



Cowwarr Primary School Newsletter

Respect | Responsibility | Resilience | Self belief

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6 October, 2023

TEAM: 'Together' We Achieve More

This has been a very interesting start to the school term. From fires to floods and all the worries in-between. We understand how stressful these events have been for some of our families, staff, and students and wish to remind people they can come in and have a chat with us or make a time to speak with Marg, our Wellbeing Leader. We are here to support the Mental health and Wellbeing of all team members in our school community, not just students.

Another thankyou again to our families and school community for their understanding during these 'tricky' times. I have appreciated that families have made their own choices about school and the safety of their children and families. Safety is always a priority! There is not always a lot of information that comes out to schools during these times, but as a team and as a school community, we have made the best choices for the safest outcomes for our students.

As a school, we follow our emergency plans and update families as best we can. In this week's newsletter we have attached a new policy for actions the school is required to take in the event of a Catastrophic rating during the upcoming bushfire season. If the next day is declared a Catastrophic rating, the school must close. If families have any questions about our Emergency Management Plan, please feel free to come and speak to the school.

A reminder that Compass is our first platform for communicating important information and I kindly ask that everyone ensures they are on Compass. If you have any difficulties with Compass or need help to instal it on your device, please come in and speak with Lianne on Monday, Tuesday, or Friday's.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting last term for the 2023 school year.

CALENDAR 2023

TERM 4

OCTOBER

Mon 2nd	First day term 4
Fri 6th	Swimming program
Fri 13th	Swimming program
Fri 13th	School disco
Tues 17th	School Council 7pm
Fri 20th	Swimming program
Fri 27th	Swimming program

NOVEMBER

Fri 3rd	Sale Show
Mon 6th	Pupil free day
Tue 7th	Melb Cup public holiday
Mon 13th	Dental van visit this week
Tue 14th	School council 7pm
Fri 24th	Pupil free day report writing

DECEMBER

Tue 12th	Statewide transition
Thu 14th	End of year concert
Tues 19th	Final school day 2023
Wed 20th	Staff PD



Monday 6th November

Public Holiday



Our school is highly protective of our children and adheres to the Government Child Safety guidelines

To start, a huge congratulations to Kaley who has progressed to the Regional Division of Athletics. Next Tuesday 10th of October, Kaley will be competing in Hurdles and Long Jump, representing Cowwarr and the Sale Rural Cluster. We wish her the best of luck on this day and look forward to hearing about her achievements.

Despite cancelling this week's sessions, we have swimming that is taking place over the next 3 weeks. These sessions are doubled up so our students can get the most out of their time at the Sale pool. Knowing how to swim is a lifesaving skill and we are proud to say that we currently can offer this program at no cost to our families.

Let's not forget the Friday 13th school Disco next week. I know I am ready for a good dance and will certainly come with my dance shoes on.

Students have been busy with Mrs. Anderson making artwork ready for the Sale Show exhibition on Friday 3rd November. This has become a school tradition and one that I look forward to each year. As always, families are invited to come along on the day and join us on the bus for a fun filled day at the Show!

I am excited for our learning and units of work this term. We are beginning a multi-genre unit for reading and writing where we have the opportunity to write across all of the genres. Mystery and horror are a bit of a favourite amongst the kids at the moment. I know I am excited to see the amazing writing that will be produced this term.

We will be active out in the garden with our 'Plants in Action' and 'Ecological Sustainability' units of work. Miss. Marg has worked hard to get the new garden beds up and running, now it is our turn to learn about plants, gardening, and sustainability, to bring this space to life.

It's a busy term but it's also a long term with 12 weeks at school. The last term can be the hardest in some ways as it is the start of the end for our year 6 students, and this can be a difficult and emotional time. We need to focus on the positives that change brings us and remember to be kind to each other as we begin a long and busy term at school.

Thank you for the continued support you show towards the school and leadership. We are a TEAM and 'Together, Everyone Achieves More'!

Chanae Johns
Acting Principal

CAKE STALL

The Referendum has provided the opportunity to run a cake stall at the school on Saturday the 14th of October. Parents had previously indicated that they could help with some baking and selling.

We are asking all families to supply a plate of either cakes, slices, or home produce to sell.

NO FRESH CREAM

Please remember to label your item and list all ingredients and the date your item was baked or prepared.

Please drop off your item/s to school on Friday 13th after school.

Please indicate if you can help on the day.



Miss Marg's Mental Health Motivations

Friendships

Friendships have a huge impact on your mental health and happiness. Good friends relieve stress, provide comfort and joy, and prevent loneliness and isolation. Developing close friendships can also have a powerful impact on your physical health. But close friendships don't just happen. Many of us struggle to meet people and develop quality connections. Whatever your circumstances, it's never too late to make new friends, reconnect with old ones, and greatly improve your social life, emotional health, and overall well-being.

Healthy friendships can:

Improve your mood.
Help you to reach your goals.
Reduce your stress.
Support you through tough times.
Boost your self-worth.



Making a new friend is just the beginning of the journey. Friendships take time to form and even more time to deepen, so you need to nurture that new connection.

Be the friend that you would like to have. Treat your friend just as you want them to treat you. Be reliable, thoughtful, trustworthy, and willing to share yourself and your time.

Be a good listener. Be prepared to listen to and support friends just as you want them to listen to and support you.

Give your friend space. Don't be too clingy or needy. Everyone needs space to be alone or spend time with other people as well.

Don't set too many rules and expectations. Instead, allow your friendship to evolve naturally. You're both unique individuals so your friendship probably won't develop exactly as you expect.

Be forgiving. No one is perfect and every friend will make mistakes. No friendship develops smoothly so when there's a bump in the road, try to find a way to overcome the problem and move on. It will often deepen the bond between you.

Bottom line is, if the friendship feels good, it is good. But if a person tries to control you, criticizes you, abuses your generosity, or brings unwanted drama or negative influences into your life, it's time to re-evaluate the friendship. A good friend does not require you to compromise your values, always agree with them or disregard your own needs.

Cowwarr Primary School

DISCO NIGHT



All primary age students welcome to
attend



DJ TimmyB

FRIDAY 13TH
OCTOBER
6-8 PM

COWWARR FOOTBALL CLUB
\$5 PER CHILD

FULLY SUPERVISED

Parents will be required to sign in
and sign out your child/children



FOUNDATION TRANSITION

Dates and Times

Monday 20th November

Monday 27th November

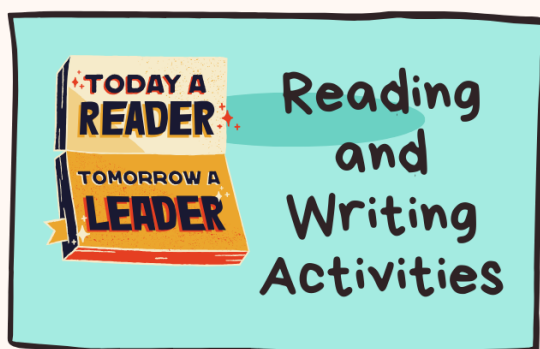
Monday 4th December

Monday 11th December

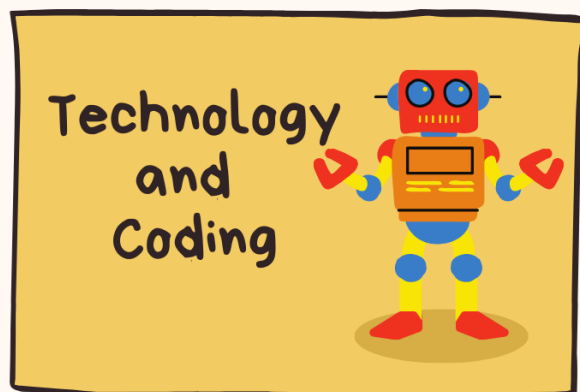
9.00 am until 11.30 am.



Art
Activities



Reading
and
Writing
Activities



Technology
and
Coding



Science
Experiments



Newsletter article: Schools in Category 3 on the Bushfire At-Risk Register and the Category 4 list.

School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, to prepare for bushfires and grassfires, schools and early childhood services complete a range of activities.

The Department of Education runs an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 4) and are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR).



All schools and early childhood services listed on the BARR and Category 4 list will also close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district.

When the Bureau of Meteorology provides public fire danger rating forecasts or fire weather warnings, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries. Our school is in **West and South Gippsland fire weather district**.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and will ensure we maintain the facility grounds and gutters in preparing for the threat of fire.

What does this mean for our school?

Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is Category 4 school.

Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in **West and South Gippsland fire district**.

What is the department's policy?

The department's [Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy](#) requires all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 list to close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

When will our school be closed due to Catastrophic fire danger?

Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in **West and South Gippsland fire district**.

Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. Any information regarding

potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by Compass and Compass text messages.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, even if the weather forecast changes.

This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps and excursions will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

Families are encouraged to action their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by checking Compass for any updates, reading our newsletters, or by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is learning from home and/or closed due to elevated fire danger or closed due to a Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to [them about bushfires](#) and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters