



Newmerella Primary School

Learning Excellence Caring Honesty



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Wuman Njinde Parents, Students and the School Community,
Welcome to this fortnight's newsletter where we share Newmerella's school journey and achievements.

Change of Contact Details: Please contact the office if your personal details (Address, mobile phone number etc) have changed. This also includes emergency contact names and personal details.

Administration Building: We had some builders attend the school last week to assess the works needing to be completed in the administration building. They will be conducting a scope of works before appointing a contractor who will commence the works over the December / January school holidays. So please continue to visit the STEAM room for administrative purposes such as signing students in and out etc.

Pavement Artwork: Conni has continued to create beautiful pavement artwork around the school grounds to promote learning.

Winter: We are noticing quite a few students turning up to school in school uniform that is more suitable for summer than winter. Please be mindful whilst we have the heating systems on in the classrooms, children will be outside playing during recess and lunch time if it is not raining. Thank you for looking out for each other and keeping your child home if they are unwell and/or not well enough to fully participate in the school day. This not only supports your child's recovery but also helps reduce the spread of illness to others and helps us maintain a healthy and safe learning environment.

Term 3 School Camp: Would parents please notify the office if your child in Grades 2 and 3 is not attending the camp to Coolamatong Farm and if they are, would you please return the permission forms and/or payment if you haven't organised a payment plan. At the time of writing, we have only received 6 replies.

Student Free Day: On Monday 24th August, staff will be attending a Child Safety Forum and then will be attending a webinar on the Numeracy Pilot Program.

Industrial Action: The AEU has planned industrial action for Wednesday August 19th. Hopefully there will be a resolution before this day. Staff have notified me that they will not be taking action on this day and school will remain open.

Term 4 Acting Principal Expression of Interest: This application closed on Friday 7th August. The school is in the process of appointing someone for this position and we will put in place a day where the successful applicant can meet staff and students and a handover can take place.

T.H.I.N.K: We all mess up at times, in our words or actions. The important thing is that we learn from these moments. Having reminders of this acronym can be very beneficial.

- T - Is it True? Check your facts. Make sure you do not spread false news or rumours.
- H - Is it Helpful? Ask if your words will fix a problem or add value.
- I - Is it Inspiring? See if your message lifts others up or brings good energy.
- N - Is it Necessary? Decide if the comment needs to be said right now.
- K - Is it Kind? Ensure your tone shows care and respect for the listener.

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

MARC Van

18th August

1st September

15th September

School Council 5:30pm

10th August

12th October

Assembly

14th August

28th August

Public Holiday

3rd November

Pupil free days

24th August

30th October

2nd November

Last Day of Term 3

Friday 18th September



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Why People Use It

- Better communication: Stops arguments
- Online safety: Reduces cyberbullying on s

Before you speak
THINK
are your words...

T rue
H elpful
I nspiring
N ecessary
K ind

Clear mind: Helps you pause and calm down.

Maths Joke: Why can't parallel lines be friends? They'll never meet. Why shouldn't you debate with a 90-degree angle? They are always right. Why shouldn't you trust math teachers who use graph paper? They are always plotting something?

Tongue Twister: Tiny turtles tickle tall trees. Dizzy ducks dance daily.

Bullying No Way Week: Bullying No Way Week is Australia's leading initiative for bullying prevention in schools. It's an opportunity for schools to foster a shared understanding of bullying behaviours and highlight strategies for their prevention.

2026 theme: Small Acts, Big Impact 17th to 21st August. Bullying is everyone's responsibility, and small acts can make a real difference. This year's theme reminds us that actions don't need to be big to change someone's world. Small actions – like including someone, speaking up or showing kindness – can create meaningful change. In our schools and communities, our goal is to build environments where everyone belongs, diversity is celebrated and bullying is never accepted. During Bullying No Way Week, we encourage students, schools, families and communities to engage in small acts that can have a big impact against bullying.

I have included a link to a video to help students and parents understand what bullying is.

<https://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au/resources/bullying-is-never-ok-activity-1-what-is-bullying/>

ANZAC Day Banner and Presentation Banner: The school purchased school related banners that displayed the schools name and logo for both of these important ceremonies and we look forward to seeing them displayed with pride during the ANZAC Day march and at Grade 6 graduation ceremonies and end of year celebrations.

DET SSS Visit: Last week we had DET Student Support Services observe staff in the classroom and provide them with feedback which they can use in the classrooms to build the physical, sensory, and emotional skills students need to learn. SSS staff observed students work on tasks like handwriting, posture, sensory regulation, and daily school routines. They also attended a professional learning session after school to discuss what DET SSS staff observed.

SWPBS Award: School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) awards recognize Victorian government schools who implement evidence-based behaviour support systems. Schools earn tiered recognition levels—such as Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum—based on sustained implementation fidelity, data evaluation, and positive student outcomes. We received an award for the implementation of this program and I would like to acknowledge the efforts of staff and students who have worked together to achieve this award.

Until next time.
Sarah



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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.

QR Code

This is our QR code that goes directly to our website. It will be on the front page of the newsletters from now on.



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>.



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Student of the Week Awards

The winners for the fortnight were:



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 /or in the yard can receive a raffle ticket.

Winners for the fortnight were:



Specialist Subjects Awards

Students that displayed a positive attitude to their specialist subjects for the fortnight were:



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:



Curriculum Days

Monday 24th Aug and Monday 2nd Nov.

Professional Practice Day

Friday 30th October

School Holidays

Term 3: Sat 19th Sept to Sunday 4th Oct.

Term 4: Sat 19th Dec.

Fortnight School Values –Honesty and Excellence

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



School Council 2026

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, 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 Orbest Community College.

CALENDAR

August 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4 <i>MARC Van</i> Friends Program Selected students 2-3pm	5 Ben Keso	6	7 <i>Library Visit</i> P/I	8	9
10	11 Friends Program Selected students 2-3pm	12 Ben Keso	13	14 <i>Library Visit</i> P/I	15	16
17	18 <i>MARC Van</i> Friends Program Selected students 2-3pm	19 Ben Keso	20 <i>District Aths</i> B/Dale	21 <i>Library Visit</i> P/I	22	23
24 <i>Curriculum</i> <i>Day-student Free</i>	25 Friends Program Selected students 2-3pm	26 Ben Keso	27	28 <i>Library Visit</i> P/I	29	30
31						

September 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1 <i>MARC Van</i> Friends Program Selected students	2 Ben Keso	3	4 <i>Library Visit</i> P/I	5	6
7	8	9 Ben Keso	10	11 <i>Library Visit</i> P/I	12	13
14 <i>Book</i> <i>Character Day</i> <i>activities</i>	15 <i>MARC Van</i> Friends Program Selected students 2-3pm	16 Ben Keso <i>Writers Work-</i> <i>shop Lakes</i> <i>Entrance</i>	17 <i>Character Day</i> <i>activities</i>	18 <i>Book</i> <i>Character dress up</i> <i>day and activities</i> <i>End of term 3</i> <i>2:15 finish</i>	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				