



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 this fortnight's newsletter where we share
Newmerella's school journey and achievements.

Education Support Week and its associated celebrations honor the vital contributions of education support (ES) staff, teacher aides, and school administration professionals. In Victoria, these recognitions generally align with state Education Week (May 18 –22) and World Education Support Personnel (ESP) Day. I would like to acknowledge the work Di B, Conni G, Moira R, Wendy M, Kate McK and Jason G do for the school and the vital role they play across the school to provide continuous learning, wellbeing and supports to our students at Newmerella Primary School during school hours and outside of school hours. We appreciate and value everything you do.

In Term 3, the school will be welcoming Sarah Van Soest to the Grade 1/2/3 Class as their classroom teacher. We are excited to have Sarah join our school community and know she will be a wonderful addition to the team. Sarah will be spending a couple of days in the classroom shadowing Lucy and getting to know the students.

We would also like to thank Lucy W for the care, commitment, effort and support she has shown to our students and school community throughout her time at our school and we wish Lucy all the very best going forward in Term 3. Lucy is relocating to North West Victoria to be closer to family.

Congratulations to Aurelia J who was selected by the DET to participate in the Victorian High-Ability Program (VHAP) which is a virtual online learning program with primary school students across the state. This program enables high-ability students in Years 5-8, at all Victorian State Schools, to be challenged and extended in a supportive environment. Aurelia was chosen for numeracy in Term 2 and literacy in Term 3.

Thank you to parents for keeping your child home when they are sick. Unfortunately, like many other schools we have had quite a few students away with gastro and cold symptoms. The school is cleaned daily with all surfaces in the classrooms cleaned and when possible, the windows and doors are open for ventilation, and each classroom has 'Glen 20' disinfectant spray as well.

Following the in-principle agreement reached between the department and the Australian Education Union (AEU), the AEU informed the department on 18 May 2026 that all Industrial action related to negotiations to finalise the new Victorian Government Schools Agreement (VGSA) has been entirely suspended. This includes all stop work action. The AEU had included a 'ban on all aspects of work related to the provision of written comments on student reports that will be provided to parents' in the industrial action.

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

While this ban has now been lifted, the department recognises that it may now be difficult for some schools to provide full written comments for Semester 1.

In that event, schools impacted by the industrial action which includes Newmerella Primary School will indicate student achievement against the relevant curriculum areas of the Victorian Curriculum F–10 but full written comments are not required.

At the moment I am applying for grants to get the walkways covered and this includes the area where the children line up, as well as a cover for the basketball court. I will keep you posted.

Today I would love to highlight a wonderful community service available to our community. At times, life can be challenging for children and families. When families face stress, safety concerns, or difficulties at home, it's important to know where to go for support. **The Orange Door** is a free, community-based service in Victoria that offers help for families who need support with the care and wellbeing of children and young people as well as people experiencing family violence.

What is The Orange Door? The Orange Door is a welcoming and safe place where adults, young people and children can find support without needing a referral. It brings together specialist workers from different services so that people can get the help they need without having to tell their story over and over again to multiple services.

Who Can Access Support? The Orange Door supports a wide range of people, including:

- **Adults, children and young people** who are experiencing or have experienced family violence, including controlling or unsafe behaviours.
- **Families needing help** with concerns about the care, wellbeing or development of their children.
- **Children and young people** who may feel unsafe at home or worried about someone close to them.

People who use or are at risk of using harmful or violent behaviour, who want support to change their behaviour.

What Kinds of Support Are Offered? When someone contacts The Orange Door, staff will listen to their concerns and work with them to identify the right type of support. This may include:

- **Connecting families and children with ongoing services** such as counselling, parenting support, financial counselling, or housing assistance.
- **Assistance with practical needs**, including access to programs that help with everyday challenges.
- **Support for children and young people** to feel safe, heard and connected to age-appropriate services.

Safety planning and help to manage risk and immediate concerns.

The Orange Door can be accessed **in person, by phone, email, or through professionals like teachers, health workers or Wellbeing**, and you **do not need a referral** to get support.

Why This Matters For children and families in our school community, knowing about The Orange Door means knowing there is **support available during tough times**. Whether families need help with safety, stress, family relationships, or concerns about a child's wellbeing, The Orange Door exists to connect people with the right support and make it easier to get help when it's needed.

If you or someone you know might benefit from support, you can find your nearest Orange Door or contact them to learn more about how they can help.

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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>.

Winter Sports Lakes Entrance



Where is the Green Sheep?





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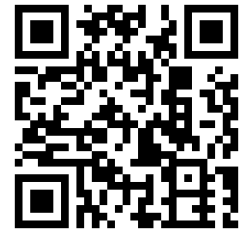


Compass

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.



Utensils

Can parents please supply their children with their own spoon and or fork for school if they are supplying yoghurt and food requiring these utensils.



Missing person drill was held on last Tuesday. The drill was explained to the students and the missing student found safe and sound. Next drill term 3.



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Student of the Week Awards

The winners for the fortnight were:
Hudson, Wyatt and Ayden.
Top effort boys!



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 and Ayden both for great hand writing.
Great work!



Specialist Subjects Awards

Students that display a positive attitude to their specialist subjects for the fortnight were: Louis for dance, Scarlet for Art and Benji for sport.
Excellent!



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: Elly, Ayden, Willow and Todd.



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 Orbost Community College.

TERM 2 CALENDAR

JUNE 2026

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
25	26 Marc Van	27	28	29 Library Visit Prep/1	30	31
1 Littlies 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		