

Acknowledgement of Country

Belford Oaks acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we play, grow and learn, The Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. We pay our respects to Elders, past present and emerging for they hold the memories, traditions, culture and the hope of Indigenous Australians. In the words of the children: We Acknowledge Country everyday with, Hands up, Hands down, We all stand on Wurundjeri Ground.

To the Belford Oaks community

As we bring another term to a close here at Belford Oaks, we're excited to reflect on the moments, big and small that have made this term so special for our young learners. From art projects to blossoming friendships and exciting discoveries, it has been wonderful to witness the children's growth and curiosity in action.

In this edition, you'll find highlights from the term, a look ahead at upcoming events and perhaps a sneak peak at what's to come in the rooms. We hope you enjoy celebrating your child's journey and the positive energy that defines our Belford Oaks community.

Thank you for your ongoing support—we're looking forward to another term full of learning, joy, and meaningful experiences!

A message from the director Thankyou to the Belford Oaks community, you have welcomed me with open arms as I have stepped into the Directors Role. I have had a great handover from Suzie and am grateful she is continuing to support myself, the team and the community.

I had the privilege of attending the Belford Oaks Art Show on the Friday of my first week which was attended by the staff and families. There are still around 20 beautiful artworks in the office waiting to find their homes. Each piece is a one-of-a-kind creation made by your child, with the guidance and care of the Belford Oaks educators. Don't miss the chance to take home this special keepsake.

I'm very grateful to be a part of a wonderful community. the relationships are rich and the quality of education is high. I am looking forward to a long and continuous relationship. Kind regards, Fiona.

National Model Code

From **26 September 2025**, all Victorian services must comply with the **National Model Code** (attached) regarding the taking of images and videos of children while providing care. To meet these requirements, services must:

- Use only service-issued devices for capturing images or videos of children.
- Have clear policies and procedures on the secure storage and retention of such images and videos.
- Restrict the carrying of personal devices capable of taking images or videos while working directly with children.

In response, Belford Community Centre has updated existing policies and introduced new ones.

A key change affecting families is that **parents and guardians may no longer use personal devices to record images or videos of children**—including their own—during service hours or at service events.

Please ensure that you advise all people who are authorised to drop off and pick up your child of these new requirements.

If you have any questions about these changes, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Kind Regards,

Belford Oaks Management

RECRUTIMENT FOR A LEAD EDUCATOR AND ASSITSANT DIRECTOR POSITION (2IC) Now that I have my feet on the ground, we will be advertising for the
The Committee is already moving quickly to fill the vacant leadership positions:

- **Assistant Director (2IC)** – The Committee have commenced the recruitment process for a 2IC to ensure strong, ongoing support. This has been advertised externally.
- **Lead Educator** - This has also been advertised externally and we are committed to finding the right fit for our community.

Throughout this process committee are applying the same rigorous, Child Safe-aligned procedures that underpin Belford Oaks' Exceeding rating. Transparency, robust reference checks, and a commitment to cultural fit remain non-negotiable. Whilst the leadership departure in Toddlers was within a few months may raise questions. Please be assured there is no underlying issue at Belford Oaks; As I stated in the weekly roundup (3rd October) this was due to health reasons. The staff and Committee remain united in our commitment to providing a stable, high-quality environment where every child, family, and staff member can thrive.

XPLOR & DEBIT SUCESS

With our go live date of Monday 14th July we have now made the change over to Xplor. This has replaced Qikkids for all intents and purposes. Please ensure you are signing in and out via the Xplor page in the safari browser or using the QR code which appears on the log in screen on the iPad. If you have not yet received your email to set up your Xplor account or you are having trouble please don't hesitate to reach out for support.

We're excited to share that our service has partnered with **Debit Success** to make fee payments easier and more convenient for families. With Debit Success, you can now set up **automatic direct debit payments**, giving you peace of mind that your fees are paid on time—without the hassle of manual transactions.

Setting up is quick and simple:

- Choose your preferred payment frequency (weekly, fortnightly, or monthly)
- Select your bank account or credit/debit card
- Enjoy secure, reliable, and flexible fee management

This system helps reduce administrative follow-ups and allows us to focus more on what matters most—your child's learning and development.

If you haven't already, and you would like to benefit from automated direct debit payments please log in to your Xplor Home app or via the Xplor Home Web Portal to set up your Debit Success account today.

Let's make fee management stress-free together!

Upcoming events

October

- Saturday 4th to Friday 10th - World Space Wee
- Tuesday 21st - Diwali Sunday 26th October -Working Bee
- **Wednesday 29th - BOCCC Annual General Meeting 7:30pm**

November

- Tuesday 4th - Melbourne Cup Public HOLIDAY CENTRE CLOSED
- Monday 10th - Sunday 16th National Recycling Week.
- Thursday 20th Universal Children Day
- **Wednesday 26th - BOCCC Committee Meeting 7:30pm**

December

- Thursday 7th - Friday 15 Hanukka
- Friday 12th - Kinder Graduation
- Friday 12th - Children's Christmas Party
- **Monday 22nd - Last day for the Year Centre closing 6pm**
- Thursday 25th - Christmas Day
- Friday 26th - Boxing Day

January

- Thursday 1st - New Year's Day
- **Tuesday 13th Centre reopens 7:30am**

Individual updates

The Resilience Project? Feel Good Friday

Throughout Term 3 we continued The Resilience Project Early Years Wellbeing Program. The children have been loving all the different activities, and they have particularly enjoyed completing the activities in their individual portfolios. This term there was a strong focus on empathy and mindfulness.

Further, each term we choose a different day of the week to focus on Outcome 3 of the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework, "Children have a strong sense of wellbeing". This term was **Feel Good Friday**. The children engaged in activities and experiences such as yoga, meditation, team bonding games, and physical activity games.

Numeracy and literacy

We have continued to incorporate early literacy and numeracy learning in our program. The children enjoy playing games such as Number Bingo, Alphabet Soup, and Alphabet Bingo. We also incorporate a variety of letter/number games and puzzles to support the children's development and help prepare them for school. This term we also continued our Jolly Phonics program, and we finished introducing all 26 letter-sounds (A-Z). We will continue to deliver this program, in turn supporting children's phonemic awareness.

National Child Protection Week

National Child Protection Week is an annual event to raise awareness about the importance of keeping children and young people safe. To acknowledge this week, we had meaningful group discussions with the children about their rights as children, and the importance of having 5 safe adults. We read books about body safety, and the children created a beautiful display in the kinder room displaying who their safe adults are.

Insects

Through the exploration of the outdoor yard, the children have expressed a great interest in wanting to learn more about insects. They have enjoyed finding different insects in the yard and making homes for them. To extend on this, an imaginative insect play space was set up inside to allow the children the opportunity to extend off their interest. Our group times have focused around learning the life cycles of different insects and learning all about what features make an insect an insect.

Self Portraits

Each term the children create a new self-portrait using a different art medium, and it is then displayed in the kinder room for the whole term. This term the children used oil pastels to draw themselves. Self-portraits are important in kindergarten as they foster self-awareness, build confidence and self-identity, and develop fine motor and expressive language skills.

Science Week

To celebrate Science Week, the children engaged in many fun science experiments across 2 weeks. They loved the Volcano experiment, Bubble and Fizz experiment, Walking Water, and many more. We also set up a 'Science Lab' dramatic play area in the kinder room where the children dressed up as scientists and experimented with magnets and other scientific materials.

Belford Oaks Art Show

This year for the annual Belford Oaks Art Show, the kinder children each drew their self-portrait using oil pastels. The children chose which colour they wanted to use and they then used different shades of that colour to draw themselves. We then compiled each child's portrait on a canvas to create a rainbow art display.

For the children's individual art pieces, they created their own fridge magnets. To create this, the children used a medium called Graphic Shrink Film, and they used markers to draw anything of their choosing. This provided the children with an opportunity to freely express their imagination and ideas in a new medium. Once the design was drawn onto the sheet, it was placed into the oven for a few minutes. During this process, the sheet shrunk in size and transformed into a solid piece of work.

Book Week

To celebrate Book Week this year the children dressed up in their favourite book characters all week long. They made their own bookmarks and designed their own front cover to their favourite book. They also engaged in a variety of fun games and arts and craft experiences relating to some popular books.

Fathers Day

This year for Father's Day the children designed a ceramic plate for their dad. They used porcelain markers to draw a special picture on the plate before we baked them in the oven to allow the design to set. The children also baked chocolate chip cookies, and they placed 2 cookies on their plate to gift to their dad. They also made a special Father's Day card.

Footy Day

We celebrated Footy Day by dressing up in our footy team colours. The children loved dancing to the team songs, and they enjoyed a classic footy day lunch (meat pies and sausage rolls). We also practiced our handballing and kicking outside.

In-Nature Play/Glass Creek Wetlands

This term we continued our In-Nature Play excursions. We visit Glass Creek Wetlands in East Kew every month and the children love using their senses to explore their natural environment and investigate in a more open-ended outdoor environment. This term we have been very lucky to observe the kookaburras in the trees.

Melbourne Museum

To conclude our dinosaur topic, we visited Melbourne Museum. During this excursion we were provided with a guided session that took the children through the exploration of a variety of different dinosaur fossils. We concluded the visit with a self-guided tour through the Triceratops Walk Exhibition.

Body Safety Australia- Superstars Program

In August, the children participated in the Body Safety Superstars program. This program is designed to empower and educate children to understand and communicate their right to bodily autonomy. Using age-appropriate songs, activities, stories, games and group conversations, the children learnt more about emotions, bodily autonomy, public, private and personal body parts, the difference between a surprise and a secret, and the importance of having 5 safe adults. The children also identified their 5 safe adults on finger puppets.

Super Safe Harold Incursion

On Wednesday 10th September, we had the Super Safe Harold Incursion. This exciting program covered all areas of safety including wearing seatbelts, sun safety, safe play, water safety, safety with medicines, and safety online.

Hey Dee Ho and Mini Monsters

Hey Dee Ho was held on a Thursday this term. This music program is an educational music experience where children learn the concepts of beat, rhythm, tempo, pitch, and dynamics in a play-based environment. Different educational themes are presented each week using props, puppets, costumes, and percussion instruments to deliver a multi-sensory experience.

This term we started a new sports program, Mini Monsters. This program provides a fun and energetic atmosphere, and it incorporates fun decision-making games, enhances basic skill fundamentals and motor skill development in a structured environment. The program aims to support children's overall health and strives to support children to develop a healthy relationship with exercise.

Thank you! 🙏

Kimberley, Kelsey, and Sebile

Toddlers

Toddler room Newsletter – Term 3

Throughout term 3 the children in the toddler room explored a range of topics and areas of development.

Book week – during book week the children were invited to bring their favourite books with them to share with their peers as well as come dressed as their favourite characters from a book. Joining us during book week were The witch from 'Room on the broom', Spiderman, many Elsa's, Rapunzel, a construction worker, The cat in the hat, Bluey, one of the 3 bears from Goldilocks, an aeroplane, Pig the pug, Harry Potter, Wonder woman, Coco the cat, a pirate and many more.

Child safety week – child safety week this year was September 7th – 13th. During this week the toddler educators took the opportunity to have meaningful conversations with the children about their 'Safe People' and how they can keep themselves and each other safe. Broaching these topics with the children is fundamental in laying the foundation of life long safe habits. The exploration of this topic in toddler room also lays the foundation for deeper discussions and activities in the kinder room in their near future.

Footy day – the children celebrated footy day by wearing their team colours with pride. We had Kangaroos supporters, Demons supporters, Freo supporters and Bombers supporters in our midst. The children enjoyed a delicious lunch of party pies and sausage rolls in celebration of the event.

Mini Monsters – The children have thoroughly enjoyed the Mini Monsters sessions with coach Gabrielle. Through the term they have explored a variety of different sports and activities, including obstacle courses, tennis, cricket and soccer. The children have really flourished with the hands-on approach of the Mini Monsters Coaches and the way they walk the children through the sports and activities.

Hey Dee Ho – the children have continued to enjoy their weekly Hey Dee Ho music sessions. With a love for music and movement the children sing rhymes, jingles and songs and take on roles of literacy users in their play as their language acquisition develops with each session.

Excursion to Victoria Park - On Thursday the 21st of August the toddler children along with their educators went on an excursion to Victoria Park. While there the children have the opportunity to explore their surroundings freely while being responsible for their decisions regarding play. the children loved the swings, in particular the large round swing that could fit 4 of them at one time, the trampolines, the slide and the bike/scooter track which they utilised enthusiastically and energetically less their bikes and scooters. While at the park the children were able to combine their gross and fine motor movement with balance to achieve complex patterns of activity such as climbing. They were supported and encouraged to make choices, accept challenges, take considered risks, manage change a cope with frustrations.

Thank you
Suzie, Beth & Qin
Toddlers room educators

Babies

We've had such a busy and exciting few months in the Babies' Room at Belford Oaks! The children have been learning, playing, and exploring through a variety of fun activities that have supported their growth and development in many ways. Our focus has been on sensory and messy play, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. They loved exploring different textures with their hands, discovering how materials feel, move, and change.

In August, we went on one of our monthly nature walks, which the children always look forward to. A highlight was finding a big puddle! The children took turns stomping in the water, giggling as the splashes flew up. We also had fun running up and down the hill at the park and hiding behind the big oak tree together.

We also celebrated Father's Day with a special craft activity. The children decorated beautiful picture frames with great enthusiasm, proudly saying, "This is for my daddy!" They were so excited to share their creations at home.

Another special highlight was the Art and Wine Show, where the children created group canvases as well as individual art pieces. They enjoyed painting with their hands and feet, exploring the different sensations of paint and leaving unique prints. Families also had the opportunity to purchase a special love heart tray made by the children. You can still purchase your child's individual piece from the office.

During Child Protection Week, Arlo's mum Claire joined us to decorate the fence with colourful ribbons alongside the children. Together, we talked about keeping safe and showing care for one another, which was a valuable learning experience for our little ones.

We've also been busy in our garden, planting lettuce, green beans, and sunflowers. The children are taking great pride in caring for the plants, asking each morning if it's time to water them. With their watering cans in hand, they eagerly help nurture the garden, learning responsibility and care for living things.

Overall, it has been such a joyful and engaging couple of months. We are so proud of the children's curiosity, creativity, and enthusiasm, and we can't wait to see what the next few months will bring!

Food allergies & intolerances

Children are often diagnosed with food allergies or intolerances, but what does that mean? A true [food allergy](#) is one that elicits an immune response reacting to a protein found in the food. The body reacts because it does not recognise the protein and thinks it's toxic or harmful to the body. The immune system mounts an attack on this threat which can lead to symptoms such as hives, swelling, and closing of the airways, pain, vomiting or diarrhoea. Food allergies can be fatal. There must be complete avoidance of foods containing the food allergen to prevent a reaction.

Food intolerances, however, do not involve the immune system but involve an accumulation of naturally occurring food chemicals or additives that are consumed past the body's tolerance level for that chemical. Some people are more sensitive to food chemicals than others and will exhibit symptoms a lot more quickly. These reactions are more common than allergies. Intolerances are often associated with diarrhoea, headaches and asthma-like symptoms. However it is important to note that the symptoms caused by intolerances and allergies can be similar.

Kitchen News

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Causes of food intolerances

Common intolerances include lactose intolerance, which is when the body is unable to process lactose, a natural sugar that is found in cow's milk and products such as ice cream, cheese and yoghurt. Some people may be intolerant to naturally occurring food chemicals including glutamates, salicylates and amines, or artificial ones including some colours.

Glutamate is found naturally in many foods as it improves the flavour of the food. Tomatoes, mushroom, cheese are high in glutamates, pure glutamate in the form of monosodium glutamate (MSG) can be added to soups, Asian cooking and snacks to enhance flavour.

Salicylates are chemicals found naturally in fruits, vegetables, nuts, herbs and spices, honey, juices and many other foods. While amines are found in cheese, chocolate and certain fruits including bananas and avocados. If you're intolerant to naturally occurring food chemicals, there is a high likelihood that you will be allergic to other food additives. It is important to consult your doctor or an Accredited Practising Dietitian for diagnosis.

Food Allergies

Ninety percent of food allergies are caused by nuts, eggs, milk or soy. Among children, peanut allergy is the most common and can often result in anaphylaxis.

Celiac Disease

Children can suffer from wheat allergies and gluten intolerance, however coeliac disease does not fall into either of these categories, as it is an autoimmune disease.

What to do if your child suffers from an allergy or intolerance:

If your child suffers from an allergy, it is vital to create an action plan should an allergic reaction occur. The Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) have created templates that can be filled out by GPs and information passed onto parents, caregivers and schoolteachers of the child. You can find it here:

<http://www.allergy.org.au/health-professionals/anaphylaxis-resources/ascia-action-plan-for-anaphylaxis>

As a parent, approach your school to discuss your child's allergies and their food requirements. Government schools are required to develop an individual health care plan for each student with allergies. Visit your school canteen and make them aware of who your child is and foods that are safe for their consumption. It is important to note that schools are not required to ban any known food allergens or food that "may contain" a known allergen.

Visit your GP or find a dietitian using www.daa.asn.au

With love from the Kitchen.

Thank you for another great term. We are excited to see what term 4 has in store for us!