

HAWTHORN ST.

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

Newsletter – July 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome to another wonderful month at Hawthorn Street Early Learning Centre! As we settle into the heart of winter, we are enjoying plenty of engaging learning experiences both indoors and outdoors. Our educators have planned a variety of hands-on activities that encourage children to explore, create, discover and develop new skills while having fun with their friends.

A friendly reminder that our **Portfolio Night** will be held on **Tuesday, 21 July, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm**. This is a fantastic opportunity to spend time with your child's educators, view their learning portfolio, celebrate their achievements and discuss their progress and development. We look forward to sharing these special learning moments with you.

We would also love to see our families at our **Park Playdate** on **Saturday, 25 July, at 10:00 am**. It's a wonderful chance for children, families and educators to connect outside the centre in a relaxed and fun environment. We hope you can join us for a morning of play, conversation and community.

As always, we thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. We look forward to another wonderful month of teaching and learning, where we continue to learn from the children just as much as they learn from us.

Your Feedback Matters: We value your feedback and suggestions—they help us improve and enrich children's learning. We also love seeing the family photos and weekend adventures you share on our Facebook page.

Kind regards,
Claire Hayward
Nominated Supervisor
Hawthorn Street Early
Learning Centre



Save the Dates

Park Playdates: Saturday 25th July, Saturday 17th October.

Portfolio Nights: Tuesday 21st July,
Tuesday 13th October

Children's Christmas Party: Friday 27th November

Preschool Graduation: Thursday 9th December

Public Holiday Reminder!

Just a friendly reminder that at Hawthorn Street Early Learning Centre, we are only closed on Public Holidays.

Labour Day: Monday 5th October

Christmas Day: Friday 25th December

Boxing Day holiday: Monday 28th December.



Staff Training

During our monthly Wednesday staff training sessions, the team has explored leadership, behaviour guidance, inclusion, and our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP). A strong focus has been on building a shared understanding that continuous improvement is everyone's responsibility, with all educators encouraged to contribute ideas, reflect on practice, and work collaboratively to improve outcomes for children, families, and the service.

Additional topics have included strengthening professional communication, developing consistent expectations across rooms, promoting inclusive practices, reflecting on daily practice, and using feedback and evidence to guide ongoing improvements in curriculum, relationships, and service quality.

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Learning & Curriculum – July School Program – Learning Through Culture, Nature & Play

Our July School Holiday Program has been thoughtfully designed to provide children with meaningful, hands-on learning experiences while celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and the unique environment of our local Dubbo community.

Throughout the three-week program, children across all age groups will engage in a wide range of exciting activities that encourage curiosity, creativity and exploration. They will enjoy listening to Dreamtime stories, learning basic Wiradjuri language, investigating native Australian animals, exploring weather and nature, and participating in sensory experiences using natural materials.

To celebrate **NAIDOC Week**, children will take part in activities that foster an appreciation of Aboriginal culture and history. They will explore traditional music and instruments, create Indigenous-inspired artworks, investigate animal tracks, participate in yarning circles and Acknowledgement of Country experiences, and celebrate what makes each of them "deadly" by recognising their own unique strengths and qualities.

Mathematical thinking will be encouraged through comparing lengths, creating nature patterns and using maps to develop spatial awareness, while scientific inquiry will be promoted through weather observations, investigating native animals and exploring the natural environment. Creative arts experiences, including self-portraits, community murals, nature collages and Australian animal sculptures, will allow children to express themselves while strengthening their connection to Country.

Physical development will also be supported through Indigenous-inspired movement, traditional games and outdoor exploration, encouraging teamwork, confidence and active participation.

Our educators are looking forward to providing a rich and engaging holiday program where children can learn through play, build meaningful connections with one another, develop an appreciation for the rich culture and history of Australia's First Nations peoples, and create many wonderful memories along the way.



A heartfelt thank you to Dylan and Isaiah for visiting our centre and sharing their knowledge of Indigenous culture with the children. Their engaging and meaningful presentation provided the children with a wonderful opportunity to learn about Indigenous traditions, stories, and cultural practices in a hands-on and respectful way.

We greatly appreciate the time and effort they dedicated to creating such a valuable learning experience for our children. Their visit helped foster curiosity, understanding, and appreciation for Australia's rich Indigenous heritage.

Thank you, Dylan and Isaiah, for making such a positive impact on our learning community!

