

# Newmerella Primary School

*Learning Excellence Caring Honesty*



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## Principal Report – Sarah Walker

Wuman Njinde Parents, Students and the School Community,

### NAPLAN

Well done to our Year 3 and Year 5 students who successfully completed the following NAPLAN tests last week, writing, reading, language conventions and numeracy.

Despite the very frustrating technical issues experienced nationwide on the first day of sitting, our students approached the challenge with a positive mindset and showed great determination to do their best, which is all we can ever ask of them.

NAPLAN tests provide just one snapshot of learning on a particular day and do not fully represent a student's strengths or overall achievements. However, they are a valuable opportunity for students to practise working in more pressured environments and to build confidence in demonstrating their skills.

### APPOINTMENTS

Whilst staff welcome parents and carers checking in with their child's classroom teacher on a regular basis, we kindly ask that you please make a time to do so in advance. This helps ensure teachers are available to give you the time and attention needed, while also minimizing disruption to teaching and learning.

### RESOURCES

The [Victorian Government's Mathematics and numeracy at home resources](#) tips, videos, and, activities for parents to support children's numeracy skills from birth to Grade 6. Key approaches include integrating maths into daily life, such as cooking, shopping, playing games, and using specialized, translated resources to build confidence in foundational concepts.

Go to: <https://www.vic.gov.au/mathematics-and-numeracy-home>

### Key Activities and Resources

**Early Years (Birth to Grade 2):** Use [Everyday Maths animations](#) to help identify shapes, numbers, and patterns. Engage in daily activities like counting, sorting, singing number songs, and playing, for example, "I spy" or hopscotch.

## 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 - March

### 17th & 31st March

Friends For Fun Program 2-3pm

### 27th March

Assembly

### 16th March

School Council AGM 5:30pm

### 17th & 31st March

Marc Van

### 17th-20th March

Sovereign Hill Camp-4/5/6 students

### 24th March

Stop Work –Union Action school closure

### 26th March

Cluster Curriculum PD Day OCC-No school for students

### 2nd April

Last Day of Term 1-2:15 finish



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**Primary Years (Grades 3 to 6):** [Involve children in cooking](#) to practice measurement (millilitres, grams), time, cost, fractions, and, for example, halving or doubling recipes.

## COMPASS

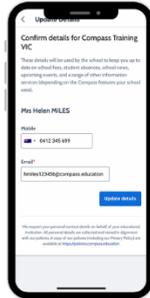
Please login to Compass, as we will be having quite a few events happening that will impact on your child's schooling. These dates are on the calendar.

### Update your details

Ensure your school has your most updated contact details.

1. Click on the 'More' menu
2. Click on 'Update My Details'

Once you have updated and confirmed your contact details, click on 'Update details'. Your school will then review the updates.



## SCHOOL REPORTS

In 2027, the DET will be introducing across all government schools a new report system. So that we are inline with what is going to be recommended, we are going to phase out individual comments for specialist classes. In Semester 1 we will begin the process by doing a general overview of what was taught in each specialist class such as art, physical education, STEAM etc and include the progression points for these. Then in Semester 2 there will be no comments for specialist classes and only the progression point. At the start of Terms 3 and 4 staff will give parent/s and/or carer/s an overview of what will be taught in each specialist subject. Please note that there will still be teacher comments for generalist classes and numeracy and literacy and progression points for these.

## THE VALUE OF REPEATED READING

Did you know that reading uses several different areas of the brain? When children learn to read, they are building connections between the sounds in spoken words, the letters they see on the page, and the meaning of the text. These connections take time and practice to develop.

Many of us remember the idea of bringing home a "new book every day." While this can be exciting, repeating the same book can actually be very helpful for early readers. Each time children reread a familiar text, they strengthen the connections between sounds, letters and meaning.

Repeated reading helps words become more automatic, allowing children to focus on reading more smoothly and with greater understanding. The goal is not to memorise the book, but to build confidence and fluency.

Encouraging your child to read the same book a few times—either across several days or more than once in a sitting—can make a big difference in supporting their reading development.

Here is a video if you'd like to learn more:

[The Science of Reading Basics, Part 1: The Reading Brain](#)

https: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWWCmuAEBB4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWWCmuAEBB4)



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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.

**Last night was our 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**



## **MARC Van 2026**

Firstly, I would like to thank all the lovely staff and wonderful students who made my first day at Newmerella Primary School such a great experience. I truly felt like I was part of the Newmerella community. I am very excited to be working with your school this year. The MARC program is a visiting library service that travels to small regional schools to provide easier access to borrowing books and also providing a literacy based program at the school once a fortnight. All students are encouraged to borrow books from the library. The books that students borrow are not like the students regular take-home readers. Many students like to choose books that they know they cannot read independently, but thoroughly enjoy looking at the pictures and having a family member share the reading with them. Reading these books with your children is a great way to spend quality time with them, while fostering a love of books and reading. I encourage all parents/carers to talk about the books their children are bringing home as many children have chosen them specifically to share them with you.

Please ensure that any books that your child(ren) borrow are returned on the next MARC Van day.

Regards Jade Brunswick



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## **Student of the Week Awards**

The winners for the fortnight were:  
William W, William and Lyla.  
Great job.



## **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. The winners for the fortnight were Bobby and Taylah. Bobby won the award for helping to clean up the art shed and Taylah won the award for her great writing.  
Terrific work kids.



## **Specialist Subjects Awards**

Students that display a positive attitude to their specialist subjects for the fortnight were Bobby for drama, Ember for sport and Charlee for art.  
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 Bobby, Scarlet and Will W.  
Top job, keep up the great reading!



## **Curriculum Days**

Thursday 26th Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Aug and Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov.

## **School Holidays**

Term 1: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April.  
Term 2: Sat 27<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July.  
Term 3: Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Sept to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 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.



**THIS FORTNIGHT AT NEWMERELLA  
P.S**

# TERM 1 CALENDER

## March/April 2026

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