



Birregurra Primary School Newsletter

'Living & Learning Together'

Term 1, Week 2 – 5th February 2024

From the Principal's Desk



Birregurra Primary School is a child safe organisation which welcomes all children, young people and their families.

We are committed to providing environments where our students are safe and feel safe, where their participation is valued, their views are respected, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Our child safe policies, strategies and practices are inclusive of the needs of all children and students.

We have no tolerance for child abuse and take proactive steps to identify and manage any risks of harm to students in our school environments. Particular attention is given to the child safety needs of Aboriginal students, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, international students, students with disabilities, those unable to live at home, children and young people who identify as LGBTIQ+ and other students experiencing risk or vulnerability. Child safety is a shared responsibility.

Our Vision

An inclusive community that supports and encourages a love of learning and the skills and mindset to thrive.

Our School Values

Community - growing positive partnerships between school, home and the broader community

Aspire - setting goals and purposefully working towards their achievement

Respect - for self, others, learning and our environment

Excellence - striving for the highest personal achievement in all aspects of schooling.

Welcome to Week Two! I trust everyone had a delightful weekend, and the children are rejuvenated and eager for another week of learning. The school year has commenced on a positive note, and I've thoroughly relished hearing about the holiday adventures of both our dedicated staff and enthusiastic students. Witnessing the joy on the faces of students as they enthusiastically recount their experiences in new classrooms with their teachers has been a highlight. Our prep newcomers are adapting well to school life, thanks to the support of their fantastic Year 6 buddies and our committed staff.

At B.P.S, our goal is to foster a culture of care, inclusion, and high-quality teaching, ensuring that every student thrives both as learners and proud members of their school and local community. During the initial weeks of Term One, our teachers dedicate time to building positive relationships, exploring constructive emotions, and collaboratively establishing classroom expectations and routines. This groundwork sets the stage for the elevated standards we aspire to achieve.

To support these efforts, you may wish to consider the following:

- Assisting your children in organising their uniform, books, and lunches, ensuring readiness for the school day.
- Accompanying them on walks or bike rides to school until they feel confident and capable of doing so independently.
- Establishing routines for home reading, screen time, and time away from screens.
- Asking questions such as... What helped you learn at school today? Who did you help at school today? Can you teach me something you learned today?
- Encouraging the why questions with your children...it might drive you crazy but explore the answers together
- Encouraging your children to learn and experience things with you
- Using an expansive vocabulary with them – maybe have an interesting 'word of the week' to explore at home
- Encouraging community activities and out of school hour's opportunities but also ensure they have downtime to just play, enjoy their family and rest
- Being the best role models, you can be to your children.

Parent Information Sessions

At Birregurra PS we strive to keep families informed and value the important partnership between school and home. We have scheduled two Parent Information sessions to begin the year. The aim of these sessions is to provide all parents with the opportunity to gain an overview of how the learning program is structured and give examples of how you can work with the school to support your child's learning. It is also a great opportunity for you to ask any questions.



School Councillors – Rob Lidgerwood (President) Luke Fitzpatrick, Claire Leeson, Abbey Gannon, Kelly Dodds, Emma Mezzatesta, Emily McDonald, Alistair Burrell, Brendan King.

Our P-2 Information Session will be held **TONIGHT from 6:00-7:00pm**. Our 3-6 Information Session will be held next **Monday 13th February** from 6:00-7:00pm. Both sessions will take place in the Multi-Purpose Room. We look forward to seeing you there!

Welcome BBQ – Wednesday 7th February – 5pm

All BPS families are invited to our annual school Welcome BBQ to be held **this Wednesday 7th February at 5:00pm**. This is a great opportunity for our new families to meet existing members of the school community and enjoy an informal catch up. Please see flyer in this newsletter for more details. We look forward to seeing you there!

Parent Teacher Conversations

As the new school year commences, we see it as an excellent opportunity for our teachers to connect with parents/guardians and engage in discussions regarding your child's adjustment to their new class and gather insights into their aspirations for the 2024 school year.

Parent/teacher conversations are scheduled to take place over the phone after school on **Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th, Tuesday 20th, and Wednesday 21st February** from 3:30-4:30pm. Teachers will call parents at the designated time. To secure your preferred time, please make a booking through the XUNO platform. Instructions on how to book through XUNO are included with today's newsletter.



Consent Forms

At Birregurra Primary School, our goal is to provide your child with a diverse array of learning opportunities and to commemorate learning achievements whenever possible. This may involve seeking parental consent. We have a range of forms available on XUNO that request your consent (or otherwise) for your child's participation, use, or access to different aspects of the school program. We consistently strive to uphold exemplary standards regarding the duty of care. Please log in to XUNO and complete all forms at your earliest convenience. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Parents & Friends / Parent Helpers 2024



We love having parents support our programs and are seeking parents/carers that may wish to join our Parents & Friends group in 2024. The P & F group operates as support for our school. The aim is to encourage parents and the wider community to be involved in the school, raise necessary funds and develop links with the children and staff. If you wish to be included in the group for 2024, please fill in the short google form by clicking on the following link - [Parents & Friends Expression of Interest 2024](#) by **Monday 12th February**. This will help us determine a suitable time to meet. Our goal is to schedule meeting this year with lots of notice so that people can put dates on their calendar.

In the meantime, we have multiple opportunities for parents to involve themselves in our school. To be a volunteer, you must have a valid working with children check and present it to the office and complete a short induction. Currently we are seeking volunteers for the following:

- Support with changing prep readers for the first few weeks- doesn't have to be a prep parent and times are flexible!
- School Council – nominations to join school council will open shortly. Please see below for more information

Our first social events for the year are also set and we'd love to have you join us. Enjoy a sausage at our family friendly Welcome BBQ this Wednesday and for our parents only, put Friday 1st March in your diary. Barefoot Bowls at the Birre Bowls Club is always lots of fun and a great way to connect with other parents/carers! RSVP via the link in today's newsletter.

School Council Nominations

Nominations for School Council will open on **Monday February 19th**. Our existing School Council comprises 6 parent representatives, 2 staff representatives (in the school employee category), 2 optional community representatives, and the Principal. Members of the School Council serve a two-year term, with the option to renominate at the conclusion of their term. Annually, three parent positions and one school employee position become available.

The School Council is obligated to convene a minimum of eight times per year, with meetings scheduled on Mondays at 6:30 pm. If you are interested in becoming involved, consider nominating yourself! A fact sheet providing detailed information about school council elections is attached to this newsletter for your reference.

2024 Student Leadership Roles

Leadership is a quality that all students at Birregurra Primary School are encouraged and supported to develop. Students from Prep to Year 6 take on the role of leaders of their own learning. Through the curriculum and extra-curricular activities, all students are encouraged to develop the skills necessary to be a leader. This ensures that all students perceive themselves as leaders and have the opportunity and confidence to take on leadership roles.

Embedded in our extra-curricular program are formalised student leadership roles. Through their actions Birregurra Primary School's student leaders will reflect and demonstrate the School's Values; Community, Aspire, Respect & Excellence in all of their actions, words and endeavours.

The 2024 leadership roles are School Captains, House Captains (Sladen, Strachan, Skene & Beal) and Junior School Council representatives including President, Vice President and Secretary.

Our 5/6 students will shortly begin writing their applications and deliver their speeches to the school community on **Monday 12th February @ 9:00am** in the Multi-Purpose Room. We are looking forward to hearing our young leaders speak about their personal qualities and skills and are confident they will all do a fabulous job. Parents are welcome to come along and listen to the speeches. Our Junior School Council also has representatives from Grades 3 & 4. Interested year 3 & 4 students will deliver their speeches to their individual classes.

Polwarth & House Sports Dates



The date of our annual Polwarth Interschool Sports has been set for **Thursday 29th of February**. For new families, the Polwarth Sports is a rural school sport's day held at Alvie PS each year for all students Prep to 6. Students from six local rural schools compete against each other in a range of athletic activities. Students in the older years who perform well at the Polwarth Sports can qualify to compete in the Colac Division Athletics. Typically, we would hold our own school House Sports prior to

Polwarth, however the Polwarth event has been moved forward this year due to NAPLAN taking place in March and the Colac Division Athletics scheduled for **Thursday 7th March**. Therefore, our House Sports will take place on **Wednesday 27th March**. To prepare students for the athletics, they will practice in their PE/Sports sessions with Mr King and be supported by our House leaders once elected.

Please note, the Polwarth Sports Day requires parents to transport their children to and from this event. This is due to the fact that all staff arrive bright and early in Alvie to help with the setup. All our staff including education support staff are allocated a role on the day, either running an event, age group official, scorer or first aid officer. Families are welcome to stay and enjoy the day, and we encourage you to bring along a picnic lunch. Please stay tuned for specific times including arrival and dismissal.

Lunch Orders

This week, we begin lunch orders through the Birregurra General Store as a service for our families. Lunch orders will run on Fridays with orders **to be submitted by 9:00am Thursday morning**. Unfortunately no late orders will be accepted. Our school uses the Quickcliq online platform to order lunches. Please see instructions in today's newsletter on how to place your orders.



The lunch order menu is also included below and includes a traffic light system. Foods are classified as GREEN, AMBER or RED according to their nutritional value. Foods in the GREEN category are the healthiest choices. AMBER foods should be selected carefully and should only be eaten in moderation. Foods in the RED category are not essential. If they are consumed too often, or in large amounts, they can lead to weight gain and chronic diseases.

If you have any questions or queries about how to order, please contact Mrs Leigh in the office who will happily assist you.

Birregurra P.S. Lunch Order Menu

- Sausage rolls- \$4.50 ● Sauce - No extra charge
- Party pies- \$1.50 ●
- Meat pie- \$4.80 ●
- Pastie- \$4.80 ●
- Steamed dim sims- \$1 ●
- Mixed sandwiches- \$6 ●
- Ham + cheese sandwich- \$4.50 ●
- Chicken + lettuce sandwich-\$5.50 ●
- Salad rolls ham/chicken \$8 ●
- Chicken fried rice \$4.50 ●
- Pasta Bolognese \$4.50 ●
- Slices- \$4.80 ●
(Lemon/ Hedgehog/ Peppermint)



Clever, Cashless, Convenient.
Online ordering for school lunches.

Sign up for free today!
www.quickcliq.com.au

School Uniform Order form

Attached to today's newsletter is a uniform order form. These are due back to school by **16th February**. Our next uniform order won't be until Term 2 so please ensure orders are in by the 16th! Please note we only stock a limited range of uniform.

Parent Payments 2024

At Birregurra Primary School, we are mindful of costs for families and strive to keep fees as low as possible. Our parent payment contributions were endorsed by school council last year. For 2024, Parent Payment Arrangements will be \$280 per student. This amount covers all necessary items for the year, including exercise books, handwriting books, stationery, paper, whiteboards, art materials, etc., as well as access to a one-to-one digital device. We are very fortunate that the amazing fundraising efforts of our school community supports the purchase and updating of these devices.

In addition, our 2024 Parent Payment Arrangements also includes our whole school swimming program (Term 2), Life Education incursions, and online subscriptions. Our ability to offer these additional benefits relies on our strategic use of all funds, including locally raised funds, and on families fulfilling their curriculum contributions.

We would appreciate if Parent Payments can be made by the end of Term 1. Payments can be made via direct deposit, EFTPOS at the office or via credit card using the XUNO platform. If you wish to set up a payment plan, this can also be arranged by contacting Mrs. Leigh in the office.

Reminders

- Prep students do not come to school on Wednesdays throughout February.
- Our Welcome BBQ is this Wednesday @ 5:00pm. We'd love for you to join us!
- Please complete all start of year consent forms via XUNO by February 10th. Thanks to those that have already done this!
- Please provide an updated Asthma, Anaphylaxis and/or allergy plans as soon as possible – updated plans are required every twelve months.
- Students and parents moving to cars should use the nature strip or circular footpath to access their cars.
- If you, or your child, are riding scooters or bikes to school, it is a requirement that you all wear helmets. It is important that we model the expected road safety laws and behaviours to our students.
- Classes start at 9am sharp. We would appreciate it if children can arrive at school between 8.40am and 9am. We understand that sometimes things don't always go to plan however late arrivals can disrupt student learning time.

- Students arriving after 9am should report to the office first to sign in as a late arrival.
- Please note that the school yard is not supervised until 8.40am each morning. We ask that students arrive after this time. If a student needs to arrive before this time for some reason, please contact us to let us know. Before school care is available in the Multi-Purpose room with TheirCare. Bookings available at <https://theircare.com.au>
- School finishes for students at 3.15pm. It would be greatly appreciated if you could ensure you are here at this time if you are picking your child/ren up. If you are running late, please give us a call. We are always willing to help out. The students will be supervised in the main building until you arrive.
- It would be great if all dogs were kept on a leash and preferably kept out of the school grounds.

If you have any questions, thoughts or concerns please don't hesitate to contact either myself, the office or your child's teacher. Positive home school partnerships and relationships ensure the best possible outcomes for your children. We value your input and are committed to making our school the best it can be – *safe, fair and friendly for everyone.*

Have a happy and safe week,

Jess Kattwinkel & team ☺

Dates for the diary ...

2024	
Monday 5 th February	- Prep-Gr 2 Information Session, 6pm-7pm
Wednesday 7 th February	- No Preps at school - Welcome BBQ 5pm
Thursday 8 th February	- Breakfast Club commences 8.15am in Art Room
Friday 9 th February	- Assembly 2.45pm
Monday 12 th February	- Gr 3-6 Information Session, 6pm-7pm
Tuesday 13 th February	- Parent / Teacher conversations 3:30pm-4:30pm via phone
Wednesday 14 th February	- No Preps at school - Parent / Teacher conversations 3:30pm-4:30pm via phone
Tuesday 20 th February	- Parent / Teacher conversations 3:30pm-4:30pm via phone
Wednesday 21 st February	- No Preps at school - Parent / Teacher conversations 3:30pm-4:30pm via phone
Friday 23 rd February	- Assembly 2.45pm
Wednesday 28 th February	- No Preps at school
Thursday 29 th February	- Polwarth Sports @ Alvie Primary School
Friday 1 st March	- PFA Barefoot Bowls, 6pm-9pm

Wishing the following
students
a very Happy Birthday

February

5th Jackson S

11th Daisy F



Week One Happy Snaps 😊



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Hello and welcome to another year.... with an extra big welcome to our new families at Birre in 2024!

I thought I'd begin by outlining my position to new families, while reminding existing families of the important role I play in support students at Birregurra Primary. My role is to support and promote positive mental health and wellbeing for all students. Additionally, my focus includes enhancing staff competence in delivering evidence-based strategies and establishing clear referral pathways for students requiring further support, assessment, or intervention. This involves collaboration with Student Support Services, external providers, families, and school leadership. I aim to ensure a holistic approach to mental health by connecting wellbeing programs to social and emotional learning in the curriculum. Furthermore, this year I will join an Enriched Learning Community with over 40 different schools, offering and receiving support through resource sharing, professional reading, and idea exchange.

In essence, my role is vital to fostering a supportive and collaborative environment that contributes to the overall mental health and wellbeing of students.

If at any stage you feel I can support your child please do not hesitate to make contact. My door is always open!

Brendan King

Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader



2024 WELCOME TO SCHOOL

BBQ



WEDNESDAY
7TH FEB
2024
5:00PM

Please join us to welcome in the 2024 school year at our annual Welcome BBQ! It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with other families and those new to the Birregurra Primary School community.

SAUSAGES,
SAUCE AND
BREAD
PROVIDED,
BYO DRINKS.

Birregurra Primary School Barefoot Bowls

Friday 1st March 2024

Birregurra Bowling Club, 58 Roadknight St.

6pm -9pm

BBQ and Bar at Birregurra Bowling Club prices

BYO Nibbles

This is an adults only event!



Click here to RSVP
by 2nd February 2024

Birregurra Primary School

Uniform Order

Student Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Contact Number: _____

Item	Sizes Available	Price	Size	Qty	Total
Short Sleeve Polo	4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14	\$23.00			
	16	\$25.00			
Long Sleeve Polo	4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14	\$25.00			
	16	\$27.00			
Hoodie	4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14	\$40.00			
	16	\$45.00			
Windcheater	4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14	\$27.00			
	16	\$32.00			
Bomber Jacket	4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14	\$37.00			
	16	\$40.00			
Rugby Shorts	4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14	\$19.00			
	16	\$21.00			
Microfibre Shorts	4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14	\$19.00			
	16	\$21.00			
Soft Shell Jackets	4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14	\$60.00			
	16	\$70.00			
Double Knee Track Pants with zip pockets	4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14	\$27.00			
	16	\$32.00			
Wide Brim Hat	S, M, L, XL	\$12.00			
Bucket Hat	S, M, L, XL	\$9.00			
School Bag	-	\$55.00	-		
Beanies	One Size	\$20.00	-		
TOTAL					

Orders due back by Friday 16th February 2024

Payment to be made at time of order via Cash, EFTPOS or Direct Deposit.

Direct Deposit details – BSB: 063 510 ACC: 1002 1678 Birregurra Primary School Council

Please contact Mrs Kate Leigh in the office on 5236 2222 if you have any questions.

Introducing ACA – People Outdoors: Camps for People Living with Disability 'Adventure For All'

ACA - [People Outdoors](http://www.peopleoutdoors.org.au), a program of the [Australian Camps Association](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/special/aca/), was established in 1989 to provide outdoor recreation for people of all ages living with disability. Our programs include two-night weekend through to four-day residential camps held during the school holidays. Our participants are looked after by our team of disability support workers for the duration of camp. So, if you'd like the opportunity to experience the social and developmental benefits of adventure outdoors, please contact our team on 03 9863 6824 or visit our website for more information – www.peopleoutdoors.org.au



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Adventure for All!