



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 2026! I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our families, especially those joining the Newmerella Primary School community for the first time. A special welcome to our new Prep students who are commencing their exciting learning journey with us. Each Prep child starting at a Victorian government school will receive a Prep bag which is full of engaging learning items and information for parents and carers. This year's theme, 'Reach for the stars', encourages our Preps to dream big, believe in themselves, and aim high in everything they do. We continue to value your partnership in working with us throughout the year to support your child's academic, social and emotional growth.

Regular attendance is crucial for academic success, social development and overall wellbeing. We encourage families to schedule appointments outside of school hours whenever possible and limit late arrivals and early pickups. Additionally, we ask parents to plan family holidays during term breaks to avoid extended absences that can impact learning progress. By working together we can support your child in achieving their full potential. This year we will be awarding students who have attended school 90% and above with a certificate of recognition at the end of each term.

The school leaders are Ashlea D, Daniel MacF and William G. We are confident that they will lead the way by being excellent role models towards others by displaying the school values of honesty, excellence, learning and caring.

Please have your child/ren wear appropriate footwear (runners) when they are timetabled to have Physical Education or any other sporting activities.

Please don't hesitate to follow up with your child's classroom teacher if you have any concerns, as they are your first point of contact.

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 - February

Monday 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd

Littlies Learning 9:00 to 11:00am.

Tuesday 3rd to 17th

Friends For Fun 2:00 to 3:00pm.

Wednesday 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th

Prep testing.

Friday 6th

Mandatory emergency management drill.

Monday 9th

School Council Meeting at 5:30pm.

Tuesday 10th

Hockey Road Show incursion and Wheel Talk incursion.

Thursday 12th

Newmerella PS, Marlo PS and St Jo's PS

Swimming Carnival at Orbst Pools

Friday 13th and 27th

Assembly.

Tuesday 3rd and 17th

MARC Van and Newsletter distributed.

Monday 9th to 11th

Smile Squad.



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Student of the Week Awards

The winners for the fortnight were: Will G, Willow & Scarlet D and Ovilia D.



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.

No awards last week.

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:

No awards last week.

Term Calendar Overview

The school has provided you at the start of each term an overview of the term calendar with fixed / locked in dates that we know of in advance so you can keep a copy in a central place to refer to. Please continue to refer to Compass to keep up dated of any changes.

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.

Curriculum Days

Tuesday 27th Jan, Wednesday 28th Jan,
Monday 24th Aug and Monday 2nd Nov.

School Holidays

Term 1: Friday 3rd April to Sunday 19th April.

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

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



School Council 2025

President: Jo Austin

Treasurer: Kalina Mekken

Secretary: Kelly Morrison

Principal: Sarah Walker

Staff Representatives: Nicole Mathers and Janet Munn

Community Members: Elaine Hofen and Pam Beveridge

Parent representatives: Jason Griebenow 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.



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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>

Annual Privacy Reminder

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' privacy policy](#) and the [Schools' privacy collection notice](#).

Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students policy, describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [\[Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education\]](#) safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using [\[Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education\]](#), please contact the school.

Cost of Living Support

Cost of living support is available at all Victorian public schools. This term, you will see posters and signage at our school about Real Support Right Now. At our school, ask us about Victorian government funded:

- School Breakfast Clubs - Free menstrual products - More affordable uniforms - Glasses for Kids
- Smile Squad - Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

Emergency Management Plan

We want to let you know about our school's emergency management plan. Our school plans for a range of hazards, such as bushfire, severe weather, building fires, intruders etc and we develop specific response procedures to address these risks. We also conduct drills regularly, ensuring that our core procedures of on-site and off-site evacuation, sheltering-in-place, and lockdown/lockouts are well-rehearsed and understood by staff and students. If we enact our emergency management plan, we will notify you by **Compass** with updates on our actions. If there is anything we need you to do, we will let you know. During emergencies, we will work with emergency services and the Department of Education for safety advice and support. Please know that keeping our students and staff safe is our top priority.



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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.



Extreme Weather Conditions

All classrooms have split systems and students will have the opportunity during hot weather conditions to access the classrooms when the hot weather prevails. This term all children are required to wear hats and sunscreen will be available throughout the day. Drink bottles are highly encouraged and the new toilet facilities have taps designed for refilling drinking bottles. The gallery will also be available for children to use too.

School Documentation

Thank you for returning the DET and school documentation requirements that were handed out last Thursday. We greatly appreciate your promptness. In this package you would have received the following: Medication Authority Form, term calendar, CSEF application, digital technology agreement, general consent and annual consent for local and extended excursions.

OUR NEW PREPS

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to Bern, Toby, Hugo, Scarlet, Wassana Willow, Louis and Hudson, our 8 new Prep students for 2026.



Friday was whole school activities day. We spent the afternoon designing a whole school birthday calendar.



TERM 1 CALENDER

February 2026

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
						1
2 Littles Learning 9-11am	3 Marc Van Newsletter Friends for fun 2-3pm	4 Swimming training 1:30-2:30pm for selected students No Preps-Prep testing	5	6 Swimming training 1:30-2:30pm for selected students Bushfire drill	7	8
9 Smile Squad School Council 5:30pm	10 Smile Squad Hockey Road Show Friends for fun 2-3pm Wheel Talk 1:45pm	11 Smile Squad No Preps-Prep testing	12 Smile Squad St Jo,NPS,Marlo Swimming Carnival 10am – 2pm	13 Smile Squad Assembly	14	15
16	17 Marc Van Newsletter Friends for fun 2-3pm	18 No Preps-Prep testing	19 District Swimming Orbest Pool	20	21	22
23	24 Friends for fun 2-3pm	25 District Swimming Orbest Pool back up day No Preps -Prep testing	26	27 Assembly	28	

March/April 2026

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
						1
2 Division Swimming Sale	3 Marc Van Newsletter Friends for fun 2-3pm	4 Division Swimming back up day	5	6	7	8
9	10 Friends for fun 2-3pm	11 Naplan	12 Naplan	13 Naplan Assembly	14	15
16 Naplan	17 Marc Van Newsletter Sovereign Hill camp grade 4/5/6 Friends for fun 2-3pm	18 Naplan Sovereign Hill camp grade 4/5/6	19 Naplan Sovereign Hill camp grade 4/5/6	20 Naplan Sovereign Hill camp grade 4/5/6	21	22
23 Naplan	24 Naplan	25 Naplan Parent teacher conferences	26 Curriculum Day.– No students Network day OCC	27 Naplan Assembly	28	29
30	31 Marc Van Newsletter	1	2 Last day of term 1	3 Good Friday School Holidays		