the chopped garlic, 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning, ½ teaspoon salt and ½ teaspoon pepper; cook, stirring constantly, until fragrant, about 1 minute. Add 1½ cups vegetable broth and ½ cup water; bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to maintain a lively simmer; add tortellini. Cook, stirring frequently, for 4 minutes.

Add baby spinach; cook until wilted, about 1 minute. Remove from heat; stir in 1 cup peas, ½ cup cream and ½ cup Parmigiano-Reggiano until incorporated. Sprinkle with 2 tablespoons basil leaves and the remaining Parmigiano-Reggiano (about 2½ tablespoons). Garnish with additional pepper, if desired.



## Benefits of Art Activities for Children



### Sensory Exploration

Using different textures and materials (paint, paper, natural items) supports sensory development and helps children explore the world through touch, sight, and movement.

### Social-Emotional Growth

Art helps children to express emotions. Working on art projects supports patience and focus, while group activities promote sharing and cooperation.

### Fine Motor Development

strengthens hand and finger muscles.

### Creativity & Imagination

Art encourages children to explore ideas, colors, and their imagination. Open-ended art allows children to express themselves and develop confidence in their creativity.

### Learning Through Play

Art and craft activities supports learning concepts such as colors, shapes, patterns, and problem-solving. Children learn by doing, experimenting, and making choices.

### Language & Communication Skills

builds vocabulary and language skills.

### Physical & Mental Wellbeing

Creative activities provide a calming, enjoyable experience that can reduce stress and support overall emotional well-being.

Thank you for reading :)