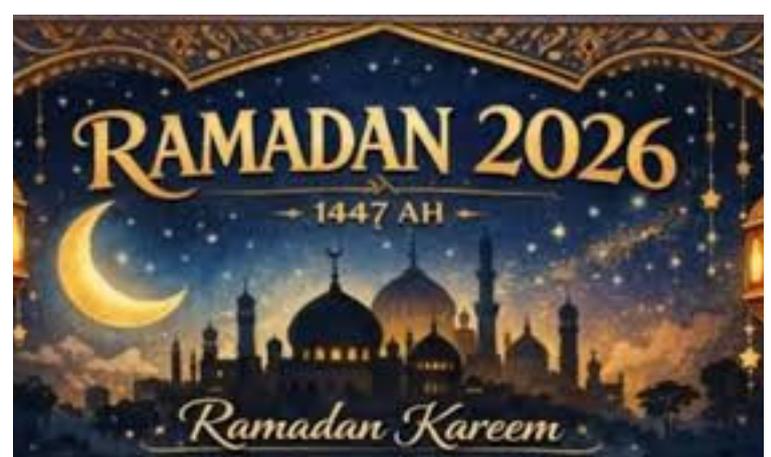


Acknowledgement to country

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 and present.

Important dates

1st Clean up Australia Day	16 th - 22 nd Harmony Week
3rd Chinese Lantern Festival	17 th St. Patrick's Day
4 th Holi	18 th Global Recycling Day
28 th Feb - 8 th March Ocean Week	19th National Close the Gap Day
8 th International Women's Day	20 th Eid Mubarak
9 th Ramadan	21st Nowruz New Year
9 th Labour Day (Centre Close)	28th Earth Hour



3rd March Chinese Lantern Festival



We will be celebrating Chinese Lantern Festival at our centre on 3rd March.

Children will engage in fun learning experiences such as lantern making, storytelling, making yuanxiao (a rice ball stuffed with different fillings) 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.

Making tangyuan/yuanxiao

Our children will be making the yuanxiao (a rice ball stuffed with different fillings) for their afternoon tea in their class rooms, 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.



4th March Holi Celebration

As you all know we always support cultural diversity in our centre, to follow this we are going to celebrate an Indian Festival "HOLI" next week Wednesday 4th march. Holi is a festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil. It is also celebrated as a harvest festival to honour the arrival of spring and the end of winter in India. The celebration includes the splashing of colours (eco-friendly powdered colours) and water on each other. It also includes playing with balloons filled with water. So, please make sure all children have a spare pair of clothes in their bag so that they can enjoy this spirit of "HOLI".





March Incursions: From Big Tracks to Tiny Feet



Little Wombat

Tuesday, March 3rd: The Little Wombat Program
We are honoured to welcome the Little Wombat Program for an immersive First Nations cultural experience. Led by Aboriginal educators, this session invites the children to connect with the land through:

- Indigenous Seasons: Learning how to "read" the weather and environment.
- Storytelling & Music: Engaging with traditional stories and clap sticks.
- Cultural Art: Exploring symbols and native animal tracks

Minibeast

Tuesday, March 24th: Chooktopia Minibeasts Program

We are excited to host Chooktopia for a special "Minibeasts" educational session! This program focuses on the incredible world of insects and bugs through engaging storytelling, models, and interactive play. Why Minibeasts? The children will learn about the vital role "tiny workers" play in our gardens and composting.

About Chooktopia
To support local kindergartens on their sustainability journeys, Whitehorse City Council has partnered with Chooktopia to deliver a range of environmental incursions.

Chooktopia is all about grassroots sustainability education. Whether you start in the backyard, home, school or shops, small steps can make a big difference.

No matter where you are on your journey, the passionate team at Chooktopia offers education programs to support you in exploring sustainable changes to create a healthy future.

Find out more:
chooktopia.com.au

How to book
To apply for an incursion for your kindergarten, scan the QR code and complete the Expression of Interest form. From there, you will be contacted by the Chooktopia team to secure your session date and time.

Contact us
Whitehorse City Council
Website: whitehorse.vic.gov.au/incursions
Email: wasteteam@whitehorse.vic.gov.au
Phone: 9262 6333

Chooktopia
Website: chooktopia.com.au/whitehorse-kinder-programs

Printed on 100% recycled paper.

Whitehorse Environmental Incursions: Kindergartens

Looking Ahead: April Excursion

To extend our learning from the Chooktopia visit, we are planning an exciting excursion to the Blackburn Lake Sanctuary in April! We'll be taking our new knowledge of bugs and habitats out into the wild to see what we can spot in the beautiful local bushland.

More details will be sent out soon!

Library excursion



Wednesday, March 18th

Yellow Room children are heading out on a local adventure! On Wednesday, the 18th, we will be taking an excursion to the library to foster a love for literacy and community exploration.

- **Storytime Magic:** We'll be joining a dedicated session to listen to new stories and songs.
- **Borrowing Fun:** The children will have the chance to explore the shelves and discover the wonders of our local library.
- **Community Connection:** This trip is a wonderful way for our Yellow Room learners to practice road safety and public transition skills as they are going to travel in the tram to get to the library.

Note to Parents: Please ensure your child is wearing comfortable walking shoes and their hats.

A Month of Culture, Care & Community

♥ March 16th–22nd: Harmony Week

The message of Harmony Week is "Everyone Belongs." We will be celebrating our diverse backgrounds and the vibrant multicultural fabric of our community. It promotes inclusion through activities like wearing orange (the color of harmony), sharing multicultural food, storytelling, and dressing in traditional attire to teach children respect, kindness, and unity.



Ramadan (End 20th March)

Ramadan is celebrated to commemorate the revelation of the Quran to Prophet Muhammad, serving as a month for intense spiritual renewal, prayer, reflection, and charity. Muslims fast from dawn to sunset, abstaining from food, drink, and other physical needs to develop self-discipline, empathy for the less fortunate, and a closer relationship with God (Allah).



March 18th: Our Sustainable Officer will visit the children to introduce the concept of recycling in a fun and engaging way. Through hands-on activities and simple discussions, the children will learn how to reduce waste and care for the environment. This experience will help build their understanding of sustainability and encourage positive habits from an early age.

Healthy Pasta Salad

Ingredients

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup farfalle pasta
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup arugula
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup cannellini beans canned, drained and well rinsed
- $\frac{1}{4}$ red bell pepper diced
- 1 green onion diced
- 2 tablespoon black olives sliced
- 2 tablespoon sun-dried tomatoes in oil
- 2 tablespoon fresh basil chopped
- 2 tablespoon fresh mint chopped
- 2 tablespoon fresh parsley chopped
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup vegan feta or traditional

Basic Vinaigrette

- 2 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon pure maple syrup
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- $\frac{1}{2}$ garlic clove finely minced
- $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon sea salt, unrefined
- $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon black pepper, ground

Method

- Follow cooking directions on pasta package for "al dente" (which allows pasta to remain slightly undercooked). This will help keep the pasta from falling apart in the salad. Drain and rinse with cold water until pasta is completely cool.
- While the pasta is cooling, mix all the Basic Vinaigrette ingredients together in a bowl until combined.
- Place cooled pasta into a large bowl and add the vegetables and herbs. Gently toss. Drizzle Basic Vinaigrette over the pasta salad and gently toss again. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

