



Matilda Jnr

CSS Musical 2026



Thank you for expressing interest in CSS's Matilda Jnr musical production in 2026! The CSS P&C has been funding and supporting these musicals every second year since 2012: Mary Poppins Jr in 2024; Singin in the Rain Jr in 2022; Hairspray Jr in 2018; Shrek - The Musical in 2016; Disney's Aladdin Jr in 2014; Kids in Paradise in 2012. **The musicals are also important fundraisers for P&C, so get involved and contribute where and how you can.** The musical is a place for children to develop their skills in acting, singing, dancing and stage production to make a story come to life! They will learn how to be part of an inclusive performance program in a team of students, led by parent volunteers and supporting teachers at the school. Engaging in performing arts offers children numerous benefits, including enhanced cognitive skills (memory, critical thinking/problem solving, creativity), improved social interactions, and increased self-confidence. Of course, there is also the pure joy of performing on stage to a supportive audience. **This document has been prepared to provide students and parents with a summary of key information in relation to the musical season (starting in Term 1, February, and finishing in mid Term 3, August,) and to communicate our plans & expectations.**

Overview of 2026

The musical is open to all Year 3 to Year 6 students who want to be involved in the musical as a lead character role, as part of the singing/dancing ensemble or the backstage crew. All roles are equally important and help bring the magic of the musical to the audience. **Please note, character roles are for Year 5 and 6 students only – the Year 3 and 4 students will get their turn in years to come!** This year the musical auditions will be held early in Term 1 – these are for students wishing to go for character roles only. Those students wanting to be part of the ensemble or backstage crew just need to sign up, get permission and commit to being part of the musical (see student commitment section).

Please note this musical is led and created by parent volunteers in their own time. This is why auditions and rehearsals need to be outside school hours and spread out over a longer time period. This is unlike other schools with teacher-led musicals or plays that have shorter seasons with longer or more frequent weekly rehearsals in school time. As such, please be understanding and respectful of the need to make executive decisions that balance the need of the children in the musical (first and foremost), together with the need to schedule volunteer time amidst family and work life.

Lead Coordinators

Name	Position
Eliza Smith	Co-Producer (Production Coordination)
Emily Lawrence (past CSS musical student, recent high school graduate)	Co-Producer (Creative & Communication)
Marina Fern	Acting Director
Brianna Carpenter	Musical Director
Ali Fyfe, Lucy Chambers, Sarah Cooper	Choreographers
Dean Watkin, Alex Ansaldo, Ian Boater, Sean Gilligan	Audiovisual Creators
Claire Brophy, Kate Turner, Monika Christophorou, Matt Labedzki	Set and Costume Design

Schedule

Please refer to the separate schedule document for a detailed plan for the musical season. Please review this carefully to understand if this is something your student and family can commit to. The main days are **Thursdays 3-5pm (character roles only)** and **Sunday afternoons (all cast)**. Please **note: ensemble members and back stage crew are required for Sunday rehearsals only, except for the final stage rehearsal on Ekka Public Holiday on Wednesday 12th August**. Auditions for lead roles will start on Sunday 8th February (Week 2 Term 1) and will be held on successive Sundays in Term 1. Ensemble and backstage members will start every Sunday rehearsals in Term 2 with a few welcome and initial song learning rehearsals in Term 1. See below for the key dates.

Key Dates

Activity	Week	Date	Students Required
Term 1			
First audition	Week 2	Sunday 8th February	Students going for character roles only
Announce roles	Week 5	Sunday 1 st March	Students going for character roles only
First lead rehearsal	Week 6	Thursday 5th March	Students going for character roles only
Full cast welcome and singing rehearsal	Week 8	Sunday 22nd March	All cast and backstage crew (the latter only required for the first hour)
Term 2			
Rehearsals recommence after holidays (no rehearsals in holidays)	Week 1	Thursday 23 rd and Sunday 26 th April	All cast
First all cast and crew rehearsal	Week 7	Sunday 7th June	All cast and backstage crew
Books and sheet music down rehearsals	Week 9	Thursday 18 th and Sunday 21 st June	All cast and backstage crew
Term 3			
Full Dress Rehearsal (Leads photos taken)	Week 3	Thursday 30 th July and Sunday 2 nd August	All cast and backstage crew
Full Day Technical Rehearsal (Ensemble and Backstage crew photos)	Week 4	Sunday 9th August	All cast and backstage crew
Full Day Dress Rehearsal	Week 5	Wednesday 12th August (EKKA PUBLIC HOLIDAY)	All cast and backstage crew
Performance weekend	Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Friday 14th evening show - Saturday 15th day and evening show - Sunday 16th day show 	All cast and backstage crew

Student Commitment

Please complete & return the 'Commitment & Permission' section at the end of this document and return it to the office by Friday 30/01/2026 (Week 1, Term 1 2026). **If forms are not returned by this date, you will not be able to participate in the musical.**

It is imperative that students going for lead roles are available for the above-mentioned dates. This is particularly true for the 6 main lead roles – Matilda, Ms Honey, Ms Trunchbull, Mr and Mrs Wormwood and Mrs Phelps the Librarian. Other character roles are expected to be at all the rehearsals they are required for, but will not be required for ALL Thursdays. These dates will be made clear before the

first musical rehearsals start in Term 1. Ensemble students are also expected to attend all Sunday rehearsals– this is made clear in the schedule, so please look at it carefully to understand if this is a commitment your family can prioritize – teamwork makes the dream work! Backstage crew are required every Sunday from 7th of June and at all rehearsals and performances. If you have any concern over availability to attend any of the auditions, rehearsals, or performances, please raise this with the producers in the first week of Term 1, 2026, BEFORE signing and returning the commitment contract/permission form. The first introduction will come from a P&C email in Week 1 of Term 1 in 2026. Please reply email any concerns at this time.

Behavioural Standards

In accepting their place as part of the 2026 musical, students are required to maintain a high level of behavioural standards at all times at auditions, rehearsals & performances – just as they would at school, guided by the SOAR principles of CSS.

Parents are to provide an environment of support, teamwork, encouragement and leadership at all times. Discouraging & unsatisfactory conduct to musical members or volunteer parents will not be tolerated.

Communication Protocols



EMAILS FOR KEY INFORMATION AND UPDATES (LIMIT REPLIES PLEASE)

Email will be used as a primary means of communication to parents throughout auditions, rehearsals and performances in 2026. **It is asked that questions directed to the producers or directors be limited to in person at rehearsals rather than via email in order to respect volunteer personal time.**



DEDICATED QUESTION TIME IN PERSON AT REHEARSALS

There will be a dedicated 'Question Time' desk after each rehearsal where students and parents can ask questions of parent volunteers. Questions during rehearsal time will not be answered to maximise focused rehearsal time. **Please also avoid asking questions of Ms Eliza at the office during school/work hours.**



MOBILE PHONE CALLS FOR URGENT COMMUNICATION

Mobile communication will be used only in the event that immediate communication needs to be made between production team and parents at rehearsals or performances.

Matilda Jnr Musical 2026

COMMITMENT AND PERMISSION FORM



To confirm your place in Matilda Jnr Musical 2026, please complete the following & return to Ms Eliza Smith at the office by Friday 10/10/2025.

STUDENT NAME:

CLASS:

Student Commitment

I have read pages 1-3 of the information document and confirm my commitment to the terms outlined in this document.

Signed: _____ (Student)

Dated: ____ / ____ / ____

Parent Permission

I have read pages 1-3 of the information document and provide permission for my child to be a member of Matilda Jnr musical 2026.

At least one parent must provide permission. Please provide all mobile numbers and at least one email contact.

Parent/Guardian name: _____

Email: _____

Mobile: _____

Signed: _____ (Parent)

Dated: ____ / ____ / ____

Parent/Guardian name: _____

Email: _____

Mobile: _____

Signed: _____ (Parent)

Dated: ____ / ____ / ____

Would you like to purchasing a musical shirt for \$30-35? Yes ☐ No ☐

Please note: ticking yes to this is permission requires payment for the shirt in Term 1, 2025.