



Toorloo Arm Primary School



NEWSLETTER

3rd of February 2026

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 1

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Week 2 Feb	2	3 3-6 Swimming Carnival	4 No preps- testing	5	6
Week 3 Feb	9	10	11 No preps- testing	12	13 Book Club orders due back
Week 4 Feb	16	17	18 No preps- testing	19	20
Week 5 Feb	23	24	25 No preps- testing	26	27
Week 6 Mar	2	3	4	5	6
Week 7 Mar	9 Labor Day	10	11	12	13
Week 8 Mar	16 3-6 Swimming	17 3-6 Swimming	18 3-6 Swimming	19 3-6 Swimming	20 3-6 Swimming
Week 9 Mar	23 3-6 Swimming	24 3-6 Swimming	25 3-6 Swimming	26 3-6 Swimming	27 3-6 Swimming
Week 10 April	30	31	1	2 Early Finish 2.15 pm	3 Good Friday

ONLINE BANKING - Account Name -Toorloo Arm Primary School Council
BSB 063 832 Acc No 1002 2188

Please include details – Surname and description e.g., Fees, uniform, camp etc.

 Compass and  Parents and Friends of Toorloo Arm Primary School

Principals Report

Welcome back to our students and families for the start of 2026. The start of the year is a special time to welcome back students, and it was fabulous to see everyone in their uniforms, new shoes (there were a lot of brand-new shoes!) and big smiles plastered on their face. Welcome to our new preppies and families, hopefully you are already feeling part of the community. I hope everyone had the chance to spend quality time with your family and friends over the summer break without the business of getting up and early and getting organised for school. 2026 is going to be a great year by the impressive way that all students have settled back into the new year. There was an excited energy in the playground, and all classrooms were focussed, calm and ready to learn. So good to see. The first couple of weeks in classrooms centres around establishing new routines, expectations and structures and is an important building block to effective learning for the rest of the year. Sometimes, this can be hard for children, please remember we are here to help if your child needs extra support.

Change of time for lunch.

To support learning in the classes, we have extended the time in the middle block of the day. This will ensure that there is the opportunity for focussed instruction for two-hour blocks within each day. Consequently, this means that lunch is happening at 1.30 pm instead of 1.00 pm (half an hour later). To ensure that students can still be fully fuelled with a full stomach for all learning, we have incorporated a healthy break at 12.30 pm each day. Please ensure that your child has some fruit, veggies or a healthy snack in their lunchbox ready for this time.

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**Revised times**

- 9.00 am- Morning session commences.
- 11.00 am- Recess
- 11.30- Middle session commences
- 12.30- Healthy snack break
- 1.30- Lunch
- 2.15 pm- Afternoon session
- 3.15- Home

Drainage issues in the playground.

You will have noticed that there is excess water in the playground. This has been an ongoing issue with storm water, and I have been working closely with a range of trades to find out exactly what is going on. Issues like these often require extensive work to fix the problem rather than put a temporary fix in, therefore needs to go through the Education department. This will ensure that all repair costs are sustained by the Department rather than the school itself. In good news, this process is coming towards the end with the final surveyor attending the school last week to assess the issues. Once this is completed, a plan, costings and a timeline will be issued to the school. Great news for the long term, not so good for the short term. To assist while this is being done, we have been adding extra mulch to the parts that are particularly bad (although this seems to not be working so well of late) which means that a temporary fence will be constructed towards the front of the playground. The students will still have access to the playground from the right side and back of the yard.

Special thank you

Thank you to **Trevor Dawes** for the work that he organised over the break to clean up the overgrown bushes, grass and weeds out the front of the school. Trevor was not only proactive in contacting the council, but also in getting together a working party to ensure that it was well maintained coming into the summer season. Many hands make light work. Your work is very well appreciated by the school, thanks again Trevor.

Parent Payment Contributions for 2026 set by school council are now being accepted. At Toorloo we provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum, and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary.

Nevertheless, the ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education and support for our students.

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<i>Education items to use & own.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exercise books • scissors, rulers • pens, pencils • highlighter, • pencil case etc 	\$50.00
<i>Purchasing of supplies & resources.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • art & craft • science • maths • integrated studies • inquiry unit • rewards days 	\$50.00
<i>Digital technology</i>	\$50.00
Total Amount	\$150.00

Voluntary contributions can be paid online or in cash.

Bank details are:

Account Name -Toorloo Arm Primary School Council

BSB 063 832 Acc No 1002 2188

Please include your child's surname and a description of what is being paid for e.g. contributions.

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**Extra-Curricular Items and Activities**

Toorloo Arm Primary School offers a range of items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides in order to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

Below are this year's Camps:

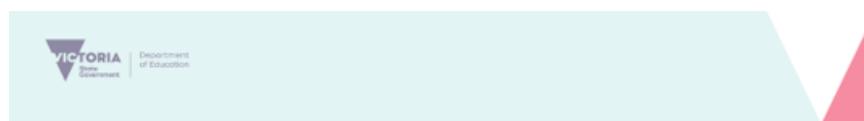
Extra-Curricular Activities	Amount	Extra-Curricular Activities	Amount
Grade 1 Sleepover	\$ 30.00	Grade 3/4 Camp to Healesville	\$450
Grade 2 Camp in Lake Tyers Beach	\$150.00	Grade 5/6 Camp to Ballarat	\$600.00

These are approximate costs and may vary year to year.

Financial Support for Families

Toorloo Arm Primary School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- the Camps, Sports, and Excursions Fund
- State Schools Relief (SSR)



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund help ensure that no student will miss the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational, and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's financial circumstances and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS and EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline, and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school excursions, camps, and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or support an out of home care student, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid directly to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is \$400 for all school students.

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments:** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances:** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:
<https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>



Have a great week and hopefully you get a chance to put your feet up now the kids are back at school.
Miss Hopkins

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**Brekky Club 8.20am – 8:50am**

If any parents would like to help out in the kitchen for brekky club, we would love to hear from you. Kids love having a new face helping out in Breaky club.

Please see Miss Hopkins, Quita or Lisa if you would like to help.

Forms to be returned asap

- **General Excursion** for non-risk local travel
- **Photo/Publication form**
- **Headlice** form is to allow your child's hair to be checked by our trained staff (Preps only).
- **Staying safe with ICT agreement**

P12

Welcome everyone to a new year at school! We are excited to welcome our new Preps who have settled in very well and a huge congratulations to the grade 1's for being excellent role models and wonderful helpers.

I believe in an open-door policy so feel free to come see me for any reason and we greatly appreciate parent helpers during reading, so if you have a free morning please come and listen to our class read, no warning needed.

This Week's Fun!**Take Home Readers & Helpers**

Students have set up their book boxes, and they are bringing a reader home every day. We encourage you to sit with your child a read each night. Their readers need to come back to school every day so students can swap their books over. Reading is a great way to spend time with your child and they love to show you their skills.

Pickup

During home time we are getting the students into the routine of being picked up outside our classroom, so it would be great if parents/guardians or siblings could be waiting on the fake grass when the bell goes. If your child goes on the bus, just let me know the days and we will walk them to the bus stop.

Wednesdays

Just a reminder that the Preps have Wednesdays off and have been allocated a specific time to come in to do a one-on-one session, focusing on the English and Math activities.

It is an opportunity that allows me to find their level of understanding and skills so I can create appropriate programs for their abilities. Please be prompt and if you have any issues with your time slot, I will do my best to change it, but please be aware that it can only be done on Wednesday.

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**School hats & Sunscreen**

Term one is a Sun Smart Term, and it has been great to see the number of students who are remembering their hats. It would be fantastic to make sure student's hats are named as they do get lost, especially on the monkey bars!

This week we are looking at:**Reading:**

- We are setting up our Reading Workshop, class library and book boxes.
- Students are revising and learning different reading strategies such as G.K.R, making connections, visualising and sequencing.
- We are starting up our spelling program, where students are placed in ability groups.

Writing:

- Preps are practicing their names and directionality using the line.
- 1/2's will be revising how to write a recount using correct time markers such as first, then, next and finally.
- Introducing the 'who, what doing and where' components of a sentence for our preps and extending the 1/2's with 'when' and 'how'
- Handwriting s, a, t

Maths:

Preps: Number knowledge and counting to 10

Ones and two's: exploring tens and ones using bundling sticks.

Integrated Studies

- Exploring different emotions and body language.
- Prep's will be meeting the grade 6's to find their buddies who will be given out next week.

Have a great week,

Miss Cock, Ms Jackson, Bree, and Lindy

34AB

Hello 3/4 Parents and Guardians

Welcome to 2026, we hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas and holidays.

We have started the year in a very positive manner.

We have launched our reading program, including our Paul Jennings mentor text.

In writing we are focusing on building writing stamina through narratives.

In maths, students are learning and playing a variety of place value games that enhance their ability to read, understand and manipulate numbers.

Home reading will begin shortly; we are just waiting on a few resources to start.

Today is the 3-6 swimming carnival, good luck to all the students who have a go at the races.

Next Monday we also have a hockey incursion.

Thank you

Carolyn Smith, Alec McPhee, Lisa, Hunee and Lindy

56AB

Welcome families to the 5/6 Unit for 2026. We have had a fabulous start with the students. We have been developing expectations within the classrooms and as a Unit.

5/6A decided to have a mascot for their class, **the meerkat** – always curious and working together to look after each other.

5/6B decided to go for **the eagle** – flying high but looking out for each other.

We asked all of the students to write a goal for 2026 in the form of "I believe I can.... in 2026", hence the photos below. We are in the process of getting all of those up in our shared space.

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This week, students will be completing a range of assessments to help us plan our teaching program, focusing on each student's point of need. We are asking all students to read at home at least three times a week and would appreciate your assistance in achieving this.

We are looking forward to catching up with as many parents as possible **tomorrow afternoon at 5.15** to discuss the year ahead. If you are unable to make it but would like to chat with any of us, please just contact the school to make a suitable appointment.

It was lovely to finish our first week (2 days) with a game of boot-ball involving every student from the Unit. We look forward to more of these whole-unit opportunities across the year.

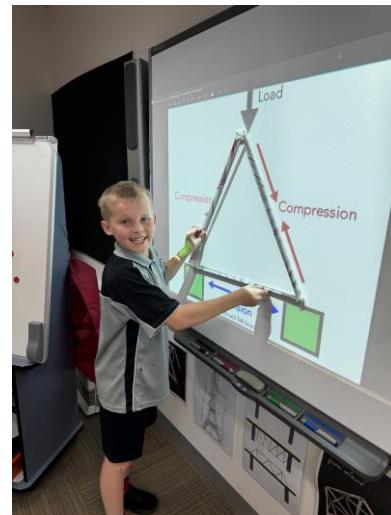
Have a great week,
Ali Mackie, Larissa Murray, Lizzy Haldane, Alyssa and Dee

Art/Stem

Welcome back to the 2026 school year! This year will be an exciting one, with both art and STEM on the cards. With a short first week, students in STEM have begun examining how shape can influence strength of structures even when using 'flimsy' materials.



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Jobi Laybourne.

SPORT AND PE NEWS

WELCOME BACK! SO exciting to see the many smiling faces this year! Sport and PE classes have already commenced, kicking off with the TAPS House Swimming Carnival today for Gr 3-6! Thanks to everyone for getting this exciting, inclusive event up and going at short notice so early in the year. What a great opportunity for students to come together for an afternoon of fun and exciting competition.

Juniors have also started PE at school, and we have discussed and practiced what it is to be “Ready to Learn” in PE as it might be a bit different outside. We had a lot of fun working together with the parachute.



We have the annual Hockey Roadshow coming to school next Monday for Grades P-4 to enable students to have a go and perhaps take up this fantastic community sport. One of our ex TAPS students, Alexis Smart, represented Australia in Hockey in U/18s last year, a fantastic achievement!

We are also booked in a couple of weeks for the Lifesaving Victoria Open Water Swimming clinic for Grades 5/6, keep an eye out for permission forms on Compass.

I look forward to another great year of challenges, fun and fitness. The overall philosophy in PE at TAPS is to provide ALL students with the opportunity to participate safely in age-appropriate physical activities, group

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challenges, games, sports, and fitness activities that can provide enjoyment of physical activity, as well as build pro social, psychomotor and cognitive skills.

We strive to safely provide the opportunity for students to enjoy physical activity, become more confident with their abilities, increase their knowledge of health-related fitness, and help them find ways to be lifelong activity seekers. We really encourage students to **do their best** and develop resilience skills, such as positive self-talk and being a good sport when learning new skills, playing games and sport, and movement challenges whether they are individual, cooperative or competitive.

I am working at TAPS on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Please make sure you catch up with me if you have any concerns about your child's participation in PE, or if you are interested in connecting them up with sport in the community, I can usually point in the right direction. Also, it would be great if your child wears runners and has a water bottle on PE days, so that participation is comfortable and safe, and of course, hats are compulsory this term.

Just a reminder for the swimming program for Gr 3-6s commencing on Monday 16th of March for 2 weeks. The junior swimming program will be in term 4 this year.

Thanks
Barb Plant (PE and SPORT COORDINATOR)

Important Sport dates for Term 1 2026

Monday 9th Feb Hockey Roadshow P-4 at school

Monday 16th Feb Surf Lifesaving Victoria Open Water session Gr 5/6 Lakes Entrance

Thursday 19th Feb Eastern District Swimming Carnival Orbost pool

Monday 2nd March Division Swimming Carnival Sale

Monday 16th March-Friday 27th March Gr 3-6 Swimming Program Aquadome

AUSTSWIM TSW

ENROL NOW!

89.9% of our graduates get jobs

TEACHER OF SWIMMING AND WATER SAFETY

Saturday 21 & Sunday 22, February 2026

8:30am - 5:00pm

Lakes Entrance Aquadome - VIC

LAKES ENTRANCE

AUSTSWIM

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BREWBAR

on the ninety miles

583 Esplanade Lakes Entrance. Phone: 5155 3839

Sausage Roll \$5.50 **Sauce .20**

Spinach and Ricotta Roll \$5.50

Nacho's \$7.00

Corn chips, salsa, cheese, and sour cream

Add guacamole \$1.00

Spaghetti Bolognese \$7.00

Toasties

Cheese \$5

Ham & Cheese \$6

Cheese & Tomato \$6

Chicken, Cheese and Mayo \$7

Extras .50c

Avocado \$1

Choice of High fibre white bread, Multigrain and Wholemeal

Pizza Muffins (2 pieces)

Ham & Cheese \$6

Roasted Capsicum & Olice \$6

Add pineapple .50c

Chicken Salad bowl \$8.00

lettuce, tomato, carrot, cheese, cucumber, and Mayo

Add Egg \$1.00

Add Avo \$1.00

Chicken Strip Wrap \$4.00

Lettuce, Chicken, cheese, and Mayo

Side Salad \$3.00

Fruit and yoghurt cup \$5.00

Gluten Free Bread & Wraps available on request

Please have lunch orders in office by Thursday mornings. Late Orders cannot be guaranteed their choice.

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INTRODUCTION TO COACHING WORKSHOP

Lakes Entrance Netball Association

Saturday 7 February 2026

9:00am - 11:00am

Lakes Entrance Recreation Reserve -1 Rowe St

Register using the QR Code



UMPIRES IN THE FIELD

INTRODUCTION TO UMPIRING

Lakes Entrance Netball Association

7 February 2026

1pm – 4pm

Lakes Entrance Recreation Reserve -1 Rowe St

Presented by Judi Buhagiar



WorkSafe Victoria



Cuppa Connections



Ever notice how a good cuppa tastes better when it's shared?

We're looking for friendly volunteers to join Cuppa Connections – a program all about connection, conversation and companionship.

As a volunteer, you'll pop by for a relaxed visit, sharing a cuppa and a chat with someone in need, in their home. They may be experiencing loneliness or social isolation, and this gives them an opportunity to feel seen, heard and valued. No tasks, no to-do lists – just being present, listening and enjoying some good company.

Visits are flexible, matched carefully, and often become the highlight of the week (for both people involved).



If you've got an hour a week to spare and enjoy a good conversation, we'd love to hear from you.

Call Karren our Volunteer Engagement Officer on 03 5150 9388 to find out more.

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