A new year is a fresh page, let's fill it with kindness, curiosity and joy – **Unknown**

Term 1 Newsletter, 2026

Camberwell Junction ELC



Special days and events...

AT CJELC

Dental incursion---------- 15 and 16 April

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Australia Day ----------26 January
Observing Australia Day---27 January (Public holiday, centre closed)
International Lego Day----------28 January
Valentine's Day----------14 February
Chinese New Year ---------- 17 February
Ramadan----------16Feb – 18 March
Clean Up Australia Day----------1 March
World Wildlife Day----------3 March
International Women's Day----------4 March
Holi----------4 March
St Patrick's Day---------- 17 March
Harmony Week----------17-23 March
National Close the Gap Day----------19 March
Eid al-Fitr----------19-20 March
International Day of Happiness----------20 March

Dental Incursion



Babies and Toddlers: 15th April
Kindergarten- 16th April

** The Parental Permission Forms will be available closer to the date.*

Welcome to 2026!

A warm welcome to all our new and returning families! We are grateful for the opportunity to care for and educate your children. Our dedicated team is working hard to create stimulating environments that support and inspire each child's learning journey. We look forward to building strong, positive relationships with our families and the wider community as we move forward together.
Please refer to ***kindyhub*** daily for any messages and/or updates.
Thanks,
CJELC Team

Important Reminders for Enrolment Updates

- Please review the authorised contacts and their associated authorisations on the enrolment forms. Please let us know if any updates or changes are necessary.
- Confirm whether any previously diagnosed health care needs, dietary requirements, allergies, or medical conditions are still relevant, and if there are any new needs to be considered.

Community Events



AUSTRALIA DAY – JANUARY 26

Australia Day is a day to reflect, respect and celebrate the Australian spirit and the best of this country – our mateship, our sense of community and our resilience. We find optimism and hope as we look to the future.

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate. We **reflect** on our nation's past, which began more than 65,000 years ago, and the impact of European settlement on the First Nations Australians. Our national day is a time, above all, for inclusion and respect. **Find out more about Australia Day here.**

WORLD WILDLIFE DAY – MARCH 3

World Wildlife Day is a global celebration that highlights the beauty and importance of the world's wild animals and plants. The day encourages communities worldwide to reflect on our shared responsibility to safeguard wildlife and maintain the health of our planet.

Kids in the kitchen



EASY ONE BOWL SAVOURY MUFFINS

PREP 12 mins | COOK 18 mins | SERVES 12

INGREDIENTS

2 cups **plain wholemeal flour**
2 teaspoons **baking powder**
sea salt and pepper, *to season*
60 grams **butter**
1/2 cup (125 ml) **milk**
3 **eggs**
1 medium **zucchini**, *grated*
1 medium **carrot**, *grated*
1 cup (160 grams) **canned corn kernels**, *drained*
1 1/3 cups (150 grams) **tasty cheese**, *grated*

1. **Preheat** oven to 180 C and line a 12-hole muffin tin with papers. **Set aside.**
2. **Place the flour,** baking powder, salt and pepper into a large bowl. **Whisk** to combine creating a well in the centre.
3. **Place the butter**, milk and eggs into the well of the flour and whisk until just combined.
4. **Gently fold** through the zucchini, carrot, corn and cheese. If your batter looks a little dry (depending on the brand – wholemeal flours can vary slightly and require a tad more liquid) simply add a splash of milk.
5. **Evenly divide** the mixture in the prepared muffin tray.
6. **Bake for 15-18 minutes** or until golden and when a skewer inserted removes cleanly.

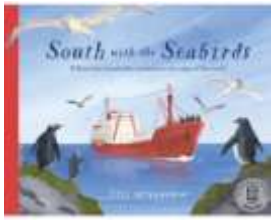
Allow the muffins to cool for 5-10 minutes before placing on a wire rack to cool completely. **Enjoy x**

Source: Image & recipe 'My lovely lunchbox'

Book reviews

Fresh stories for the food lovers!







ONE LITTLE DUNG BEETLE | RHIÂN WILLIAMS

One Little Dung is a playful, rhyming counting book that invites children into the tiny, fascinating world of beetles. As we follow one hardworking dung beetle and meet a whole host of other beetles. *Children explore numbers, rhythm and rich new vocabulary. Detailed, jewel-like illustrations reward close looking, with little visual surprises to spot on each page. Shortlisted for the 2025 CBCA Book of the Year (Early Childhood), this is a joyful way to spark curiosity about mini beasts, caring for our environment and noticing the wonders right outside our doors.*

SOUTH WITH THE SEABIRDS | JESS MCGEACHIN

South with the Seabirds tells the remarkable true story of four female scientists who in 1959 undertook a daring expedition to the remote Macquarie Island in the sub-Antarctic. *Their journey, aboard an ice-breaking ship, led them to giant seabirds, penguins, seals and a wild, windswept island teeming with life. Through vivid watercolour illustrations and carefully researched storytelling, the book brings alive their discoveries and the wonders of a fragile ecosystem. It's a stirring tribute to scientific curiosity, gender equality in STEM and environmental conservation, perfect to inspire young readers and families.*

THE WOBBLY BIKE | DARREN MCCALLUM

The Wobbly Bike is a warm, gently humorous picture book about learning to ride a bike, even when it feels wobbly and out of control. *Set in Darwin and rich with snapshots of life in Australia's "top end," the story celebrates the love and encouragement of grandparents, the importance of patience and practise, and the joy of mastering something for the first time. The lilting rhyme and lively illustrations make the mishaps and perseverance feel real and familiar. A wonderful read-aloud for preschoolers and families that gently encourages resilience and kindness.*

FOCUS: Understanding Quality and Safety in Early Childhood Services: What Families Should Know



When families choose an early childhood service, one of the first questions—spoken or unspoken—is always the same: "Will my child be safe, supported and cared for here?" It's a big decision to entrust your baby, toddler or preschooler to someone else's care, and it's natural to want confidence that the environment your child enters each day is warm, predictable and protective.

Across Australia, all early childhood education and care services operate under the National Quality Framework (NQF). The NQF is the national system for regulating and improving the quality of early education and care. It is made up of several key, stable components including- the National Law and National Regulations which are the legal requirements all services must meet including staffing, health and safety, educational programs, physical environment and operational procedures. The NQF also includes the National Quality Standard (NQS) which defines what high-quality education and care looks like and feels like. This means that every service, regardless of type or location, follows a nationally consistent approach to quality. Recent legislative changes, have strengthened the National Law by making the safety, rights and best interests of children the paramount consideration for daily practices, policies and procedures in education and care services.

A Safe, Calm and Predictable Environment

Creating a child-safe environment involves more than child-proof locks or soft flooring. Guided by the NQF, services design spaces where children feel physically secure and emotionally supported. This includes thoughtful room layouts, active supervision, predictable routines and warm, trusting relationships. Educators conduct regular safety checks, maintain equipment and ensure children can move freely and comfortably. You may notice furniture changes or outdoor updates such as improved shade, fencing or soft-fall surfaces—visible signs of the ongoing safety checks and continuous improvement processes required under the NQF.

Safe Sleep and Rest Practices

For babies and toddlers, safe sleep is essential. Services follow recognised safe-sleep guidelines and monitor children closely throughout rest times. The NQF requires educators to stay up to date with training and current recommendations so families can feel confident that sleep routines are carried out safely, consistently and with children's safety, health and wellbeing at the centre of all decisions and practices.

Hygiene and Everyday Health Practices

Good hygiene is a cornerstone of quality care. Under the NQF, services must maintain high standards of cleanliness and infection control. This may include daily cleaning schedules, sanitising frequently used equipment, wearing gloves for nappy changes, practising correct handwashing and following safe food-handling procedures. You may also see improvements that reflect current health guidance, such as enhanced ventilation or updated illness policies. While the specifics vary between services, the aim remains the same: to maintain a healthy environment for all children.

Responding to Emerging Issues

As the world changes, so do the risks children may encounter. The NQF requires services to regularly review and update their policies to stay informed, prepared and responsive. Our policies support safe and consistent practice in areas such as:

- Digital safety and the responsible use of technology
- Smoke-free and vape-free environments
- Sun safety and monitoring UV levels
- Safe collection procedures and clear communication with families
- Allergy and asthma management with the need for current medical management plans for children with medical conditions
- Emergency preparedness, including evacuation and lockdown procedures

These policies provide clear guidance for educators and ensure we respond to safety matters calmly and confidently. All policies are available for families to view at any time—they are displayed within the service, and copies can be requested whenever needed.

Child Protection and Wellbeing

Child protection is a major focus of the NQF. All persons working in education and care must have a valid Working With Children Check or Vulnerable Persons Check. Educators and staff understand child protection law and comprehend their mandatory reporting obligations and responsibilities in recognising concerns, responding appropriately and reporting to relevant authorities. From February 2026, all staff and educators will need to complete mandatory national child safety and protection training.

Equally important are the everyday interactions that help children feel emotionally secure—warm greetings, comfort when they're upset, listening to their ideas and supporting them to manage emotions. Safety is not only physical; it also includes feeling valued, respected and understood.

Partnerships With Families

The NQF emphasises the importance of strong partnerships with families. Quality and safety are strengthened when educators and families work together, share information and communicate openly. This may happen through daily conversations, family events, online platforms or policy updates.

If you have questions about any aspect of child safety or practice, our team welcomes the opportunity to talk with you. Transparent communication helps us support children in the best possible way.

What This Means for You

For families, the NQF provides a consistent and reliable foundation for quality care. It means:

- Your child's service is monitored and assessed against the National Quality Standard and their quality rating must be clearly on display
- Children's safety, rights and best interests inform every decision, from room set-up to daily routines and interactions to financial decisions in the service
- Educators participate in ongoing professional learning
- Policies are reviewed and updated regularly to reflect mandatory law and regulations and current best practice
- Families can access, read and provide suggestions and feedback to policies at any time.

Most of all, it means your child spends their day in an environment purpose-built to support safety, wellbeing, learning

Early childhood is a precious time, and families deserve to feel confident in the care their children receive. With the NQF guiding best practice and with policies kept open and accessible to families, services can provide warm, secure and nurturing experiences that help children thrive now and well into the future.

For more information on the National Quality Framework (NQF) follow this QR code.

Source: startingblocks.gov.au

For more information on the National Quality Standard follow this QR code.

Source: startingblocks.gov.au

National Quality Standard Update – January 2026

From 1 January 2026, refinements to the National Quality Standard came into effect to further strengthen child safety across all early childhood education and care services in Australia. These changes have sharpened the focus on child safety within Quality Area 2 – Children's Health and Safety and Quality Area 7 – Governance and Leadership, making explicit how services manage safety, protection and leadership practices that support children's wellbeing and quality care. Our service has been reviewing and updating our policies in conjunction with all the stakeholders to align with these enhancements and will continue to keep families involved and informed about what this means for your child's learning and safety.

Sustainability CORNER

LUNCHBOX LOW WASTE – SIMPLE SWAPS FOR EVERYDAY MEALS



Creating a low-waste lunchbox doesn't have to be complicated. Small, consistent changes can significantly reduce single-use plastics while also saving families money over time. One of the easiest places to start is by replacing disposable items, cling wrap, sandwich bags and single-serve packets—with long-lasting alternatives.

Reusable containers in a mix of sizes make packing lunches simple and keep food fresher for longer. Beeswax wraps or silicone covers are great for sandwiches, muffins and cut fruit, offering a washable, eco-friendly option.

Buying snacks in bulk is another simple swap that reduces waste. Instead of single-serve yoghurt pouches, chips or crackers, consider filling small containers from larger tubs or packets. This approach cuts down on unnecessary packaging and gives you greater control over portion sizes and ingredients. Families can also plan ahead by prepping lunches the night before, which reduces the temptation to rely on grab-and-go packaged foods.

Adding low-waste items such as whole fruit, homemade muffins, veggie sticks or leftovers helps create a nutritious lunch while keeping waste to a minimum. Over time, children learn the value of caring for the environment through everyday habits. A low-waste lunchbox isn't about perfection, it's about simple, sustainable choices that make a big difference.

Find some delicious lunch batch recipes here:

- boobtofood.com/category/recipe/
- healthymadetasty.com.au
- healthymummy.com
- Woolworths.com.au

Get Crafty



WATER COLOUR PAINTING

Watercolour painting is a gentle, expressive art activity that invites children to slow down, observe and explore. Watercolours behave differently from other paints, encouraging children to experiment and discover what happens when colours blend, dilute or layer. The soft edges and flowing textures make every attempt feel successful, even for beginners.

You will need:
Water colour palette
Water colour paper

Set up a simple painting space and offer prompts to spark curiosity. You might place leaves, flowers, pinecones or favourite household objects nearby for children to observe and paint. Alternatively, let their imagination lead, many children enjoy making rainbows, landscapes, or abstract patterns as they notice how the colours move across the page. Older children may enjoy trying wet-on-wet techniques, salt textures or adding details once the paint has dried.

Watercolour painting supports fine-motor development, hand–eye coordination and early artistic confidence. It also creates a moment of mindfulness, helping children unwind while focusing on gentle brush movements and colour changes.

This activity is easy to set up and pack up, soothing to engage in, and offers a beautiful opportunity for families to slow the pace and create something together.

Feedback is always welcome

Ladybird room–

Welcome to Term 1!
We are excited to begin the year and look forward to supporting each baby as they settle into their routines and build secure, trusting relationships with our educators. This month, we have begun spontaneous activities based on the babies' interests, including sensory play such as bubbles and play dough, as well as a variety of indoor and outdoor experiences. These activities support exploration, curiosity, and early development in a safe and nurturing environment. We continue to follow each child's individual needs, cues, and rhythms to ensure they feel comfortable and supported throughout the day.
Thank you to our families for your ongoing communication and support as we share a positive Term 1 together.
Thank you for your ongoing support as we create a nurturing and engaging environment for your little ones. We look forward to all the wonderful experiences ahead this year!

Warm regards,
Mayu, Sonali, Sharon and Kate

Caterpillar room–

Welcome to Term 1 in the Toddler Room! During this term, we focus on helping children feel safe and secure as they settle into a new environment, build relationships with new teachers and friends, and become familiar with their daily routines. At the beginning of the term, we will provide lots of spontaneous, play-based experiences to observe children's interests and current knowledge. Alongside this, we will introduce early learning concepts such as shapes, colours, and animals, as well as enjoy lots of songs and daily book reading to support early literacy and numeracy skills.
Sensory play will be a big part of our program, including experiences with water, ice, play dough, and sand.
We are also excited to begin our Seasonal Calendar Project, which will continue throughout the year. Children will explore changes in weather and nature by observing and documenting what we find in our yard, such as leaves changing colour or flowers blooming.
We look forward to a wonderful term of learning and discovery together.

Kind regards,
Kezia, Alka, Brooke, Lily

Butterfly room–

Welcome to Term 1!
We hope your family enjoyed a restful break. We are excited to welcome everyone back and look forward to a fun, engaging and meaningful start to the year with our kinder group.
As we begin Term 1, many children have recently transitioned into the 3–5-year-old room. Our initial focus will be on helping all children settle into the environment, feel comfortable with the daily routines, and build secure relationships with educators and peers. We will support children in forming new friendships, learning the rhythm of the room, and developing confidence in their interactions and play.
To foster social and emotional growth, we will provide experiences that encourage cooperation, turn-taking, self-help skills and emotional expression. Sensory and investigative play, such as water exploration and rescuing animals frozen in ice, will support curiosity; problem-solving, fine motor development and shared learning opportunities. We truly value your ongoing partnership. Please feel welcome to speak with us at any time if you have questions or would like to discuss your child's learning and wellbeing.
We look forward to a positive, engaging and nurturing Term 1 ahead.

Kind regards,
Barnali, Tash and Brooke

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