Volume 32 Issue 3

Thursday 19th February, 2026

Brentwood Park Primary School NEWSLETTER

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TERM DATES 2026 TERM 1 28TH JAN - 2ND APRIL TERM 2 20TH APR - 26TH JUNE
TERM 3 13TH JUL - 18TH SEP TERM 4 5TH OCT - 18TH DEC

DATES TO REMEMBER

19-20 FEB	PREP PUPIL FREE DAYS - INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENTS ONLY
17 FEB	SCHOOL PHOTOS
17 FEB	SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING @ 6:30 PM
18 FEB	SCHOOL PHOTOS FOR SIBLINGS
27 FEB	PREP PIRATE DAY
03 MAR	ICE CREAM DAY

JIM BELL, PRINCIPAL JUDY ANDERSON, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JO-ANNE DORAN, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

School Council Elections 2026

We are currently seeking nominations for parents wishing to stand for election onto School Council. A parent can be nominated and seconded as a candidate on a completed nomination form or self nominate for the position. Both these forms are available from the office. The nomination forms need to be returned to the principal by ***Friday 20 February.***

The term of office for elected members is two years. Half of the members of a school council retire each year and this creates four vacancies within the ***parent membership category*** and two vacancies within the ***Department of Education of Education (DoE) employee category.***

Being part of School Council does not require special skills or specific knowledge. All that is needed is a desire to work in partnership with others in shaping the school's future. If you decide to stand for election, the nomination form is completed and returned to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election.

Please consider standing for election in 2026.

Celebrating our Cultural Diversity 2026

At Brentwood Park Primary School, we are enriched through our cultural diversity with up to ***43*** different languages represented within our school community. ***Cultural Diversity Week, 21-29 March*** is preceded by ***Harmony Week, Monday 16—Sunday 22 March*** are celebrations that recognise our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

Celebrating our Cultural Diversity 2026

Overlapping both is ***Harmony Day,*** itself, which is scheduled for ***21 March.*** The event has been part of Brentwood Park's identity for a number of years and is one enjoyed by our students. It's an opportunity for them to proudly wear their cultural costumes or in the absence of a cultural costume to wear **ORANGE,** as this is the colour chosen to show support in the representation of **HARMONY**!

We are once again hopeful of conducting a **Harmony Day** special event and will be seeking support from parents and students to create an itinerary of performers, at least from the major countries represented below.

Top 10 countries of birth - parents

	Name	Number	Percent
	India	666	33.42%
	Sri Lanka	334	16.76%
	Australia	302	15.15%
	China	226	11.34%
	Pakistan	57	2.86%
	Bangladesh	40	2.01%
	Malaysia	39	1.96%
	Korea, Republic of	30	1.51%
	Afghanistan	28	1.40%
	United Kingdom	26	1.30%

Schedule 4 - Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of **BRENTWOOD PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL.**

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4 pm on **Friday 20 February 2026.**

The ballot will close at 4 pm on **6 March 2026.**

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows –

Membership category	Term of office	Number of positions
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2026 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2028	**4**
DoE employee member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2026 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2028	**2**

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Jim Bell
Principal

"Electorate of the school" means the Department of Education [DoE] employee electorate of the school and the Parent electorate of the school.

"Parent electorate of the school" means all persons (except the principal) who are parents of students of the school, other than those who are DoE employees.

Notes:

"DoE employee electorate of the school" means the principal of the school and –

DoE employees engaged in work at and for the school (other than those who are parents of students of the school) and other DoE employees who are parents of students of the school.

"DoE employee" –

means a person employed for eight hours or more per week in either an ongoing capacity or for a fixed term of at least 90 days -

(i) under the *Teaching Service Act 1981*; or
(ii) under the *Public Sector Management and Employment Act 1998*; or
(iii) by a school council of a State school; or
(iv) under section 5 or 5A of the *Education Act 1958*; or
(v) under more than one of the paragraphs (i) to (iv) above, and

does not mean a person employed under a contract for service or the employees or the contracted personnel of such a person.

Votes may be posted to the principal or placed in the ballot box at the school on any day up to the closure of the ballot. Further details on how votes may be lodged will be provided when ballot papers are sent to the electorate of the school.

Student Leadership

Joining our school captains in their student leadership positions are our newly elected house captains and specialist captains who were announced at last weeks' assembly.

Congratulations are extended to the following House Captains:

CARDINIA Rayona K and Eddie S
AKOONAH Navya K and Jayson K
GARDINER Irie R and Caedan P
CASEY Affaan S and Lexi O

Congratulations are extended to the following Specialists Captains:

VISUAL ARTS: Jill D and Seyan R
PERFORMING ARTS: Dhanujan R and Maysan M
CHINESE: Veronica J and Binu B
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY: Anna K and Aadith K

The team approach to fulfilling their respective duties is readily viewed at our student led assemblies each Friday afternoon.

Chinese Language and Culture

This year, the Chinese New Year officially begins on Tuesday 17 February and will end on Tuesday 3 March. It is the biggest festival in China. With the population of China estimated to be more than 1.4 billion and with the population of overseas Chinese having grown to more than 50 million, 19.6% of people in the world will be celebrating Chinese New Year Day.

Happy New Year: 新年快乐
(xīn nián kuài lè)
Happy Spring Festival: 春乐快乐 *(chūn jiē kuài lè)*

An Exception to Policy

Although school policy directs that dogs are not permitted to be on school grounds, there are, on occasion, exceptions granted. Exceptions in the past have been made for ***Guide Dogs*** for blind parents and dogs who, with owners, are part of the ***Responsible Pet Ownership*** program delivered to our Year Preps. An additional exception this year will be for young ***Kiran***, an ***Australian Border Force*** pup undergoing his training which requires regular social outings and activities in a wide range of environments. Socialisation and environmental conditioning are crucial for development which will enable these pups to grow into confident and outgoing adult dogs.

We thank our families for adhering to policy and enlist their understanding and support in this instance.

Short Term Pain for Long Term Gain

As a school, we consciously maintain our facilities and remain proud of the achievements we have made over the years. Despite the passing of 30+ years of school operation and enrolments exceeding 1,000 students, the wear and tear that could have resulted has seemingly been abated.

The most recent improvement to our facilities has been the erection of a new fence along our northern school border, the installation of a new accompanying sliding gate and the widening of the concrete pathway to enable greater efficiency in the ingress and egress of school.

Although the works caused a slight inconvenience during the construction phase it was well worth it now that it is fully operational! A ***short term pain for long term gain*** could not be more true!

International Mother Language Day

Saturday 21 February will be **International Mother Language Day.** It is a worldwide annual observance to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism. First announced by UNESCO on 17 November 1999, it was formally recognised by the United Nations General Assembly. **Mother Language Day** is part of a broader initiative ***"to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by peoples of the world".*** The idea to celebrate **International Mother Language Day** was the initiative of Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, 21 February is the anniversary of the day when people of Bangladesh [then east Pakistan] fought for recognition for the Bangla language.

At Brentwood Park Primary School, we are enriched by our cultural diversity. Our school has ***645 students*** who speak a language other than English at home. This equates to ***62.87% of our enrolment.*** Of these students, ***25*** speak ***Bengali***, also known as ***Bangla***, the mother language of ***Bangladesh.***

2026 Cross country

DATE: WEDNESDAY 1st APRIL

9:20am: 11yr and 12yr 3km race

9:45am: 9/10yr 2km race

10:10: 11yr and 12yr 1km FUN RUN

11:15am: Prep race

11:30am: Year 1 race

11:50am: Year 2 race

Important change for 2026: This year, 11yr and 12yr old students will have the CHOICE of either competing in the 3km race for a place in the district team OR participate in the 1km FUN RUN. The fun run will also include best dressed awards e.g.: best house spirit, most creative. The aim of school cross country is to promote whole school participation to be physically active and celebrate house spirit! House points are awarded to all students who participate!

CELEBRATING CHINESE NEW YEAR

THE YEAR OF THE FIRE HORSE

马 年 快 乐

Chinese Language and Culture

Dumpling Making

Chinese New Year 2026 marks the Year of the Horse, and the first day of the Chinese New Year was 17th February, 2026.

This week and next week, BPPS students from Foundation to Year 6 are celebrating Chinese New Year by making traditional dumplings (jiǎo zi 饺子), a dish that symbolizes wealth and good fortune. Students learn how to prepare the fillings, fold the dumplings, and discover the cultural significance of this fun and delicious tradition. Vegetarian options are also provided so everyone can join in.

Foundation Students making Dumplings

For foundation students making dumplings for the first time, the experience is both exciting and educational. This culinary adventure introduces them to the art of combining simple ingredients into a delicious and satisfying meal. They gather around a table filled with flour, minced meat, vegetables, and spices, students learn the importance of teamwork and communication. The process of folding and sealing each dumpling requires patience and precision, often leading to laughter and a few misshapen creations. However, it's the imperfections that make the experience memorable. Through this hands-on activity, students not only gain an appreciation for cultural traditions but also develop practical skills in cooking. The aroma of steaming dumplings fills the air, and as they take their first bite, students feel a sense of accomplishment and pride in their culinary creation.

Year 1 to Year 6 Students making Dumplings

Year 1 - 6 Students making Dumplings: Organizing a dumpling-making activity for grade 1 through grade 6 students can be a delightful and educational experience. The process begins with a brief introduction to the ingredients and a demonstration of how to make dumplings, emphasizing important skills such as measuring, mixing, and kneading the dough. Students can then take turns rolling out their dough and filling it with a simple mixture of vegetables or meat, under the guidance of supervising adults or older students. Cooking the dumplings becomes a fascinating science lesson, as they watch their creations transform in boiling water or a steaming basket. Once cooked, the children can learn the importance of presentation as they serve the dumplings to their peers, fostering a sense of community and cooperation. Throughout the activity, students develop fine motor skills, follow instructions, and enjoy the satisfaction of creating and sharing their own food, all while learning about different cultures and cuisines.

馬
HAPPY
CHINESE NEW YEAR!
2026
YEAR OF THE
FIRE
HORSE

Ramadan

Ramadan is the holiest month in the Islamic calendar, observed by Muslims worldwide as a period of fasting (sawm), prayer, reflection, and community, commemorating the revelation of the Quran.

From dawn to sunset, healthy adult Muslims abstain from food and drink, focusing on spiritual growth, self-control, and empathy for the less fortunate. concluding with the festival of ***Eid al-Fitr***.

This year, in Australia***, Ramadan*** is expected to ***begin at sundown on Tuesday, Feb. 17, and end on Thursday, March 19.***

Ramadan

Most of the world's ***2 billion Muslims*** observe the holy month of ***Ramadan*** each year. ***Eid al-Fitr*** which marks the end of ***Ramadan***, is a major holiday celebrated by Muslims around the world to signify the breaking of the fast. With the library and its entrance in the administration foyer as a focal point within our school, two of our parents organised a display in recognition of ***Ramadan.***

The display includes fact sheets on ***Ramadan*** and ornamental decorations/symbols reflective of the occasion. Thanks are forwarded to parents, ***Sadaf*** and ***Fatima,*** for sharing with us.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES?
TERM 1, 2026

Lisa Lilley – Digital Technologies specialist teacher/manager (Years F to 4 only)
Email: lisa.lilley@education.vic.gov.au
Sarah Ierfone - Digital Technologies specialist teacher (3 x Year 4 classes per semester)
Daisy He – Media specialist teacher (Years 5 & 6 only)

FOUNDATION: Creating Digital Solutions – Bee Bot robotics & coding

Victorian Curriculum (V2) - follow, describe and represent algorithms involving a sequence of steps, branching (decisions) and iteration (repetition) needed to solve simple problems

YEARS 1 & 2: Digital Systems & Security – internet safety, how a computer works, keyboard skills

Victorian Curriculum (V2) - identify and explore digital systems including hardware and software components for a purpose/ identify some data that is personal and access their school account with a recorded username and password

YEAR 3: Digital Systems & Security – internet safety how a computer works, keyboard skills

Victorian Curriculum (V2) - Explore and describe a range of digital systems and their peripherals for a variety of purposes/access their school account using a memorised password and explain why it should be easy to remember, but hard for others to guess/ explore transmitting different types of data between digital systems

YEAR 4: Data, Information & Privacy – internet safety, MS OneDrive, MS Excel, MS Word MS Outlook

Microsoft 365

Victorian Curriculum (V2) - recognise different types of data and explore how the same data can be represented differently depending on the purpose/access their school account using a memorised password and explain why it should be easy to remember, but hard for others to guess

YEARS 5 & 6: Digital Systems & Security – internet safety, how an iPad works

Microsoft 365 showbie

Victorian Curriculum (V2) investigate the main internal components of common digital systems and their function/examine how digital systems form networks to transmit data/access multiple personal accounts using unique passphrases and explain the risks of password re-use

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES? TERM 1, 2026

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MINECRAFT EDUCATION EDITION

Students in Year 4 are currently attending after school coding classes using Minecraft Education. All students at government schools can access the Minecraft Education free app using their MS 365 school email address and password. Contact your class teacher to obtain these details. This log in can also be used to download MS 365 on any device at home for free for the years your child attends a government school.

Registration Link: https://bit.ly/3u15l2B

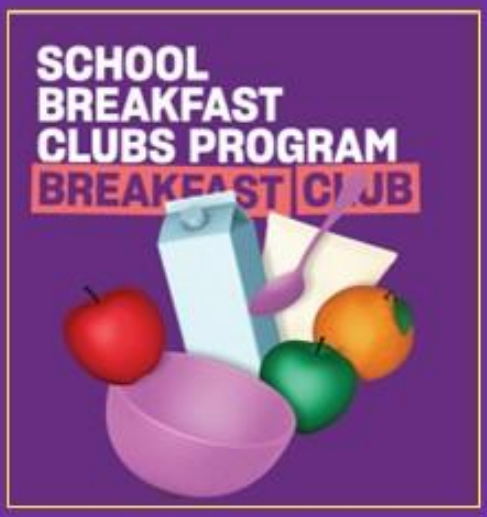
Football Star Academy Berwick – 2026 Football Victoria Season Trials

Is your child ready to play in the 2026 Football Victoria season?

Football Star Academy Berwick is holding trials this Wednesday, 18th February. We are looking for motivated players to join our academy squads for competitive play.

- *Who: Players born between 2016 and 2018 (U8, U9 & U10 age groups)*
- *When: Wednesday, 18th February*
- *Time: 6:30pm*
- *Where: Beaconhills College - Berwick Campus (Multipurpose Courts)*
- *Access: Enter via Gate 2, turn right and follow the car park until you see the courts on your left.*
- *Register here: https://bit.ly/3u15l2B*

For any enquiries, please contact the Berwick Team at 0435 890 295.



When: Tuesday and Thursday

Where: School Canteen

Time: 8:30am – 8:45am

Who: Any student of BPPS

Cost: Free – just come along

What is 'The School Breakfast Club'?

The School Breakfast Clubs Program is a Victorian Government commitment delivered in partnership with Foodbank Victoria. The program enables all students at Victorian government schools to enjoy a free, nutritious breakfast, allowing them to engage and participate fully in all the educational and social opportunities that school offers.

The Foodbank 2015 Hunger in the Classroom Report found: Two-thirds of Australian teachers report having children come to school hungry or without having eaten breakfast. It also reported that on a typical day, around three students in every class will arrive at school hungry or without having eaten breakfast. Feedback from schools indicates improved engagement and learning outcomes, improved school attendance, and improvements in student behaviour.

Can You Help Support our Breakfast Club?

Do you have a business that can provide addition products?

Would you like to volunteer your time on a Tuesday or a Thursday morning helping prepare food?

If you answered yes, please see Mel (Wellbeing Leader) to sit down and have a chat.

EAT. LEARN. SUCCEED.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Term 1

Week ending 13th February, 26

0TL	n/a	
0RC	n/a	
0EP	n/a	
0LP	n/a	
0MB	n/a	
1AU	Ishaaq	for consistently demonstrating our four school values throughout this week!
1CM	Jane	well done on following instructions and putting in your best effort with your work. Keep shining!
1NG	Samanvitha	you have made a wonderful start at BPPS and made lots of new friends. We are so happy to have you in 1NG.
1KM	Haris	for putting so much effort into all you do!
1SL	Duleesha	for showing respect and helping your friends. Keep up your amazing effort!
2SM	Mikayla	for always putting in wonderful effort and working hard in everything you do.
2SY	Lacey	for always following our class rules, making good choices and for being a helpful member of 2SY!
2LD	Avnoor	for contributing to our class discussions and trying your best with every learning tasks.
2LM	Chengcheng	for having a positive attitude towards your learning and completing all learning tasks to the best of your ability!
2CH	Kaylee	for completing wonderful work this week. You have given everything your best effort.
2JL	Saman	for always displaying model student behaviour!
3AM	Thomas	for using a variety of language features in his narrative writing this week.
3BC	Myra	for always being an enthusiastic learner. You approach all tasks with a willingness to learn.
3JR	Panshul	for doing a great job at planning and writing an engaging narrative!
3GA	Tanishka	for showing school values and working hard in class. Keep being amazing!
3AJ	Declan	for his excellence in writing and helping others.
4SA	Lenny	for your enthusiasm to participate in class discussions. Keep it up!
4MS	Ethan	for your excellent sentence writing ideas and your valuable contributions to class discussions.
4NH	Amna	for being a team player and giving it her all.
4TC	Lexie	for the way you are challenging yourself in new learning.
4VK	n/a	
4CR	Rithvick	for being a confident and valued member of 4CR. You share your ideas with enthusiasm and show respect to others.
5CW	Yehansha	for your amazing contributions to class discussion and writing a descriptive sizzling start!
5NR	Martin	for using your skills to help a friend understand and feel included, you showed wonderful generosity and care.
5RH	Melody	for being a kind and inclusive member of 5RH. Your positive attitude helps make our classroom a happy and respectful place to learn.
5MT	Evni	for demonstrating excellence in her approach to all her learning activities this week.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Term 4

Week ending 13th February, 26

6EK	Xavier	for being so committed to his learning. Xavier, you have made an amazing start to Year Six.
6MB	Daksha	for demonstrating her excellent understanding and literary skills during out reading session this week. Well done.
6ED	Ray	for showing exceptional independence and creativity when creating your 'favourite things' poster for homework. Keep up the focused work!
6KR	Selina	for demonstrating our school values of teamwork and responsibility with helping your peers.
6LM		n/a
6SM	Moksha	for showing your understanding of length and decimals during our length investigation. Great job!
6LS	Lincoln	for making empowering choices when working in groups.
	Nate	for using effective listening strategies and starting tasks straight away.

SPECIALISTS

PE—DYLAN

2CH — for your fantastic listening skills while learning how to run a race. Great focus and effort!

PE-JIM/KIRSTY/CHANEL

4CR — for incredible listening skills during teaching vortex throwing and also importantly executing lovely throwing skills.

PA-SARAH

1AU — for creating a steady beat using their body percussion.

ART-JESS

1NG — for working so quietly and confidently after listening beautifully to the lesson instructions and expectations.

ART-BREE

3AM — for trying your best in art; your blending of colours was amazing. Well done!

CHINESE-DAISY

6LS — awesome job of creating your Chinese paper cutting craft this week.

CHINESE-CHUNYAN

3AM — for your respectful attitude and excellent engagement in learning the Happy New Year song. Great start, 3AM!

2CH — for your respectful attitude and excellent organisation in learning to say Happy New Year in Chinese. Excellent, 2CH!

DT-LISA/SARAH

1AU — you had a great start to the year learning about internet safety with Hector's World.

4NH — for understanding the importance of iPad and internet safety.

PA-KENNETH

4CR — for a great lesson playing rhythm patterns and connecting them to say and play 16 bars of music with no breaks.

MEDIA-DAISY

5CW — for your amazing job learning software and hardware in a computer this week!

LIBRARY-ANNETTE/JO/VERONICA

5MT/5CW — for modelling exemplary behaviour in the library.

Casey North Community Information & Support Service

FM9.25

Food and Emergency Assistance

🍱 Do you need food or emergency support?

We provide **material aid** for people and families experiencing crisis or emergency situations.

✓ What support can we provide?

- 🛒 Food hampers / pantry items when available
- 🟥 Food vouchers
- 💊 Help with some medical prescriptions
- 🚿 Shower passes

👥 What to expect when you visit

Our staff and volunteers will:

- 👂 listen to your situation (listen to you about your situation)
- 📝 complete a short assessment
- 🧑‍🤝‍🧑 work with you to find the right best support available

🔁 Ongoing support

Our funding is limited, so we will not be able to provide ongoing support. We can help you to **connect with other food relief agencies** if you need continued assistance.

🤝 We can also help with

- ➡️ referrals to other community services & organisations
- ➡️ referrals to financial counselling for budgeting and money management
- ➡️ finding better utility providers (electricity and gas)
- ➡️ organising setting up payment plans

Please note: we cannot pay utility bills, but we will help you explore your options.

🌎 Language support 🗣️

Telephone Interpreter Services are available.

You don't have to go through this alone - We're here to help.

Cathy-Lea Studios

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*Free trials *Family discounts

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ENQUIRE NOW

5/15-19 Vesper Dve, Narre Warren 9704-7324 office@cathy-lea.com

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City of Casey

Children are watching

Your behaviour around schools and kindergartens matters!

Take a couple of minutes to watch driving around schools safely

casey.vic.gov.au/safe-around-schools

Parenting Adolescents

Online Group

This 6-week program offers an opportunity to reflect on parenting and adolescents, and how you can support your child in having the experiences you hope for as they grow. It is suitable for parents and carers of children aged 10 to 17 years.

The Bringing Up Great Kids Parenting Adolescents program supports you as a parent or carer to:

- explore your parenting style.
- learn more about brain development during the adolescent period and its influence on the adolescents thoughts, feelings and behaviour.
- explore new ways of communicating with your adolescents.
- discover ways to take care of yourself, practice self-compassion and how to find support when needed.

Eligibility: *Participants must live in the City of Casey, Cardinia Shire, or Greater Dandenong. Unfortunately, we cannot accept registrations from outside these areas.*

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Scan the QR code to register

Parenting Adolescents, Term 1, 2026 – Fill out form

COST
Free

DATES
Wednesdays
25th February
4th, 11th, 18th, 25th March
1st April 2026

TIME
10:00am until 12:00pm

LOCATION
Online – A link will be emailed to registered participants.

ENQUIRIES
P: 9704 8377
E: groupwork.south@vt.uniting.org

Australian Childhood Foundation

Uniting

FREE WORKSHOP
Building Your Child's Village

Please join us for an interactive workshop with Mari Mohamed, Chapter One Services

Learn practical strategies to effectively coordinate therapists, schools, and support workers, helping to strengthen communication and support consistent progress for your child.

All parents and carers welcome!
Play Leader present - preschool aged children welcome
Morning Tea and Refreshments Provided

WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH 2026
9.30AM - 12.30PM
PRESENTATION WILL COMMENCE AT 10.30AM

THE HUNT CLUB CHILDREN'S CENTRE
40 BROAD OAK DRIVE, CRANBOURNE

For further information and to register contact
Belinda on 0466 105 825
E: belindac@mytimevic.com.au

MyTime

nab AFL Auskick

4-7 YEAR OLDS*

Your introduction into Australian football centred around game-based activities kids love.

AFL Superkick

7-12 YEAR OLDS

Designed for any child to give it a go, with a focus on skill development and learning how to play the game.

*Kids can join NAB AFL Auskick if they are turning 5 in the calendar year (before 30th June in WA).

NARRE WARREN AUSKICK + SUPERKICK

STARTS MAY 1ST FROM 4:50PM

Scan the QR code to register!

AUSKICK

SUPERKICK

Brentwood Park Primary School

Stronger together

SUNSMART®