

# January 2026

# Kindy News

**WELCOME** to our community Kindergarten. We hope you will build special memories this year.



## START OF KINDY REMINDERS

### What to Bring

#### Food

- . Morning Tea and Lunch in the same box.
- . After kindy care afternoon tea in a small box.
- . Metal or plastic lunch box with separate sections (bento box) is ideal.
- . Insulated lunch bags are not permitted and are against policy as they prevent cool air from the fridge circulating around food.
- . The Kindergarten promotes litter-less lunches so please avoid packaged food.

#### Hat

Bucket style or wide-brimmed.

#### Small washer

- . With a large loop to hang in the bathroom.
- . Hand towels are too big and unsuitable as towels are not allowed to touch each other to limit cross contamination.

#### Cup

- . Metal or plastic with a handle (melamine can crack).
- . Cold filtered water is readily available.
- . No water bottles or other drinks are necessary.

#### Change of clothes

- . In a waterproof bag.

#### Kindy Sheet

- . To be handed out in week 1.

**PLEASE NAME ALL ITEMS CLEARLY!**

Check lost property at the sign-in table regularly.



### Start and Finish Times

**Group A start 27th January**

**Group B start 29th January**

**Group A: 8.00am to 3.45pm**

**Group A after-kindy care: 3.45pm to 5.15 pm (latest pick up).**

**Group B: 8.00am to 3.45pm**

At the session start time, staff will open the black gate on the deck and welcome you and your child.

At the session finish time, staff will open the black gate when ready to welcome you in.

Early pick ups are fine. Please write your early time on the sign in table sheet so we can have your child ready and limit disruption to the rest of the class. Walk in to assist your child pack up if you are early.

## Save the Date! (Term 1)

### Annual General Meeting

Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> February  
at 6.30pm

### Working Bee

Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> March  
8am-11am

### Social Meet and Greet

Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March  
3pm - 5pm

# Getting to know us:

**Welcome** to Bayview Heights Community Kindergarten (BHCK). We are very excited to begin the adventure of a kindy year with you and your precious little one. We aim to provide a safe, stimulating and fun filled environment where children learn and develop through a range of play-based experiences. We look forward to getting to know you better as the year progresses and invite you to talk with us about your child at any time as we value your knowledge and parental expertise.

## A Little Bit About Us:

**Colleen**— I began teaching at Bayview Heights Community Kindergarten (BHCK) in 2008, however my connection with the kindy goes back to 1995 when my son attended and I was committee secretary. My daughter also attended BHCK two years later. Prior to this position I worked at Whitfield Community Kindergarten for 9 years and also have experience working in Family Day Care, Education Queensland and Catholic Education in a range of roles. I have a passion for Early Childhood Education with a special interest in children's literature and learning through the arts and nature. I am married with 2 adult children. I enjoy walking in nature, Zumba, reading, movies, eating out, theatre and travel.



**Maria**— I am starting as Bayview Heights Community Kindergarten as Group B teacher this year, however my connection with the kindy dates back to 1991 when I attended as a child. I have been working with children for over 20 years in a variety of roles including primary teaching, kindergarten teaching and directing, inclusion coordinator / special education teaching and at OSHC with C&K, Education Queensland and early childhood services. I am passionate about Early Childhood, particularly Nature Play and making connections to the local community as part of the program. I have an 8 year old son and we enjoy going camping and bushwalking together.



**Karla** I have been at Bayview Heights Community Kindergarten (BHCK) since 2021 and have completed my Certificate III in Early Childhood Education. I am from Cairns, but moved to Coen, Cape York at a young age. After finishing high school, I started my Certificate III and moved back to Cairns and started work as an Assistant and Support Worker at the kindy. I love Rugby League, spending time with family, including my baby nephew, and I love being at the kindy. I am excited to start another year working with your lovely children.

**Kim**—I started at BHCK in Term 4 2021 and have been very fortunate to gain many years experience working in early childhood education with Education Queensland and in a Kindergarten Day Care Centre prior to then. I enjoy riding my mountain bike, camping, reading, watching movies, catching up with friends and going to the local markets. I am really excited to be working with Colleen, Maria, Karla and Meagan at Bayview Heights Community Kindergarten and look forward to getting to know all the bright and bubbly children and greeting their lovely families.



**Meagan**—I have worked in Administration for over 20 years and am really looking forward to my role here at the Kindergarten. My two sons attended Bayview Heights Community Kindergarten, so it has always been a special place for me. I enjoy camping and spending time with my family. My role involves keeping our kindergarten running smoothly and helping liaise between parents, committee and staff at the kindergarten. I work Monday, Thursday and Friday from 7.45am-4.00pm.

# AGM

Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> February at 6.30pm

In 2025 we were fortunate to have an active parent committee at the Kindergarten.

We thank those of you who have made an expression of interest to be part of the 2026 Committee by filling in a nomination form.

**We still have 1 volunteer position available - Maintenance Coordinator. If you are interested in this role, please let staff or Meagan know.**

All families at the kindergarten are members of the Bayview Heights Community Kindergarten Association Incorporated and are encouraged to attend the AGM.

A list of all nominations will be posted at the sign-in table.

The AGM will be followed by the first Committee meeting of the year. The two meetings are separated by a tea/coffee break.



## Social Meet and Greet

Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March  
3pm—5pm

\* An RSVP sheet will be placed on the sign-in table with more details.

\* All families welcome.

\* A great way to connect with other kindy families.



## Working Bee

**Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> March—8am to 11am**



A working bee to weed and prune gardens, and to complete odd jobs is needed.

We hold two working bees during the year that are indicated on your kindy calendar. Without the help of our kindy families at these working bees we wouldn't be able to maintain our kindy at the high standard that you see. **It would be greatly appreciated if all families could volunteer their time and help at one of these working bees.**

Please bring along: Wheelbarrows, shovels, spades, rakes, garden tools, garden hedgers, safety equipment and gurney (if you have one). It would also be great if we can get a few utes/trailers on the day to take the rubbish to the dump.

A sign-in sheet will be placed on the sign-in table for your name and equipment/tools you can bring on the day.

# Free **KiNDY** from 2024



Kindy is free again in 2026!

Kindy will be free for children who are aged at least 4 years by 30 June in the year before they start Prep. Free kindy is for a 15 hour per week, 40 weeks per year, government-approved education program.

If your child is enrolled and claiming the Queensland Kindergarten Funding (QKF) at another kindergarten program (in a Childcare or Kindergarten service), we will not be able to claim, and this will also impact claiming any additional subsidies. Unfortunately, your child's daily rate will be increased to cover the loss of this funding - see Section 5.8 Multiple kindergarten enrolments in your Family Handbook.

Where families claim Free Kindy depends on the service type/s they attend:

- \*If your child attends two groups at the same kindergarten, you can only claim for one group. Out-of-pocket fees apply to the second group.
- \*If your child attends two Kindergartens, you can choose which centre to claim it at. Out-of-pocket fees apply to the other centre.
- \*If your child attends a kindergarten and a childcare centre, you can only claim it at the kindergarten. Out-of-pocket fees apply to the childcare centre, however you can still claim CCS.

## Tips and information

- Sign-in daily using Konnect via the iPad (see instructions in this newsletter).
- Apply sunscreen and/or insect repellent at home or upon arrival to kindy and sign the sunscreen register on the sign-in table.
- Encourage your child's independence by ensuring they carry their own belongings.
- Support your child to unpack items themselves.
- Sheets will be handed out in week 1. Bring sheets back weekly after washing at home.
- Name ALL your child's possessions.
- Send healthy, nutritious food. Send a spoon or fork, if needed.
- DO NOT keep repellent, sunscreen or any medications in your child's bag—give to staff.
- Send children in comfortable clothing that is easy for them to manage when toileting.
- Encourage your child to help themselves to drinks of cold filtered water using their cup throughout the day. They do not need a water bottle or other drinks packed.
- Chat to educators daily but please make an appointment in advance if you need to speak to teachers at length.

## **Signing in and out with Konnect**

Konnect is a digital sign in and out system.

A Konnect station (iPad) is situated on the sign-in table.

### **First day sign in and use of Konnect:**

- **Bring your mobile phone.**
- Enter your mobile phone number on the iPad.
- Your initial PIN will be sent to you via SMS.
- You will be prompted to change the PIN on log in.
- If you have no mobile phone - use the landline you listed on enrolment.

**\*\*Please note that the mobile or landline number must match the number that was entered in Kidsoft when completing the enrolment forms.  
This is also the case for your additional contacts.\*\***

After your initial Konnect setup, guardians can scan the QR code on the screen with their phone and can complete the signing in and out process on their phone.

Please explain the above procedure to any additional contacts that you have noted on enrolment to be an authorised person to collect your child from the kindergarten. This will ensure that they are also aware of the process for signing your child in and out.

Be assured that staff will be on hand to assist if you have any questions.

### **Create your confidential PIN!**

**Keep your Konnect sign in PIN confidential and do not share it.**

**All guardians who are listed on your enrolment to drop off and pick up your child, are required to have their own Konnect PIN.**

### **Add/remove Additional/Emergency Contacts**

This can be done through your Parent Portal on Kidsoft.

Emergency contact details cannot be updated once created. You will need to remove and re-add with the correct details.

Please click on the link to show you how—[Update Emergency Contacts](#)

## **Outstanding Paperwork**

- If you still have any outstanding paperwork or forms to be signed or returned to the kindy, please take care of these matters as soon as possible.

# Health and Hygiene:

As we start the year it is important to embed good habits surrounding prevention of the spread of illness and infection at kindy. It is important that we work hard to follow good hand washing procedures and that children who are sick stay at home.

We also ask that staff be advised if your child, or any family member, has been exposed to an infectious illness so we can advise other families of symptoms to watch out for.

**Upon arrival at kindy, please sanitise your hands then help your child to wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds then dry them using their individual towel.**



## What's Happening at Kindy?

It can be common for young children to find difficulty in answering the question, "What did you do at Kindy today?" At Kindy we focus on the process of learning rather than the end product. Questions like, "Did you do a painting?" focus on the product whereas more open-ended statements like, "Tell me about playing inside" or "I wonder if you went in the mud patch today" will invite your child to think and respond more deeply. To keep you informed about our program and assist your conversation starters there are several ways to find out what's happening at Kindy:

1. **Planning book.** This is kept on the block cabinet near the group meeting area in the classroom and placed on the sign in bench on the deck area at the end of the day. At times daily notes or other notices will be placed here also.
2. **Storypark.** An e-mail has been sent to each family inviting you to join Storypark. If you accept the invitation, you can then invite other family members to share your child's electronic portfolio stories. Please speak with your teacher or visit [www.storypark.com/au/families/](http://www.storypark.com/au/families/) for more information. There is information about our Term 1 learning environment in Storypark for you to view.
3. **Photo slideshows.** Displayed on the iPad and placed on the sign-in table.
4. **Portfolio/art scrapbooks** will be created for each child documenting their learning. These are stored in the classroom.
5. **Educators.** We welcome a quick informal chat any time, a phone call after session or e-mail. Any involved discussions may need an appointment time to ensure all children are our focus during session time. Teachers will also offer meeting times at the end of term to set goals and discuss your child's progress.

Information is also available in your Family Handbook or visit our website and Facebook at:

[www.bayviewheightskindy.com.au](http://www.bayviewheightskindy.com.au)

<https://www.facebook.com/Bayview-Heights-Community-Kindergarten-363298630811970/>

Newsletters will be emailed and also posted on the kindy website.

We also have a teacher email address [teachers@bayviewheightskindy.com.au](mailto:teachers@bayviewheightskindy.com.au)

# Making the big move to kindy or Prep



## Practical ideas to support your child

Starting kindy or Prep is a big move, and many children will have lots of questions about what it will be like.

It is a big change for both your child and your family, but with a positive and confident start, your child can develop a love of learning that lasts a lifetime.

You know your child best, and you're the best person to help make this transition smoother. Here are some practical ideas to support your child as they make this exciting move to kindy or Prep.



### Talk with your child

Talking with your child about their first few days at kindy or Prep is an easy way to support them.

Talk about:

- their first day
- how to make friends
- your happy memories of kindy and Prep.



### Read with your child

Reading with your child is special. You are bonding together and supporting their growth.

Sharing books with your child:

- builds their reading and language skills
- encourages a love of reading
- grows their understanding of the world.



## Build independence

At kindy and Prep, your child will look after their belongings and follow daily routines. Independence supports your child to join in at kindy and Prep.

Support your child's independence by:

- setting morning and evening routines
- helping them choose a lunchbox they can open and close
- practising putting on their socks and shoes.



## Celebrate your child's journey at each new stage

Starting kindy or Prep is a time to celebrate. Your child will feel important and their confidence will grow.

Celebrate starting kindy or Prep by:

- counting down to the first day of kindy or Prep
- taking photos of your child's first day
- have a family celebration.



## Connect with community with your child

Starting kindy or Prep is a chance for you to make new friends with other families and support each other.

You can meet other families by:

- spending time in your child's learning environment
- attending events at kindy or Prep
- helping out at the Prep tuckshop or uniform shop.



## Get proactive about your child's wellbeing

Your child's excitement about starting kindy or Prep may be mixed with sadness about leaving home, and wonder what it will be like.

Support your child's well-being by:

- Talking about how they are feeling and why this might be
- Teaching them how and who to ask for help
- Making time to rest before kindy or Prep starts and over the first few weeks.

## What else can I do?

- Remain positive about starting kindy or Prep, knowing that children settle in their own time.
- Rest and relax together to support your child's well-being.

- Build strong relationships and stay in touch with the kindy or Prep, they can help provide any support your child may need.
- Download resources at [www.qld.gov.au/BigMoves-EarlyYears](http://www.qld.gov.au/BigMoves-EarlyYears)