



Newmerella Primary School

Learning Excellence Caring Honesty



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Principal Report – Sarah Walker

Wuman Njinde Parents, Students and the School Community,

Welcome to this fortnight's newsletter where we share Newmerella's school journey and achievements.

ANZAC Day: Thank you to our students (Daniel, Ashlea, Will G, William W, Aurelia and Rykah) who attended the ANZAC Day service on Saturday morning with the guest speaker being Aurelia's Grandad, Group Captain Keith Joiner of the RAAF. The wreath was a beautiful floral arrangement of deep red roses and gerberas, and we are always appreciative of the beautiful floral creations 'Corringle Proteas and Fresh Flowers' do for us.

INDUSTRIAL ACTION HALF DAY STRIKE: ADVANCE NOTICE

A half day stop work has been planned for Wednesday 17TH June for schools in East Gippsland. I will be able to provide more information on Monday 15th June at the latest if this affects your child's classroom.

INDUSTRIAL ACTION SEMESTER 1 REPORTS: It was my sincere hope that the government would have reached an agreement with the Australian Education Union by now on a new industrial agreement for the teaching profession. Unfortunately, this is not the case, and there are a series of additional industrial actions that have been advocated by the union this term. Some of these won't have a direct impact on the classrooms, or the students, whilst others may. Due to industrial action taken by staff who are AEU (Australian Education Union) members, all aspects of work related to the provision of written comments on student reports that will be provided to parents/carers at the end of Semester 1 will not be occurring. In the department's view this ban does not extend to child safety matters and therefore parents should continue to be advised in writing about any matter that relates to student safety. Staff will continue to assess your child and make student adjustments and differentiate work according to your child's needs as it relates to the Victorian Curriculum 2.0 to facilitate their planning for Term 3.

TERM 1 95%-100% ATTENDANCE: The following students will receive a special certificate at the next assembly for 100% attendance in Term 1. They are Scarlett D, Willow D, Benji D, Kobe G, Olivia D, Jacob J, Troy M, Wassana W, Rory C, Bern J, Aurelia J, Elly A, William Wad, Congratulations on reaching this achievement. Well done!

Welcome

Welcome to Newmerella PS 'Valley of Plenty', we acknowledge the ones that come before us and thank the people that teach and share the stories of the past. We acknowledge the Gunai Kurnai elders past, present and emerging and extend our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders students and families.

Important Dates - May

Assembly

8th, 22nd May at 3pm

School Council 5:30pm

11th May

Marc Van

31st March

12th, 26th May

Mothers Day Stall

Tuesday 5th-Friday 8th May

Last Day of Term 2

Friday 26th June

First day back for term 3 Monday 13th July



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Every Day Counts!

Did you know?

- Starting in Prep, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just 1 or 2 days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.

Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attendance Guidelines

- Regular attendees: miss less than 10 days a year (less than 5% absence)
- Risk of chronic absence: miss between 10 and 19 days a year (5-10% absence)

Chronically absent: miss 20+ days (10%+ absence; average 1 day per fortnight)

Department of Education Attendance Resources

Top attendance tips for parents

- Schools want to work in partnership with parents - act early if you have any concerns by contacting your child's school and asking for advice and support
- Remember that every day counts
- There is no safe number of days for missing school - each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes and their social connectedness
- Talk positively about school and the importance of attending every day
- Open and prompt communication with your child's school about all absences is a good idea
- Avoid making routine medical and dental appointments during the school day or planning family holidays during the term

Seek help from your school if you are concerned about your child's attendance and wellbeing. Schools want to work in partnership with parents to support student attendance and wellbeing.

[The importance of attendance at primary school.pdf](#)

[How can I get my child to school.pdf](#)

[Anxiety about going to school.pdf](#)

ENROLMENTS:

How to enrol your child in Foundation (Prep): Starting primary school is an exciting time for you and your child. If your child is turning 5 years old by 30 April 2027, they are eligible to start school in 2027. Schooling is compulsory once your child turns 6 years old.

In Victoria, every child has the right to attend their designated neighbourhood government school (your 'local school'), as set out in the [Education and Training Reform Act 2006](#).

The Victorian government supports school choice. This means that you can apply to schools other than your local school. Schools will consider your application in line with the department's Placement Policy and offer enrolment if there are available places. The department's Placement Policy does not apply to schools with specific entry criteria, including specialist schools and English language schools.

This information pack outlines **when and how to enrol** your child in Foundation at a government primary school for the 2027 school year and guides you through the process.

If you wish for your child to attend a non-government school (Catholic or independent), please contact the schools directly for their enrolment processes. For information about enrolling in a government specialist school, please visit: vic.gov.au/how-choose-school-and-enrol.

What you need to do

Find your local school

Visit www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au to find your local government primary school or nearby schools.

Contact the school

Contact the primary school to book an optional school tour. **Newmerella Primary School will be using the online enrolment (VicStudents).** This information will be available through the school's website too.

Submit your enrolment application

Submit an enrolment application **by Friday 31 July 2026**, either online via VicStudents or using the paper-based application form, depending on the school's process. For schools using the paper-based process, the application form is available at the end of this pack.

Receive and choose to accept an outcome

You will be notified of the outcome of your application via email **between Monday 3 August and Friday 14 August 2026**. If you receive an offer, you should accept the offer **by Friday 28 August 2026**.

Prepare for your child's transition to school

Take part in student **transition sessions during Term 4, 2026**, which will be organised by the school. Your child will start Foundation on **Thursday 28 January 2027**. For further information, visit: <http://www.vic.gov.au/transition-school-resources-families>.

SWIMMING GOGGLES: We have been reminded by the swimming instructors, for all children to wear swimming goggles when in the pool. Without goggles, swimmers often have to stop frequently to wipe their eyes, clear irritation, or regain visibility, their spatial awareness is reduced, and they stand out in a shared swimming environment because of this.

Goggles help in the following ways:

- **Continuous movement:** Clear vision underwater means fewer interruptions, so swimmers can maintain rhythm and pace.
- **Eye protection:** Chlorine or salt can irritate eyes quickly, leading to discomfort and even temporary vision issues.
- **Spatial awareness:** Being able to see lane markings, walls, and other swimmers reduces collisions and confusion.

Confidence: Especially for less experienced swimmers, goggles make it easier to stay oriented and relaxed.

It's that time of year again, when we celebrate our mums and all that they do for us. The mothers day stall will be held from Tuesday 5th May to Friday 8th May. Nothing over \$8.

Please support our Mothers day fundraiser if possible.





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Compass

Just a reminder that Compass is our first point of call with regards to communication. If you are unable to access this, please speak to office admin.

CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund)

The Department of Education administers the CSEF to help eligible families with the costs of camps, sporting activities, excursions and incursions. Payments are made directly to the school of an eligible family or for that student's siblings at the same school. If you hold a valid concession card or are a foster carer, you may be eligible for CSEF. To apply for this, please complete an application form which is available at the general office and/or in your information packages which have been given to families who are currently on our system. For further information about CSEF, please visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>

School Council Elections

The school has parent vacancies available for a 2 year term of office. We would love to have more parent representation. We meet 2 times per term and it is your opportunity to help shape the future of the school. When a school lacks a formal school council, the principal, in consultation with the region, must establish an interim council to set key directions, budgets, and policies. Without one, the school risks reduced community input, lower engagement in strategic planning, and potential compliance issues regarding legal requirements. Please speak to Di, Wendy or myself if you would like to nominate for a 2-year appointment. School Council is responsible for the policy development and implementation in the school, the financial accountability of the school, the facilities planning, acting as the official "voice" of the school and delivering the long-term aspirations for our community.

Please consider.

School Council AGM the following office bearers were elected.

President: Jo Austin

Secretary/Treasurer: Lisa MacFarlane

Minute Taker: Nicole Mathers

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2026:

11.05.26

15.06.26

20.07.26

10.08.26

12.10.26





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Student of the Week Awards

The winners for the fortnight were:
Elly and Rykah
Well done kids!



Positive Behaviour Raffle

Students who are displaying positive behaviours that are aligned to our school values which are LEARNING, HONESTY, EXCELLENCE AND CARING in the classroom and/or in the yard can receive a raffle ticket. These students are Kobe, Benji and Willow.
Awesome work!



Specialist Subjects Awards

Students that display a positive attitude to their specialist subjects for the fortnight were: Jarrah for humanities, Ayden for sport, Elsie for dance (absent) Maci for Art (absent)
Top effort everyone.



Reading Raffle Awards

To be eligible for the weekly reading raffle, students must read 5 out of 7 nights. The winners for the fortnight were: Olivia, Louis, William, Hugo and Charlotte.
Terrific reading, keep it up kids!



Curriculum Days

Monday 24th Aug and Monday 2nd Nov.

School Holidays

Term 2: Sat 27th June to Sunday 12th July.
Term 3: Sat 19th Sept to Sunday 4th Oct.
Term 4: Sat 19th Dec.

Fortnight School Values

Learning and Excellence
We encourage parents to discuss and reinforce with their children what the actions for the weekly values might look like.



School Council 2025

President: Jo Austin
Treasurer/Secretary: Lisa MacFarlane
Principal: Sarah Walker
Staff Representatives: Nicole Mathers and Janet Munn
Community Members: Elaine Hofen and Pam Beveridge
Parent Representatives: Jason Griebenow, Megan Sage, Kalina Mekken and Lisa MacFarlane.

Every Day Counts

Please contact the school if your child is going to be away.

Bus Travellers

Please notify the school if your child is being picked up so we can mark them off the roll. Parents are reminded that changes to bus travel arrangements require 24 hours notice and approval by Orbost Community College.

TERM 1 CALENDER

APRIL/MAY 2026

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
27	28 Marc Van	29	30 Swimming Lakes Entrance Whole school	1 Alex Patterson ThinkUKnow Police Program	2	3
4	5 School Photos	6	7 Swimming Lakes Entrance Whole school	8 Library Visit P/1 Assembly	9	10
11 School Council 5:30pm	12 Marc Van	13 Athletic Sports OCC-whole school 10am	14 Swimming Lakes Entrance Whole school	15 Library Visit P/1	16	17
18	19	20	21 Swimming Lakes Entrance Whole school	22 Library Visit P/1 Winter Sports Lakes Entrance 4/5/6 Assembly	23	24
25	26 Marc Van	27	28	29 Library Visit P/1	30	31