



**1<sup>st</sup> February 2024**

## **Principal's Report**

Welcome back everybody to the 2024 school year. We hope that everyone managed to find some quality time to relax with friends and family during the summer break and that the start of this year has been a positive one for you all.

This year, we again welcome new families to GWSPS across all year levels, including our new Foundation families. We know that the whole community joins us in welcoming you all to our school and trust that your time with us is positive and enjoyable.

Each year when we return, it is a pleasure to see such happy and enthusiastic faces, eager to renew old friendships, make some new ones and get back into some interesting and enjoyable learning. When we chat to students, they share lovely holiday stories but are also looking forward to their new school year. We would like to thank you, the parents, for your efforts in preparing your children so well for the start of the school year. Throughout the year, we will share through the newsletter, the many opportunities that our students have to shine.

Our Foundation children commenced school today. Mrs Lawrence and all staff are looking forward to getting to know all our new families and students throughout the year.

A big thank you to the staff for all the preparations they have made for the 2024 school year, as they have already spent countless hours over the past weeks; the cleaners ensuring a fresh and welcoming environment, the Office and Education Support staff with various administrative tasks, the OSH staff for running another fun-filled Holiday Program, and the teachers setting up dynamic learning environments and forward planning to ensure a smooth start and exciting curriculum for the students this year.

Once again, we have started the year with our 'Learning How to Learn' program. The purpose of this school-developed program is to engage students in a range of activities that help build strong relationships with their teachers and peers, and to establish clear expectations for the 2024 school year. This is a crucial part of the curriculum as it paves the path for a happy and successful year of learning for all students. We know that relationships are at the core of all learning. Having spent the time to form a relationship based on trust and respect and getting to know each other beyond the roles of 'teacher' and 'student' (interests, family members, friends, experiences, hopes, fears etc.), we are able to truly begin personalising the learning experience for the children we teach.

We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure all children can achieve their highest potential. We recognise that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school, knowing that a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities, asking that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring:



## Principal's Report cont...

1. Attendance at school daily and arrival on time, ready for the day's learning experience
2. Completion of all homework assignments given by teachers
3. Daily reading to develop a love for literature and to improve critical language skills
4. Sharing school experiences with you so that you are aware of his / her school life

Working and "learning together" we can achieve great results. In any given year we provide many opportunities for parent involvement within the school: classroom assistance with Reading, Maths or PMP; being a Class Representative; volunteering; and being a member of the Fundraising Committee who do such an amazing job of raising funds for the school and creating a caring culture with numerous events. Parental support of the teachers and the school's programs is also vital and includes displaying a positive attitude towards your child's learning, so I encourage you all to be fully involved in your child's education. **Education is a partnership!** Let's all work together to ensure the best future for the children that we have in our care.

Existing parents will be aware that we run a fortnightly newsletter with a 'Dates to Remember' edition every other week. Each of these editions will contain lots of important information, dates and reminders so please be sure to read both versions of our newsletters. School families will be notified via a Compass alert, which will inform you of the availability of the current Newsletter or Dates to Remember on our school website at <https://www.gwsps.vic.edu.au/newsletter> Alternatively, you can obtain a hard copy at the office.

In addition to our weekly Newsletter/Dates to Remember, year levels will be providing a quarterly (once a term at the beginning of each term) overview of what your child will be learning in the classroom for the term ahead. Information relating to a specific year level event will continue to be communicated via Compass and/or our community newsletter throughout the year.

### Buildings update and Parent Helpers

As you are well aware, our South Building underwent major maintenance works over the summer break, namely the removal of asbestos. I have seen all the air quality reports conducted following the removal and can assure everyone that the environment is safe and meets all of the safety standards and requirements. Most of the reinstating of the building is now complete, with some painting of the eaves still to be done, as well as the installation of 3 sets of partitions across the students' toilets. There are still plenty of cubicles available in both the boys and girls toilets and we expect the remaining 3 cubicles to be functional in the next couple of weeks.

I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the amazing efforts of our parent helpers on Monday, who came in and assisted staff in setting up the classrooms in the South Building. This was such a big help and allowed for our staff to properly prepare for the first day of learning on Tuesday.

The Capital Works buildings have also progressed well over the summer break and I have been informed that the projected completion date hasn't changed, and we hope to be in the new buildings for the beginning of term 3 this year.

### School Assembly

Our first whole school assembly for 2024 will be held tomorrow (Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February) at 2:50pm in the school gym. Please be advised, this will be a very short assembly focusing on welcoming back our students to the new school year.

### Swimming Trials

Many of our Year 3 – 6 students will be partaking in School Swimming trials tomorrow, Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, with successful students then attending the WESA District Swimming Trials on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February. A big thank you to Mr Young for coordinating this event! Good luck to all students who are participating!



# Principal's Report cont...

## Staffing

We'd like to officially welcome Ms Dan Ping Peng, Miss Mia Reber-Ewin, Mrs Tara Kang and Mrs Angela Jimenez to the GWSPS community. Also, a very big welcome back to Mrs Julia Pereira following family leave.

## Student Attendance - Every Day Counts

*The following extract comes from the DET website: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/Pages/studentattendance.asp>*

'We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. Missing school can have a major impact on a child's future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they'll have missed more than a year of school. There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes. Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are steps you can take to ensure they don't fall behind: Speak with your classroom teacher or year level coordinator and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

Develop an absence learning plan with your school and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher or year level coordinator as early as possible.'

## Supervision of Students in the Playground Before and After School

To ensure that students are appropriately supervised, we ask that students arrive at school after 8.45am each morning. If you elect to send your child/ren to school prior to 8.45am, it is important that you understand that they cannot be supervised until the school gates are open and yard duty teachers begin their assigned duty from 8.45am. Similarly, at the end of the school day, the school will ensure the appropriate supervision of all students until 3.45pm and after this time it is the responsibility of parents to collect/supervise their children. Any children not collected after this time will be sent to our After School Program.

**Please be aware that sending children to Before or After School Care, will incur a fee!**

## Meet the Teacher Interviews

Shortly you will be receiving a notice inviting you to book online a 'Meet and Greet' session with your child's teacher. Please be sure to follow the instructions as outlined in the notice and take this very important opportunity to organise a time to meet with the teacher. Interpreters can be organised – please refer to notice. If you are having difficulty completing this, please speak to your child's teacher or contact the school. The meet and greet dates are as follows:

**Level 5/6 - Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February, between 1:40 pm – 6:40 pm**

**Levels 1 to 4 - Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, between 1:40 pm – 6:40 pm.**

## School Council

Information relating to vacancies on School Council will be distributed shortly. Please look out for this if you are interested in nominating or being nominated for 2024. Information will include a timeline and summary of the role of School Council. Our next and final school council meeting for the current membership is on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February. Please contact the office if you'd like to attend as a visitor.

## Student Accident and Private Property Insurance

Please be aware that the Department of Education (DE) does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents and guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs.



## Principal's Report cont...

In some circumstances, medical or other expenses will be paid by the Department where it is assessed that it is likely, that the Department is liable for negligent (careless) acts or omissions of its staff/volunteers. For more information about the claims process please go to:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/governance/Pages/claimsprocess.aspx>

Student accident insurance/ambulance cover policies are available from some commercial insurers, and can be obtained by parents/guardians for individual students. The Department cannot advise parents/guardians on whether to purchase a student accident policy/ambulance cover, or which policy to purchase. It is recommended that parents seek assistance in this matter with their insurance broker or find a suitable personal accident insurer in the Yellow Pages or online.

Private property brought to school by students, staff or visitors is not insured and the Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage.

### No Hat, No Play

Please be reminded that the 'No Hat No Play' policy is still in effect.

### Chinese New Year

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February marks the beginning of the Chinese New Year. 2024 is the year of the Wood Dragon. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in our community who celebrates this significant event a Happy New Year!



**Con Vellios**  
Principal

**Want to know what is happening at GWSPS?**

Like us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/GWSPS>



In primary school, some students miss on average **3 weeks** of school per year. That's **half a year** of school by the end of **year 6.**



# EVERY DAY COUNTS

## Primary school attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

### Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

### Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

### What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

**Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

**"Day off"** – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

**Truancy** – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:

[www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx)

Department of Education and Training



Education and Training



## Maths Olympiad

The Maths Olympiad is an engaging and challenging maths competition for senior primary school students run by the Australian Problem-Solving Mathematical Olympiad (APSMO). Interested students in Levels 5 and 6 are invited to participate in the trials to join a school team to participate in this competition.

The trials to select our school team will be held during the school day. The team members will be chosen based on the trial assessment results. The team will then meet weekly to complete preparation trials before each competition. It is anticipated these trials will be held during class time as part of the High Abilities program.

The team will be notified of the dates and times for each session.

The official **Competition Dates for 2024** are:

Contest 1: 8th May 2024

Contest 2: 19th June 2024

Contest 3: 31st July 2024

Contest 4: 4th September 2024

If you have any questions, please contact me.



**Elly Datsopoulos**  
APSMO Coordinator



## Library News

Welcome to another exciting year of reading adventures! We have lots to look forward to this year as we anticipate the opening of our new library. During the first half of the year, we will continue using the library space in the gym.

One exciting thing that we don't have to wait for is our new library catalogue. Over the holidays, with the help of Mrs White, our whole library collection has been uploaded to our new online catalogue. This means students can look any time they like to see what books we have available in the library and what they might like to borrow next. As the year progresses, more functions will be added, including the ability to search the catalogue by keywords, and to set up email reminders of soon-to-be-due and overdue books. The current

catalogue can be seen here, please keep in mind that some images and details may be missing as we complete the cataloguing process - <https://www.libib.com/u/gwsps>

All classes will come to the library for their Critical Literacy lessons and learn more about how the library works. Borrowing is expected to commence in Week 2 and, in order to borrow, all students must have a library bag to carry and protect their library books from damage. A good library bag is made of strong material, even better if it is waterproof! It should be easy to carry or fit easily into a school bag.

Classes will visit the library on the same day each week, so please remember to return library books each week and borrow new ones! Books can also be reborrowed if they are not complete, rather than becoming overdue. This is especially important in upper grades where chapter books may take a longer time to read.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
56R	34E	12C	FL
12S	34D	34T	
	56N	34P	
	56D		
	12T		

Each term, there will be a family library activity to complete if you wish. This term, the activity focuses on Library Lovers' Day, which falls on the 14th of February. Completed activities can be returned to Ms Cook and hard copies can be collected from the office if you are unable to print a copy at home. All entries received will be displayed in the library for the remainder of the term.

Finally, if you haven't already done so, I would encourage your family to sign up as members of your local library. There are so many benefits to library membership, access to ebooks and audiobooks is just a start! Another less well-known benefit is free access to StoryBox Library, an online collection of stories read by Australian authors, actors, musicians and more. You can find out more about this here - <https://storyboxlibrary.com.au/faqs/how-do-i-log-in-as-a-public-library-patron>

Happy reading!



**Bron Cook**  
Literacy Coordinator

# Term 1 Family Library Activity

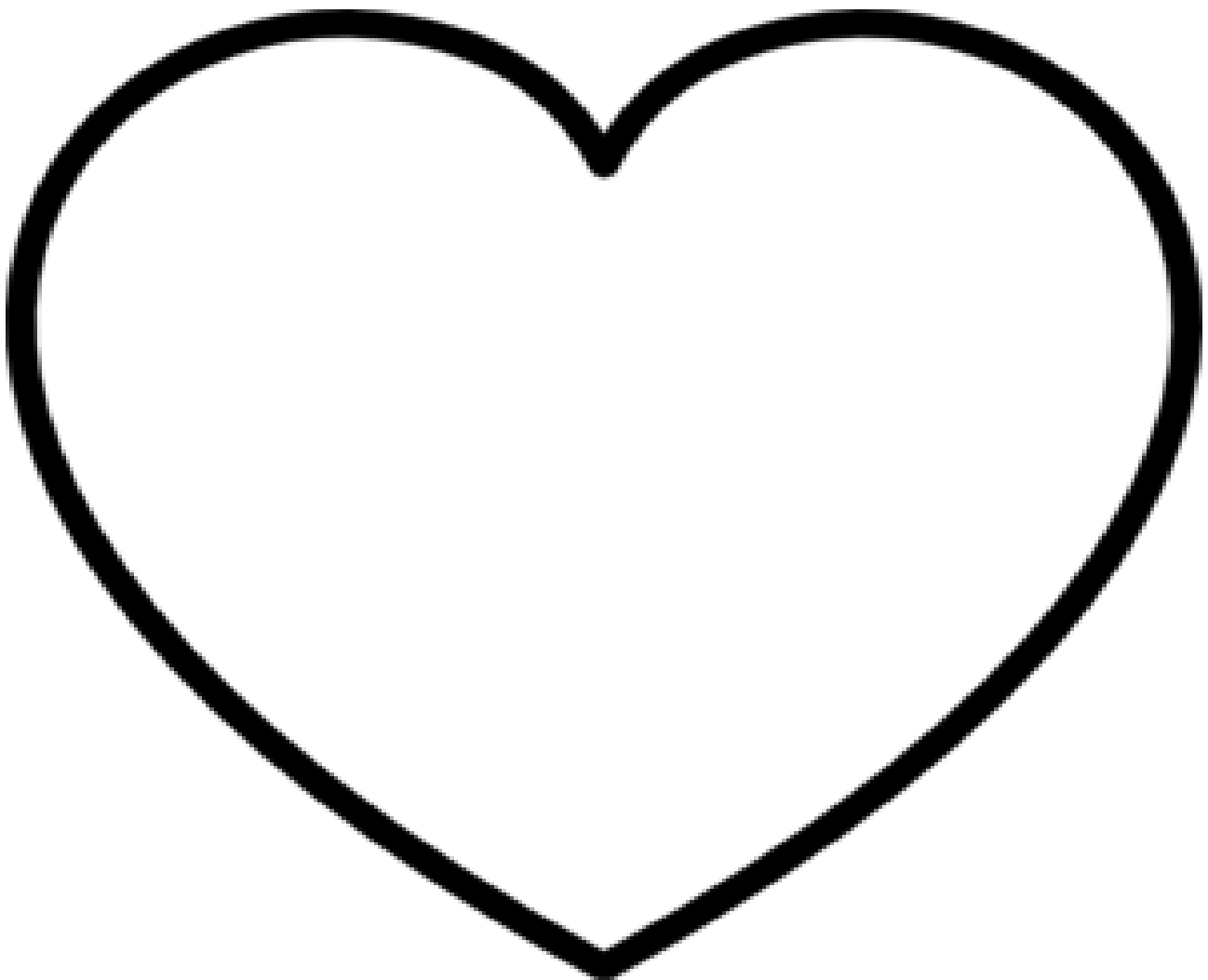
To celebrate Library Lovers' Day on February 14th, this term's activity is all about celebrating the books you love to read as a family. You might choose a favourite book and have everyone write or draw something about it, or each family member might add something related to their own favourite book. Talk about what you enjoy most about reading together as a family and the type of books that each person likes reading.

Cut out the section below and return it to Ms Cook. All activities that are returned to school will be displayed in the library until the end of this term. If you need a hard copy of the activity, you can collect one from the office.

I look forward to seeing what your family will share with us!

Bron Cook

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**NAME/S:**







## Your Marrung Lead

The Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan is a strategy of the Victorian Department of Education to ensure that all First Nations Victorians achieve their learning aspirations and that all students learn about the cultures, histories and contributions of First Nations Australians.

As the Marrung Lead for Glen Waverley South Primary School, my role is to help teachers, students and families understand and work towards these goals, and to act as a contact point within the school for any First Nations students and their families.

Some important events we are looking forward to celebrating this year include:

National Reconciliation Week - theme, Now More Than Ever

NAIDOC Week - theme Keep the First Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud!

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day - theme to be announced

I look forward to sharing more about this role and the work our school is doing in this area as the year progresses.

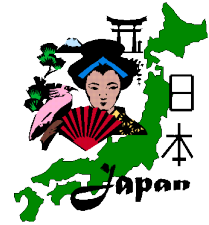


**Bron Cook**

# Japanese

## Word of the Week

Welcome back everyone to GWSPS and welcome to those who have started school this year! I hope it will be a happy and fulfilling year for everyone!



This section introduces a Japanese phrase fortnightly. The Japanese captains introduce 'Word of the Week' to all students at assembly every Friday. Children are encouraged to use the word/phrase as much as possible during the following week. Each week students who have proved they can use the word of the week appropriately to either the Japanese captains or Manzaki Sensei will go into the draw to win a prize/house points.

By asking your child to tell you the 'Word of the Week' each week, you not only encourage him/her to use the Japanese language at home, but you also have the opportunity to learn part of the language!

**Word of the Week:** はじめましょう (**ha ji me ma shoo!**) which means 'Let's begin!'

e.g. When you start playing the game with your child at home, you can say to him/her, はじめましょう (**ha ji me ma shoo !**) to start the game.



**Miyuki Manzaki**  
Japanese Teacher

## Guitar News

**GUITAR  
TUITION  
PROGRAMME**

**2 TRIAL LESSONS  
AVAILABLE FOR A FEE**

**Contact today!**  
ALBERT AXIAQ  
Associate Diploma of  
Education (Music)  
Bachelor of Arts (Music)  
🎵 **MOB: 0409411815**

**C'MON LEARN  
MUSIC NOW!**

Vacancies exist to trial the  
Guitar Tuition Program during  
school hours. anyone who  
wishes their child to participate  
contact Albert Axiaq on  
0409411815, including the  
purchasing of a guitar.

## Change of Details

If there has been a change to your living arrangements or contact details that the office may not be aware of, please complete the form below and return to the office as soon as possible.

Student Name:		Class:
Student Name:		Class:
Student Name:		Class:
Student Address:		
Parent (A)	Name:	
	Email:	
	Phone:	
	Address:	
Parent (B)	Name:	
	Email:	
	Phone:	
	Address:	
Parent Signature:		Date:

## CSEF 2024

If you hold a healthcare/concession/Centrelink card **you may be eligible for the CSEF** (Camps, Sports, Excursions Fund) for 2024. This means \$150 per eligible student that can be used to help pay for camps, sports activities and excursions.

To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must on the first day of Term one, or on the first day of Term two;

- Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004*, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
- Be a temporary foster parent

If you think you may be eligible, please be sure to complete an application form (attached to this newsletter) and return it to the school office with a copy of your current, signed Centrelink card as quickly as possible.



## Birthday Treats at School

To avoid disappointment and to support the safety and well-being of all students, we request that Parents/Guardians read the following guidelines carefully.

We have a number of students at our school who are anaphylactic. Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. Certain foods and insect stings are the most common causes of anaphylaxis.

It is very difficult to monitor the ingredients in foods that are brought in for birthdays. It is for this reason that we ask families to please follow these guidelines when bringing food to the school for a birthday.



These guidelines will be strictly adhered to by all staff.

- **NO birthday lolly bags/gift bags**
- **Only ONE item per child eg. One lollypop or one chocolate treat**
- **Only one type/brand of item eg. a bag of Freddo Frogs or a bag of Kit Kat or lolly pops**
- **A list of ingredients MUST be supplied**
- **Food MUST be individually wrapped**
- **No nuts**
- **No homemade food**

If birthday treats do not meet the above guidelines, the treats will be returned home.

Birthday treats are to be delivered by the parent/guardian to the school office.

They will remain at the office until the end of the day when they will be distributed to the students by the classroom teacher at 3.30pm.



# Dates to Remember

## February 2024

Friday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	District Swimming Trials – selected students
Monday	12 <sup>th</sup>	GRIP Leadership Conference Payment/Consent due for Lv 5/6 Interschool Sport
Thursday	15 <sup>th</sup>	District Swimming – selected students
Friday	16 <sup>th</sup>	Lv 5/6 Interschool Sport
Friday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Lv 5/6 Interschool Sport
Monday	26 <sup>th</sup>	Lv 3/4 Excursion – Cranbourne Botanic Gardens
Tuesday	27 <sup>th</sup>	Lv 5/6 Meet & Greet Interviews: 1.40pm – 6.40pm
Wednesday	28 <sup>th</sup>	Lv 5/6 Excursion – Science Works Lv 1/4 Meet & Greet Interviews: 1.40pm – 6.40pm

## March 2024

Friday	1 <sup>st</sup>	Division Swimming School Assembly at 2.50pm
Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	Twilight Sports 4.30pm – 6pm
Friday	8 <sup>th</sup>	Lv 5/6 Interschool Sport
Monday	11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Labour Day – Public Holiday</b>
Tuesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Curriculum Day – students do not attend school</b>
Friday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Lv 5/6 Interschool Sport
Thursday	28 <sup>th</sup>	House Cross Country <b>Last Day of Term – school finishes 2.30pm !</b>

## School Term Dates - 2024

Term 1 Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January to Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Term 2 Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June

Term 3 Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September

Term 4 Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

## Curriculum (Pupil Free) Days - 2024

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November

## Public Holidays - 2024

Labour Day Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March

Good Friday Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March

Easter Monday Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April

Anzac Day Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April

Monarch's Birthday Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June

Grand Final Friday\* Subject to AFL Schedule

Melbourne Cup Day Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November

Christmas Day Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December

Boxing Day Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December



## January / February 2024 – Foundation Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>29 January</b> Curriculum Day Students do not attend school.	<b>30 January</b> No Foundation classes. Parent/Teacher interviews for Foundation	<b>31 January</b> No Foundation classes.	<b>1 February</b> Foundation students 9.00am–1.00pm	<b>2</b> Foundation students 9.00am–1.00pm
<b>5</b> Foundation students 9.00am–1.00pm	<b>6</b> Foundation students 9.00am–1.00pm	<b>7</b> No Foundation classes.	<b>8</b> First FULL DAY for Foundation students 9.00am–3.30pm	<b>9</b> Foundation students 9.00am–3.30pm
<b>12</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm	<b>13</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm	<b>14</b> No Foundation classes.	<b>15</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm	<b>16</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm
<b>19</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm	<b>20</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm	<b>21</b> No Foundation classes.	<b>22</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm	<b>23</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm
<b>26</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm	<b>27</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm	<b>28</b> No Foundation classes.	<b>29</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm	

## March 2024 – Foundation Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				<b>1</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm
<b>4</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm	<b>5</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm	<b>6</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm	<b>7</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm	<b>8</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm
<b>11</b> Labour Day Public Holiday School Closed	<b>12</b> Curriculum Day Students do not attend school.	<b>13</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm	<b>14</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm	<b>15</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm
<b>18</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm	<b>19</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm	<b>20</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm	<b>21</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm	<b>22</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm
<b>25</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm	<b>26</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm	<b>27</b> Foundation students 9.00am-3.30pm	<b>28</b> Last Day Term 1 School finishes 2:30pm	<b>29</b> Good Friday Public Holiday School Closed

