



Newmerella Primary School

Learning Excellence Caring Honesty



Address: McLaughlin's Road, Newmerella, VIC, 3886

Telephone: (03) 5154 1620

Email: newmerella.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Website: <https://www.newmerellaps.vic.edu.au>



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.

Industrial Action: Thank you for your patience, understanding and ongoing support during this time. I know that any disruption to family routines is frustrating, and I genuinely appreciate the understanding our community has shown.

Industrial action is never something our staff take lightly. Every member of our team is committed to providing the very best education and care for your children, and the decision to take this action has been made only after careful consideration and loss of pay.

There has been a lot of discussion about this dispute, and it's easy for the focus to fall solely on pay. While fair wages are part of the conversation, many of the issues our teachers are advocating for are about creating better learning environments for students. They are seeking manageable workloads, increased support for children with diverse needs, improved working conditions and, most importantly, fair funding for government schools.

At its heart, this is about ensuring schools have the resources they need to give every child the opportunities they deserve. When schools are adequately funded, we can provide more targeted support for students, maintain quality programs and allow teachers to focus on what they do best—teaching and building positive relationships with children.

Unfortunately, government schools have been underfunded for many years. While there is a commitment to reaching full funding, the current timeline extends to 2034, and even that is not yet guaranteed. That means many of the students currently in our classrooms will complete their entire education without ever experiencing a fully funded public school system.

As we approach the State election, I hope all governments, regardless of political persuasion, will commit to properly funding government schools so we can continue to provide the outstanding education, opportunities and support that every child deserves.

Thank you for your continued support of our staff, our school and, most importantly, our students. It is truly appreciated.

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.

Student Privacy and Photos: You may have recently seen media reports about artificial intelligence (AI) being used to create images from photos found on school websites and other public platforms. While we have not yet received any specific advice from the Department of Education, we are committed to taking a proactive approach to protecting our students' privacy. As many schools are now reviewing how they share student information online, we will also be making some changes to our newsletter and other public communications.

Moving forward:

- We will continue to avoid publishing students' full names.

We will no longer include photos of students receiving awards or participating in activities where their faces are visible in our public newsletter or on publicly accessible platforms.

We understand that families enjoy celebrating students' achievements,

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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and we will continue to recognise and acknowledge these successes in ways that prioritise student safety and privacy. Thank you for your understanding and support as we continue to review our practices to ensure the wellbeing and protection of all students.

100 Days of School: Last week, all students celebrated a very special milestone as they reached their 100th Day of School. It was wonderful to see the excitement, pride and enthusiasm in the morning as all learners reflected on what they have achieved since the beginning of the school year.

Many students embraced the occasion by dressing up as though they were 100 years old, bringing plenty of smiles and laughter to the celebrations. Classrooms were filled with engaging, hands-on activities centred around the theme of "100 days", including counting, creating, problem-solving and collaborative learning experiences.

The Importance of Daily Reading: 20–30 minutes a day, every day is one of the most powerful things you can do for your child's learning, at any age or year level. Reading together beats reading alone. Even if your child can read fluently by themselves, sitting with them and talking about the story still makes a big difference.

What "reading together" looks like:

- Talking about what's happening in the story
- Connecting the story to real life
- Asking questions to check they understand
- Discussing new or tricky words

The payoff of reading daily is that kids build bigger vocabularies, stronger spoken language skills, and broader general knowledge.

e-Safety: eSafety's online safety picture book 'Swoosh, Glide and Rule Number 5' tells the adventures of a fun family sleepover for Swoosh and Glide with their sugar glider cousins. The picture book shares some of the common technology experiences of children, shows what to do when something unexpected happens on a screen and highlights safe online practices for the whole family.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/children-under-5/picture-book-and-song>

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD): Every year, all schools in Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students with disability. These relate to legislative requirements under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the Disability Standards for Education 2005, in line with the *NCCD guidelines* (2019).

Information provided about students to the Australian Government for the NCCD includes:

- year of schooling
- category of disability: physical, cognitive, sensory or social/emotional

level of adjustment provided: support provided within quality differentiated teaching practice, supplementary, substantial or extensive.

This information assists schools to:

- formally recognise the supports and adjustments provided to students with disability in schools
- consider how they can strengthen the support of students with disability in schools

develop shared practices so that they can review their learning programs in order to improve educational outcomes for students with disability.

The NCCD provides state and federal governments with the information they need to plan more broadly for the support of students with disability. The NCCD will have no direct impact on your child and your child will not be involved in any testing process. The school will provide data to the Australian Government in such a way that no individual student will be able to be identified – the privacy and confidentiality of all students is ensured. All information is protected by privacy laws that regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. To find out more about these matters, please refer to the [Australian Government's Privacy Policy](https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy) (<https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy>).

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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CLUBS LUNCH TIME COOKING COOKING



Marshmallow Slice, Yum!

Friday Cooking

On Friday we cooked 3 ingredients biscuits with the second group of students.

Everyone did a great job following the recipe, rolling the ingredients in to balls and flattening them out on the tray. It was very impressive that all the students pitched in and help clean up the kitchen in time for assembly.

The kids said they were very yummy biscuits indeed!!

Recipe

225 grams of all purpose flour

110 grams of sugar

150 grams butter

Rub butter through dry ingredients until dough like consistence then roll into balls put on a tray flatten and bake in oven at 165 degrees (fan force) for 10-15 minutes.

Wait to cool and enjoy!



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Student of the Week Awards

The winners for the fortnight were:

Elly, Benji
and Lachie

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:

Scarlett
Troy

Specialist Subjects Awards

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

Art-Willow S
Sport-Troy
Humanities-
Daniel

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:

Hudson Elly
Charlotte
Ayden

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>	2 Ben Keso	3	4 <i>Library Visit</i> P/I	5	6
7	8 <i>Coolamatong</i> <i>Camp grade</i> 2/3 <i>students</i>	9 <i>Coolamatong</i> <i>Camp grade</i> 2/3 <i>Students</i> Ben Keso	10	11 <i>Library Visit</i> P/I	12	13
14	15 <i>MARC Van</i>	16 Ben Keso	17	18 <i>End of term</i> 3 2:15 finish	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				