

PIELC NEWSLETTER

December 2025



A message from our director

Lynne Clements

What an amazing year of learning, growth and community connection we've shared at PIELC. Our focus on children's wellbeing, belonging and engagement is always front and centre, and every day, we see your children thriving through hands-on learning, outdoor play, creative exploration and strong community partnerships.

Highlights have included Sanctuary visits, bush tucker garden projects, RAMSR rhythm and movement with music, and yoga, all supporting children to build confidence, communication, self-regulation and social skills. We have continued to deepen our First Nations perspectives, including our beginning of the year Smoking Ceremony as we continue our ongoing cultural learning that we weave through our daily programs.

Our community relationships have remained a real strength this year, supported by local services, visiting specialists and Cowes Primary School, helping extend children's learning beyond the walls of our centre.

We have welcomed 13 students this year, some Bachelors, some Certificate and Diploma level, each completing placements with us, and contributing to the future of early childhood education.

A huge thank you to our wonderful educators, who have shown incredible dedication and teamwork during a busy year of sector-wide changes and challenges - while continuing to provide safe, nurturing and inspiring environments for children each day. Looking ahead, we're excited for another wonderful year in 2026. Thank you to all of our families and community partners for your ongoing support, trust and partnership throughout 2025. We wish you a happy and safe holiday break, and we look forward to seeing you in the new year, including welcoming the new families who will be joining us.



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Important dates

- The last day of childcare for 2025 will be Thursday the 18th of December
- First day back of 2026 is Tuesday the 6th of January

Guided by Our Children, Supported by Our Community

We recently held a Professional Development Day where our educators came together to reflect, collaborate and strengthen our shared vision for teaching and learning. Throughout the year we have worked collectively on re-developing our Centre Philosophy - a document that guides our purpose, our practices and our commitment to children, families and community.

Family involvement has been an important part of this process through feedback on our draft and the 'star' voting boards, which highlighted the key cornerstones that resonated most strongly with you. Your insights continue to shape our direction and priorities.

In recognising the importance of continuous improvement, next year we will be increasing the hours allocated to our Educational Leader role and introducing a new Assistant Educational Leader position for one day each week, supporting strong guidance and high-quality practice across our programs.

Our PD Day also included a collaborative artistic expression activity inspired by our philosophy, and this artwork will be proudly displayed in the Centre early next year for families to enjoy.



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Speech pathology at PIELC

Reading with your child

Sharing books with your child is a powerful way to build early literacy, long before they can read the words themselves. It's less about getting from the first page to the last, and more about enjoying moments together that grow their talking, listening, and thinking skills. When you share a book, you're helping your child learn new words, understand how stories work, and connect print with meaning. Focus on looking closely at the pictures, chatting about what you both notice, and wondering about what might happen next. These simple conversations around books are the building blocks for later reading and writing success.

Ages 1-2: Simple words & pointing

- Use books with clear pictures and repeated phrases.
- Ask naming questions: "What's this?" "Who is this?"
- Show me: "Point to the dog."
- Add short comments: "Big truck!"
- Sing simple rhymes and make fun sounds.

Ages 3-4: More words & ideas

- Let your child choose the book and turn pages.
- Pause to let them finish repeated lines: "Twinkle, twinkle little..."
- Ask who/what/where questions: "Who is running?" "What is the dog doing?" "Where is the girl?"
- Ask about size, shape, or colour.
- Expand their words: "Little mouse" → "Yes, the little mouse is hiding under the table."
- Tell short real-life stories using family photos.



Ages 4-5: Building stories & thinking

- Invite your child to tell parts of the story: "What happens here?" "What could they say?"
- Ask "What's happening?", "Why...?" and "How...?" questions.
- Talk about feelings: "How does he feel?" "How would you feel?"
- Make up stories together or change the ending of a favourite story.
- Play sound games: think of words that start with the same sound, or rhyming words.

Sharing books is about connection. Follow your child's lead and keep talking, wondering, and laughing together.

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Phillip Island Early Learning Centre

Statement of Fees and Charges 2026

2026 Child Care Fees

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Full day fee – under 3 years old | \$103.00 |
| Full day fee – 3 years old and over | \$96.00 |
| Half-day AM or PM | \$64.50 |
| Before- or after-kinder 1.5 hour | \$28.00 |

2026 Kindergarten Fees

All 2025 kindergarten fees will be paid by the State Government

2026 Late Collection charge

A \$50 flat fee, plus \$1 for each minute after the end of the booked session

Gumnuts

Narelle, Harpreet, Bianca & Carol

Term 4 has been an exciting time for our Gumnuts.

Our group has reached many exciting developmental milestones, including walking, balancing, and expanding their vocabulary. This term, our program focused on creating a positive and supportive environment where children feel confident to learn, explore, and try new things.

We spent time strengthening our gross motor skills, and explored new ball games that encouraged turn-taking and cooperation. The children were also introduced to colours and numbers—important foundational concepts for their ongoing growth and learning.

A highlight of the term was celebrating Diwali with our Gumnuts. Saharsra's family kindly shared their Diwali traditions with us, bringing in traditional food, clothing, and music for the children to experience. We explored the changing seasons—Autumn, Spring, and Summer—before moving on to one of our favourite celebrations of the year, Christmas. During group times, the children have enjoyed engaging in discussions and activities related to these topics.

Some of our Gumnuts are preparing for their transition into the Explorers room. They have been practising important self-help skills such as washing their hands, packing away their lunchboxes and drink bottles, and transitioning from a cot to a stretcher bed during rest time. We are proud of how confidently they have embraced these changes and demonstrated resilience.

As we approach the end of the year, we will continue to focus on supporting the children through their transitions and enjoying festive Christmas crafts together.



Explorers

Diana, Leah, Sim & Kayla

We can not believe it is December already and we are nearly at the end of another year. On behalf of us all in the Explorers room we would like to thank you for such a fantastic year.

The Explorers have enjoyed a touch of science in our rooms this term. They have been busy painting and learning about what happens when colours are mixed together. The children especially loved experimenting with baking soda to create a volcano. The excitement on their faces when the volcano “exploded” was truly memorable and sparked wonderful conversations among the group.

The Explorers have also been taking turns bringing home our sharing book to enjoy with their families. This experience has been a wonderful way for our young learners to build confidence in standing up and sharing with their peers.

We have continued to welcome Nina, our speech therapist, who has been joining us for story time. She has been supporting the children in learning how to pronounce their sounds more clearly.

As part of our focus on healthy eating, the group made apricot balls together. The children who participated confidently used their measuring and mixing skills. It has been amazing to see how much they have grown in this activity—learning to take turns, follow instructions, and work collaboratively.

Diana, Leah, Sim and Kayla would love to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe holiday. We are looking forward to seeing you all next year



Blossoms

Emma, Julianne & Julie

We cannot believe it is the end of the year already - time has flown and we feel so blessed to have been a part of your children's learning and development.

This term we introduced 'the Mystery Box' which has been a very popular daily experience for the children. A child is selected each day to take the box home and place an item of their choice, along with three clues and then invited to host group time the next day. It has been wonderful to see the children's confidence grow both by asking questions as well as talking about their special item. Both their voice and agency has been promoted and will benefit them as they move through their education.

Listening to the children's voices has been imperative to the planning process as we are able to gauge on and expand their interests. The home corner has had a couple of makeovers this term with the introduction of a Veterinary Clinic, based on a few of the children wanting to 'look after sick animals' when they are a grown up and more recently with the excitement of Christmas around the corner the area has been transformed into a Santa's grotto, complete with a Christmas list writing table and gift wrapping station. The children were involved in the whole process and assisted in decorating our Christmas tree to their liking.

The Blossoms are budding eco-warriors and have worked hard to maintain our worm farm compost bin we have in the yard. The children have learned what food scraps the worms enjoy and have been diligent in saving their lunch scraps to transfer into the compost bin. The vegetable garden that was revamped back in May has been going strong with the children's care and they are enjoying sampling the strawberries and herbs that we now have an abundance of.

We wish all our families a safe Christmas and an amazing New Year! To those children moving onto the Wallabies room we will miss you! To the children joining the Blossoms again in 2026 we cannot wait to see you!



Wallabies

Pennie, Simonette & Isabel



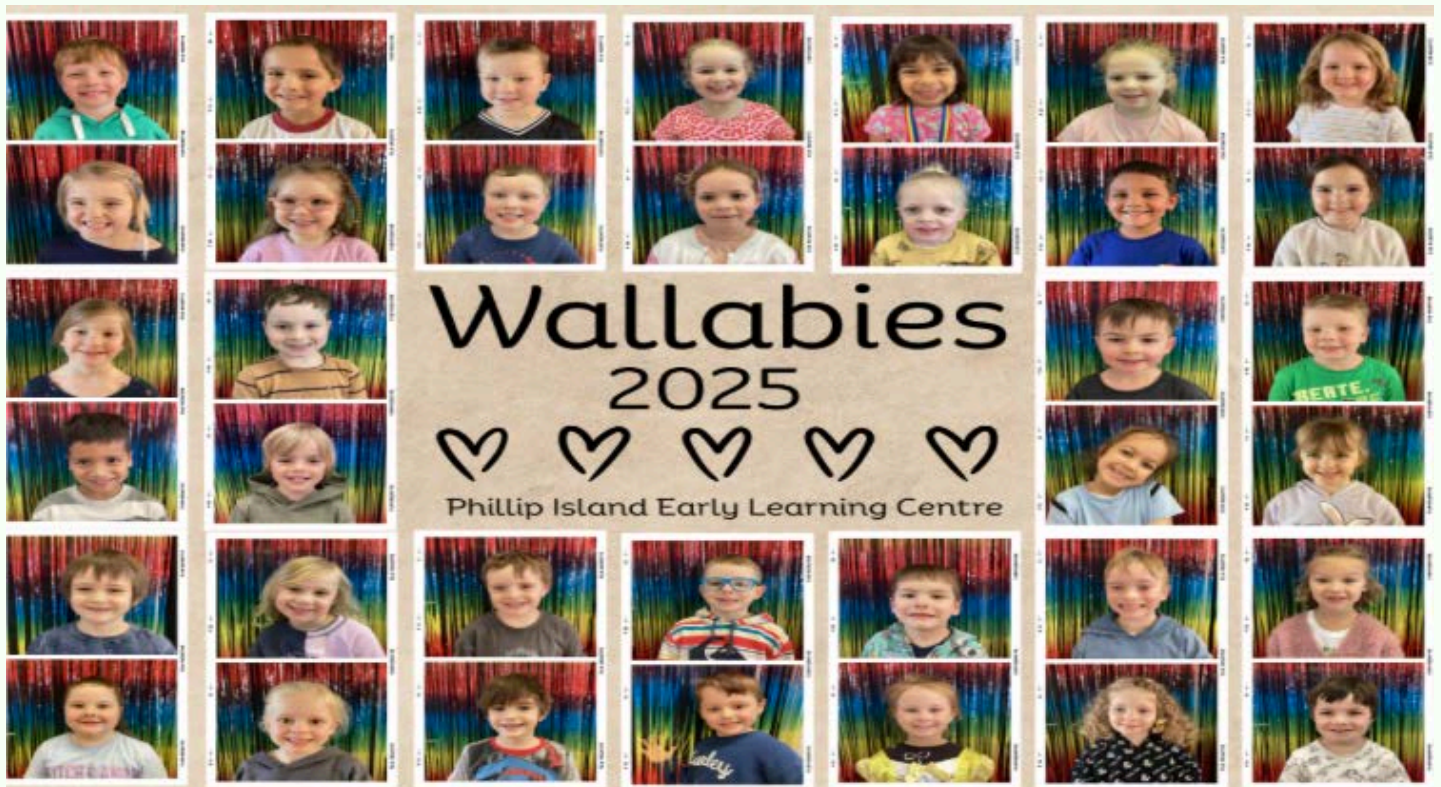
Tis the season! Our Wallabies children have been shining bright with the holiday spirit. As we wrap up the year the Wallabies have been busy making lots of Christmas craft. You can see some of our marvelous creations down at Myli - Phillip Island Library on their christmas tree.

To all the Parents, Guardians and Families- thank you for trusting us with your children. We hope you have seen all the hard work they have put in this year. They have all grown up so much and are well and truly ready for school. Sim and I are so proud of all their accomplishments.

To our big Wallys - We will miss your stories, your hugs, your smiles, your jokes, your singing, your dancing, your laughter, your kindness, your willingness to try new things, your curious minds, your thoughtful questions, your desire to be the best you can be. But most importantly we will miss YOU! We are so lucky and glad we were able to be a part of your learning journey here at PIELC. Don't forget to come visit.

We hope everyone has an amazing Summer break and we are looking forward to meeting all the new Wallabies in 2026 when Leah will also join the Wallabies Team.

Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.
Pennie & Sim



First year of kinder

Emus, Joeys & Possums

It's hard to believe we are already at the end of Term 4! Across our three First Year Kinder groups, the children have been busy learning, exploring and creating. It has been wonderful to see their confidence, independence and curiosity grow throughout the year.

This term offered a rich variety of experiences—from community walks and incursions to festive celebrations and sensory learning.

***Outcome 1: Children Have a Strong Sense of Identity**

We continued to focus on supporting children to develop a strong sense of self and belonging throughout this term with inclusive, creative and welcoming planned experiences. We made self portraits, began making thoughtful handmade gifts for our loved ones as we discussed our families and continued to encourage self expression through the arts.

Through walks to the Cowes Primary School gym and playground, and the Myli Library excursion, children showed resilience, teamwork and pride in their growing independence.

***Outcome 2: Children Are Connected With and Contribute to Their World**

The Animals of Oz experience helped children understand and respect the animals that belong on our land, deepening their connection to the natural world. The children were able to feel the animals and discuss with a wildlife expert.

Our the big walk to the Myli Library — strengthened children's sense of belonging to the wider Cowes community. The children listened to stories and songs with the librarians, explored the library space, and learned how we share places with others. — Thank you to our parent helpers who supported these community experiences.

We also welcomed Leslie and Khiara from WKY Events back to PIELC as they worked with all six kinder groups to rejuvenate the surfboards at the front of our centre. This ongoing project incorporated Indigenous techniques, symbols and storytelling to guide the creation of a new shared artwork. Over several weeks, every kinder child contributed to the boards, and they now proudly stand at our entrance as a reflection of our community, learning and collaboration.

***Outcome 3: Children Have a Strong Sense of Wellbeing**

Regular visits to the school gym allowed children to practice balancing, climbing, running and coordination, strengthening their gross-motor development.

The Wigglerly Worm incursion provided an energetic musical and rhythm movement session where children expressed themselves through imaginative play—pretending to be dragons, mermaids, horses, princesses, toys and more!

Water play and sensory experiences were available daily as this was a clear learning need across the groups. These experiences supported emotional regulation, wellbeing and opportunities to manage risk through play.

First year of kinder

Emus, Joeys & Possums

***Outcome 4 CHILDREN ARE CONFIDENT AND INVOLVED LEARNERS**

Sensory and water play encouraged exploration, problem-solving and early mathematical concepts such as volume, measurement and comparison.

Open-ended Christmas craft allowed children to plan, create and persist with ideas, building dispositions such as curiosity, creativity and enthusiasm for learning.

***Outcome 5 CHILDREN ARE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS**

Library visits strengthened children's engagement with stories, songs and early literacy concepts.

During incursions and group times, children practiced questioning, sharing ideas and using rich vocabulary when describing animals, movements and imaginative roles.

Christmas celebrations included singing, stories, and conversations about traditions, supporting language development and social communication.

As we reflect on all that Term 3 has brought, we are incredibly proud of the children's progress. Their confidence, communication, and sense of wonder have grown beautifully, and we are excited to continue supporting their journey in Term 4.

Reminders for term 4

- Please check lost property for your child's missing items
- Please label Children's clothing so we can return any items
- Please return any borrowed spare clothes
- Please ensure you pack some spare clothes as the weather warms up and the children engage in more water play.

It has been amazing to watch the children grow and develop throughout the year, and we send them off with so much pride as they take their next steps into Pre-Prep Kinder. We know they will continue practising their skills, building new ones, and extending their learning in wonderful ways.

Thank you for your support throughout the year, and we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy holiday break

Joeys

First year of kinder



Emus

First year of kinder



Possums

First year of kinder



Second year of kinder

Bilbies, Penguins & Seals

It has been a fantastic Term 4 in Kinder.

It's been a pleasure getting to know all the children and families this year.

Our Pre-Prep groups have been immersing in lots of school talk, including our recent visits to Cowes Primary School for playtime at the grass courts and school playground.

This term has been jam packed with special occasions. We have enjoyed many exciting incursions this term including Animals of Oz where children and educators got to learn and even pet all sorts of beautiful animals, even a Sugar Glider.

The children were full of creative energy as we participated with the Wiggerly Worm incursion, which involved dressups, props and music, dance and storytelling

All groups took turns participating in the surfboard rejuvenation project with Leslie and Khiara from WKY Events to celebrate culture, our wonderful home here on Millowl and put a new stamp on the surfboards from the entrance of our beautiful centre.

We all went on a huge adventure down to the Cowes Berninneit library where we shared songs and stories with our local librarians. The children showed great responsibility and stamina on this big walk.

Each Kinder group has been lucky enough to continually participate in the weekly School visits, including the Library and gymnasium and playground. This makes for a smooth transition leading up to starting school. Which is fast approaching!

Please keep a look out for the school transition dates which will be shared over the coming weeks. Children need to be enrolled in the school of choice before attending the formal school transition sessions.

We wish all of our families all the very best with the summer period and look forward to seeing you out in the community.

Merry Christmas to all.

Seals

Second year of kinder



Bilbies

Second year of kinder



Penguins

Second year of kinder

