



# Bush Kinder Handbook 2026

Location: The Briars, Nepean Hwy, Mt. Martha.

This program was developed in 2024 in consultation with staff and the Committee of Management



Explore Play Grow

# Session Times 2026

- Wednesday 29th April
- Wednesday 10th June
- Wednesday 9th September
- Wednesday 18th November

## Our Bush kinder program is being continued in our 3 & 4 Year Old Programs for 2026.

These programs are educational sessions for children that will take place outdoors in nature at the Briars, once a term. Experts in children's learning say outdoor play is important for children's learning and wellbeing. It helps children grow physically and mentally and helps them learn how to handle risks.

Children at Bush Kinder's get to learn through play with natural materials outside. It's like a fun classroom in nature. Spending more time outdoors in bush kinder programs can make a big difference for children.

## Our Bush Kinder Objectives

### for the children to;

- experience playing in nature
- spend long and regular periods of time in play both guided by teachers and free play
- be connected with local community and surroundings
- experience and observe nature and animals, respecting the environment and learning what they can do to look after the environment
- learn to follow instructions from teachers and other adults
- learn to use their imagination
- learn from the natural world
- learn how to engage in safe risk taking eg tree climbing, playing and building with sticks
- learn to work as a team and develop skills in responsibility and independence



## Weather Considerations

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In the event of extreme weather conditions, it may be necessary to cancel our Bush Kinder Session. If this occurs families will be notified via email and WhatsApp Group Chat ASAP. In the event of Cancellation of Bush Kinder our session would resume as per usual at BHPS, 32 Amelia Ave. Mornington

Staff will check weather forecasts and emergency warnings for The Briars in the days leading up to the Bush Kinder day and on the day Bush Kinder commences. Staff will access weather forecasts and warnings daily and monitor and assess the weather throughout, and be prepared to cancel, modify or relocate at any time if a severe weather warning is issued for the area.

### **Extreme weather conditions that would result in cancellation include:**

- Temperatures above 32 degrees
- Wind speeds above 45km/h
- Electric Thunderstorms with lightening predicted and/or excessive rainfall/flooding.

### **Location specific numbers are also available and can be accessed at [Bureau of Meteorology – Telephone Weather Services Directory](#).**

- Coastal, Land Weather and Flood Warnings on [1300 659 217](#)
- Full State Telephone Weather Service on [1900 955 363](#) (call charge applies)
- VicEmergency Hotline (Includes bushfire information) [1800 226 226](#)

### **Weather and warning forecasts should be obtained from the Bureau of Meteorology. Staff using mobile apps to obtain this information are responsible for checking the source of the apps data.**

- [Bureau of Meteorology](#) and [MetEye](#)
- [Marine and Ocean](#) for coastal waters forecast and observations
- [VicEmergency](#)
- [National Warnings Summary](#)
- [Victorian Weather and Warnings](#)

Please see the [CFA website](#) for information regarding fire bans and fire danger ratings. Additional information can be obtained by calling the VicEmergency Hotline on [1800 226 226](#)



## Bush Kinder Bag

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Your child will require a large bag or backpack to keep all their belongings in. Your child will have lots of belongings to bring and take home and it's always easier to put everything in one bag. Please ensure your child's bag and all their belongings are clearly labeled with their full name.

### The bag should include:

- A labelled drink bottle filled with water.
- A full change of clothes, just in case!
- A sunhat or warm hat.
- Always pack a jumper, weather can be unpredictable.
- A warm coat on wet cold days.
- Your child's meal requirements for the day.

## Clothing & Footwear

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Your child should be dressed for play and exploration of The Briar's environment. Clothes which are comfortable, easy to take on and off and easy to launder are best. Always pack a full set of clothes (or more) for your child, on occasion children can have toileting accidents, get wet or muddy playing outside. We ask that you always send along a jumper as the weather can be unpredictable. Shoes such as runners, sneakers or boots are best for climbing and running; thongs, open toed sandals and party shoes are not suitable for Bush Kinder. A sun smart sunhat is required when the UV is 3 and above. Please ensure your child has a warm coat or jacket in term 2 and 3 as we still attend on very cold and rainy days.

## SunSmart practices

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Our policy states that all children must wear a broad brimmed sunhat for sun protection when the UV is 3 and above, please ensure it is packed for Bush Kinder Days. Children need to have shoulders covered as per our SunSmart Policy. It is also a requirement that children come to Bush kinder with sunscreen already applied, if you have forgotten we will have a generic large container of sunscreen that you can apply to your child prior to leaving them for the day.

## Meal Times & Drinks

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Your child is required to bring in a clearly labelled drink bottle filled with water. Children are encouraged to drink throughout the day and educators will refill the bottles as required. Children are required to bring two meals per session, a Morning Tea and a Lunch meal. It is best to pack two separate 'boxes', one for each meal, clearly labelled with your child's name.

Please take care to pack healthy balanced meals for your child, also please consider packing items that are allergy friendly **NO NUT PRODUCTS** Your teacher will notify you via email if there are any other food items that are to be avoided at kinder due to allergies.

### **TRY TO PROVIDE NUDE FOOD (NO WRAPPERS) AS BRIARS HAVE STRICT RUBBISH POLICY.**

Here is a link to a helpful website with ideas on packing a healthy and balanced lunchbox for your child- Lunch boxes - healthy ideas - Better Health Channel.



## Arrival/Drop Off

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Our Bush Kinder session are times are the same as usual sessions, 8.15am drop off and 2.45pm pick up time. It is very important that all children are brought into The Briars by a parent/guardian over the age of 16 and signed in correctly. The sign in book is a legal document and must be treated as such. If you are unsure about the signing in and out procedure please ask an educator for assistance. On departure you must also sign out. If you are sending a friend or relative to pick up your child please let the teachers know beforehand, make sure you inform your relative/friend that they will be required to bring photo ID. Please be aware that these procedures are in place to keep your child safe.

## Late Pickup

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Children are required to be picked up promptly at the end of the session. It can be overwhelming and scary to be the only child left at Bush Kinder. Please be aware that we have a late pick up policy; parents who are late will be charged the appropriate fee and given written warning by Committee. If you have been caught up in traffic or such please call the Kinder to alert teaching staff.

## Unable to Attend

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Please email [greengroup@beleurahillpreschool.com.au](mailto:greengroup@beleurahillpreschool.com.au) as soon as possible.

Post in the WhatsApp Green Group chat and phone Kinder to leave message 59753300 or Mobile phone – 0439 071 640

## Medications/Special Requirements

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If your child has a medical condition please discuss this with the teaching staff, it is important that all children with medical conditions are supported to have a safe and healthy experience at kinder. If your child has been diagnosed with Asthma, Anaphylaxis or any medical condition you must provide a recent medical plan from your child's doctor; it is also a requirement that all medications for these conditions are kept on the premises at all times.

**IMPORTANT:** Children will not be able to stay at Bush Kinder until an up to date medical plan, medications, medical supplies and risk assessment are completed and available at the preschool.

If your child requires medication while at Bush Kinder you must fill in the medication register on arrival and then again on departure, provide the medication to the teacher for safe storage (Never leave medications in children's bags). Please note teaching staff cannot give medications to children unless they are prescribed by the doctor and have the child's full name and dosage on it.

### Medical/First Aid

Staff will carry children's medications, action plans and a first aid kit to Bush Kinder in the event any child requires any medical attention. Adult volunteers are asked to take their mobile phones to use in the case of an emergency.

## Injury/Illness/Accident

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If your child becomes ill, has an accident and receives an injury, however small, teaching staff document this in the incident register and you will be required to read and sign this on collecting your child. At times you may be required to collect your child. On other occasions your child may require a cold pack or band aid and may be well enough to continue their day. We ask that you maintain your phone contact details throughout the year and be available to take calls while your child is in the care of Beleura Hill Preschool. **It is vital that you are contactable.**

## Volunteer Helpers

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A current Working With Children's Check is REQUIRED if you are planning on helping out! Parents and family members are encouraged to help on our Bush Kinder Days. We provide a roster for each session and any parent/adult wanting to help out will be allocated a session. This time is also a great time to watch your child play and interact with others and the Bush Kinder environment. Your child will love having you there to play and help and it provides you with an insight into your child's day! Unfortunately, siblings are **NOT** able to attend.

### Related Policies:

- In-Nature Play,
- SunSmart Policy,
- Arrival and collection of children,
- Medications,
- Injury,
- Illness and Accident.



# Contact Us



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## Pauline Allen-Stanley

Administration Assistant (ONLY AVAILABLE TUESDAYS/THURSDAYS)

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\*Please note all of our teachers work part time, please keep this in mind when emailing important questions.

(03) 5975 3300

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