

Newsletter

Lindenow South Primary School



Newsletter #18
Term 4, 15/12/2025

Upcoming Calendar Dates

Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas BBQ and class items 5:30pm.
Wednesday 17 th December	Change of Date - Students Last Day!!
Wednesday 28 th January 2026	First Day 2026 School Year
Thursday 29 th January 2026	Berry Dairy Excursion

Assistant Principal Report

As the proud assistant principal of our small but mighty school, I am honoured to lead a learning community that embodies perseverance, heart, and hope. Our school stands as a testament to the strength of our families, staff, and wider community—who, through challenge and change, have fought to ensure our doors remain open and our children have a place to belong, learn, and thrive.

Our commitment is to create a nurturing, inclusive, and inspiring environment that reflects the unique spirit of our community. We aim to foster confident learners, compassionate citizens, and lifelong contributors—students who walk out of our gates proud of where they came from and ready to shape the world beyond.

Together, we grow. Together, we rise.

Wishing you a very merry Christmas and a safe, joyful New Year. I look forward to continuing our journey together in 2026.

Kind Regards,

Stephanie Hoekstra

Absence Reporting Reminder

A friendly reminder to families that all student absences must be explained. If your child is away from school, please provide a reason for their absence either by recording it on **UEducateUs** or by calling the school office. Providing a reason helps us keep accurate attendance records and ensures we meet Department of Education requirements. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our attendance records up to date.

Breakfast Club Closed –

We will have no Brekkie Club for the remainder of the year as we clean up and sort through our remaining food supplies. A massive thank you to Troy and Jenny for keeping our students fed throughout the year, and for the delicious pancakes Troy made for our final Brekkie Club — light, fluffy, and absolutely delicious.

Final Gymnastics

Date: Friday 5th December

We had our final gymnastics session on last Friday. Students loved tackling the warped wall and enjoyed the freedom to explore their newly gained gymnastics skills. We sincerely appreciate Troy for driving us safely back and forth over the past several weeks, and we thank the staff who ensured students were safe on the bus and during each session. It's been a big team effort from everyone.



MARC Van

Date: Thursday 4th December

It was wonderful to have Peter Robertson back for MARC Van again last week.

Please note that any outstanding **MARC Van books are overdue**, please check around the house and have those back ASAP before you are charged for those.



Final Assembly

Date: Wednesday 10th December

It was fantastic to have several special guests join us on Wednesday 10th December to present awards and generous donations to our school. A big thank you to Kellie and Dallas from Bunnings, who have supplied our students with gardening gloves and hats for our kitchen garden program. We also love the outdoor umbrellas that will keep us in shade as we eat our lunch. We truly appreciate their support in helping keep our students safe and protected during their outdoor sessions.

We were also pleased to welcome representatives from the Freemasons—Mr Richard Wilks, Mr Joe Lawrence, and special guest Mr Rod Lavin, Director of Freemasons Foundation Victoria—who attended to present two Achievement Awards to Grace Davidson and Braxton Kohte. Congratulations to both of you on this wonderful achievement.



End of Year

A reminder that we will be **finishing for the year on Wednesday 17th December**. That evening, we invite all families to join us for our **Whole School End-of-Year BBQ** as we celebrate the year that was.

We will gather at **5:30pm in the Big Room** for the students' performances before making our way outside for the BBQ (weather permitting). We look forward to celebrating with you!

Child Safety and Wellbeing at Lindenow South Primary School

Information for Families and Our School Community

Lindenow South Primary School is committed to providing a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment where every student feels secure and valued.

Our **Child Safety and Wellbeing Framework** includes a range of **policies, codes of conduct, and procedures** that outline how we actively support and maintain the safety and wellbeing of all students, and how we work to protect them from harm.

These documents are available on our school website: [School Policies | Lindenow South Primary School](#)

If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact **Stephanie Hoekstra, Assistant Principal**, on (03) 5157 1397 or via email at lindenow.south.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

Lindenow South Primary School is in Category 4 on the Bushfire At-Risk Register List

School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, we undertake a range of activities to ensure the safety of our school and to prepare for bushfires and grassfires.

An important part of this process is communicating to parents what will happen when certain fire danger ratings are issued to help ensure the safety of students and staff.



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

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

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) provides public fire danger rating forecasts each day of the fire danger period using fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries.

The department uses these forecasts when supporting schools to enact their pre-emptive bushfire actions plans.

Lindenow South Primary School Student Wellbeing & Learner Diversity

Parent Learning Series: Supporting Our Children

Each week we'll explore a different topic together to support our children in learning and life. Over the coming weeks we'll be looking at **neurodiversity, anxiety, screen time**, and practical strategies to help our children thrive.

- This week, we look at **Screen Time**. Next year, we'll explore:
- **Gateway Behaviours**

HEALTHY SCREEN TIME FOR YOUR FAMILY

Top Five Tips for Making Screen Time Healthier

1 If no one's watching, turn it off

- Children find it difficult to focus on what they are meant to be doing if a screen is on around them.



2 Make screen time interactive

- Practice 'interactive co-viewing' where you use the content on a screen to interact with your child and encourage them to engage with the content.

3 Try avoid screen time with mealtime

- Family mealtime and bottle/breastfeeding is an opportunity to build connection and interact with your child.



4 Choose content carefully

- Stick with platforms like ABC Kids that continue to develop age-appropriate and quality educational content.

5 Set boundaries early and follow them yourself

- Boundaries help provide children with predictable routines, ensure they feel safe, and support them in growing in their independence.
- Model healthy screen time behaviours and try to not be on your phone too much around them.