



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.

Compass: One of the great benefits of Compass is that it serves as both an effective communication tool and a platform for collecting important information. When your child's classroom teacher, or the school, sends communications through Compass—such as newsletters, school reports, weekly classroom updates, or whole-school announcements—the sender can see which families and staff members have viewed the information.

To help ensure your child does not miss important school information please check in weekly. The whole school agenda is available each Sunday and the newsletter is available each Tuesday fortnight – Tuesday 9th and 23rd June. All families who have not recently logged onto Compass have been given a Compass login letter.

Reports: Whilst there are no more strike days planned at this stage, as a result of the AEU industrial work bans, the Australian Teachers Union still have work bans in place which is opting out of report writing as members are yet to vote on the in-principle agreement. Your child's Semester 1 reports will show your child's progression point which indicates your child's level of achievement, but there will be no written comments by those teachers, apart from an overview for RRRR (Rights, Resiliency and Respectful Relationships).

Enrolments: We currently have 8 enrolments for prep next year, and we held an open day last Monday. So spread the word about our amazing school and remind undecided families they can still organise a tour of our school. All families are asked to complete their online application before the end of this term.

Lost Property: If items of clothing go missing, we will do our very best to return them to their rightful owner. However, this is not solely the school's responsibility; children also need to take responsibility for their belongings.

I would also ask parents to check their children's clothing regularly to ensure that the items belong to their child, as we have had instances of children wearing clothing belonging to others, despite the items being clearly labelled.

National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week - 27 May to 3 June:

Every year on 26 May, National Sorry Day is a day we acknowledge the strength of Stolen Generations Survivors and reflect on how we can all play a part in the healing process for our people and nation. While this date carries great significance for the Stolen Generations and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, it is also commemorated by Australians right around the country.

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. The National Reconciliation Week theme for 2026, 'All In', a call for all Australians to commit wholeheartedly to reconciliation every single day.



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

Assembly

22nd May at 3pm

School Council 5:30pm

15th June

20th July

10th August

12th October

Marc Van

26th May

Public Holiday

June 8th

Last Day of Term 2

Friday 26th June

First day back for term 3

Monday 13th July



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At school this is reflected in our 'Inclusion and Diversity' policy which you can access from our school website. Further, we have been supporting the implementation of the Department of Education Marrung Action Plan which helps to ensure we recognise and support First Nation teaching, learning, inclusion and safety.

Celebrating National Simultaneous Storytime 2026: This year, our school joined millions of children across Australia in celebrating National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS), a much-loved annual event that promotes the joy of reading and storytelling.



At 12:00 pm on Wednesday 27 May, the school came together to share this year's featured story, *Luna Roo the Kangaroo Baller* by Adam Jackson and Adrian Lloyd. The story follows Luna Roo, a nervous soccer captain, as she learns to overcome challenges and lead her team with courage and determination, an energetic and inspiring underdog tale that students thoroughly enjoyed.

National Simultaneous Storytime is coordinated annually by the Australian Library & Information Association (ALIA), with schools, libraries, childcare centres, and families all reading the same Australian picture book at the same time across the country, and even around the world.

Buildings and Grounds: The school received positive news at the end of last week regarding my application to get the administration toilets and facilities fixed. The application was approved and it is now at the report and estimate phase with the priority works being to reinstate the male and female toilets back into operational use, with additional investigations to the store and staffroom areas. Upon the completion of the Report and Estimate phase, an assessment will be undertaken to determine which areas require funding as it relates to the storage facilities etc. A DET Capital Works 2026/ 2027 application was also submitted regarding the need for the school to have covered walkways, steps and ramps as it pertains to the STEAM room and administration building, as well as the barrel dome where the students line up and a cover over the basketball court. We won't know until Term 4 at the earliest as to whether our application is successful.

Principal Conference: Last week I had the opportunity to attend the principal conference in Melbourne. This was a great opportunity to listen to world renowned speakers such as Dr Nathaniel Swain, Dr Carl Hendrick discussed evidence-based practice and pedagogy with several keynote speakers discussing new ways of thinking about leadership excellence. I will be sharing my findings with the staff over the coming weeks.

Bedtime Routine: Information taken from 'Raising Children Network' - Positive bedtime routines for school-age children

Bedtime routines help school-age children fall asleep. At this age, your child might be more independent with things like brushing their teeth, but they'll probably still enjoy quiet play, reading, gentle chat and cuddles with you as part of their bedtime routine.

Even as your child becomes more independent or starts to have a later bedtime, it's still a good idea for them to have a bedtime routine. They might like to help you plan or adjust the bedtime routine as they get older.

Here's an example of a bedtime routine for a school-age child:

1. Your child does homework before dinner if they can, so that they can relax before bed.
2. Your child has a bath or shower.
3. Your child spends time doing relaxing things like drawing, listening to music or playing a game. **Your child is likely to get to sleep more quickly if they avoid screens in the hour before bed.**
4. You and your child share a story in bed. You can read to your child or ask your child to read to you.
5. You and your child have a cuddle and a kiss goodnight.
6. You or your child turns out the main light.

Twin Rivers Lions Community Shed: This organisation donated pre-loved children's books that were hand sanitized and checked prior to distribution a couple of weeks ago to students to take home and enjoy.



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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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East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority



**Friday Cooking
Apple Crumble and Cream**



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Student of the Week Awards

The winners for the fortnight were: Toby, Ashlea, Bobby and Benji. Excellent work 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. Winners for the fortnight were: Elsie for her great help in Art and Bobby excellent effort with his classroom work. Terrific!



Specialist Subjects Awards

Students that display a positive attitude to their specialist subjects for the fortnight were: Dance-Wassana and Benji, Sport-Todd, Art-Kobe, Humanities-Ember. Well done 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: Rory and Brodie. Keep up the great reading boys.



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 –Honesty and Learning

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.

TERM 2 CALENDAR

JUNE 2026

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1 Littles Learning 9am-11am	2	3 KESO-Ben 11:30	4 East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority visit	5 Library Visit Prep/1	6	7
8 KINGS BIRTHDAY Public Holiday	9 MARC Van	10 KESO-Ben 11:30	11	12 Coastal School visit Prep/1/2/3	13	14
15 Littlies Learning 9am-11am	16	17 KESO-Ben 11:30	18	19 Library Visit Prep/1	20	21
22 Littlies Learning 9am-11am	23 MARC Van	24 KESO-Ben 11:30	25	26 End of Term 2 2:15 finish		