



Birregurra Primary School Newsletter

'Living & Learning Together'

Term 3, Week 1 – 21st July 2025

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 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 LGBTQ+ 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.

From the Principal's Desk



Welcome back to school for Term Three. I hope all students and families enjoyed a well-deserved break. It was great to see everyone return looking refreshed this morning after the holiday period. I enjoyed spending some quality time with family in the Grampians — certainly a beautiful (if slightly cooler!) part of the state.

We're looking forward to a productive and engaging Term Three, with all our systems and routines well

established. Academic and behavioural expectations will remain high, as our goal is for every student to continue growing and improving across all areas.

Semester One Reports

Semester One reports were distributed via XUNO on the final Monday of Term Two. We hope you had the opportunity to read through the report together with your child, congratulating them on their many achievements throughout Semester One, as well as discussing opportunities for further growth in the second semester. If you are yet to access your child's report and need assistance, please don't hesitate to call the office. We are more than happy to assist.

Learning Showcase

Thanks to the parents and family members that were able to make it to our 'Learning Showcase' on the final Wednesday of last term. We had some excited students very eager to share their learning environment and achievements with those closest to them. Your presence and support help continued efforts to strengthen the connection between home and school, and we truly value the opportunity to celebrate learning with you all.

Swimming Celebration Success

The final day of Term Two saw our first swimming celebration. It was a wonderful opportunity to see our students showcase their growing confidence in the water. While there was a touch of friendly competition, the real highlight was seeing students fully engaged, having fun, and supporting one another. The splash park kept students warm and active between events, and activities like collecting sinkies one at a time to earn points for their house teams brought lots of excitement.

Everyone did a great job, showing teamwork, enthusiasm, and school spirit — with Skene House emerging as the overall winners. Well done to our amazing staff and the team at Bluewater for ensuring the day ran smoothly and safely. It was a fantastic way to finish the term, and we're already looking forward to the next one!

Staffing Updates

With the beginning of a new term, we have some staffing updates to share.

We're excited to welcome Mia Kilfoyle to our Education Support team this term. Mia will be a familiar face to many, having worked in Outside School Hours Care for TheirCare at our school. She will be working predominantly in the Grade 3 classroom. Get to know more about Mia below:

School Councillors – Rob Lidgerwood, Luke Fitzpatrick, Kelly Dodds, Emily McDonald, Cassie Stephens, Sarah Green, Alistair Burrell, Jaymie Lowe.

Name: Mia Kilfoyle

Years in Education: I have worked in the education sector since 2021, working in Education Support and as Coordinator at Birregurra TheirCare.

What's something students might be surprised to learn about you? I've been to over 50 concerts and musicals!

What makes a great day at school? Seeing students trying their best, even when things are tricky. And nothing beats seeing smiles on faces, it always brings a smile to mine!

If you could share one piece of wisdom with students, what would it be? Be kind to everyone, including yourself. The world becomes a better place when you choose kindness!

How do you remember students' names? With lots of practice, but I'll definitely make mistakes along the way!

What's your earliest memory of school? Going to see the Possum Magic play and racing home to eat a Vegemite sandwich so I wouldn't disappear!

In the coming weeks, as Miss Riseley commences her maternity leave, Mrs Welsh will take over the Grade 3 class four days a week (Monday to Thursday). As an existing staff member, Mrs Welsh is already familiar with our teaching approaches and routines. She also knows the students well through her current work teaching them STEAM — all of which will support a smooth and confident transition. A thorough handover between Miss Riseley and Mrs Welsh is planned to ensure consistency and continuity for the students.

For the first few weeks of term, class timetables will remain the same. However, there will be some adjustments to the STEAM, 4/5, and tutoring timetables later in the term to accommodate the change. These may involve different staff delivering some sessions. Updated schedules will be shared in the coming weeks.

This is an exciting time for Miss Riseley, and we wish her all the very best as she prepares for this next chapter.

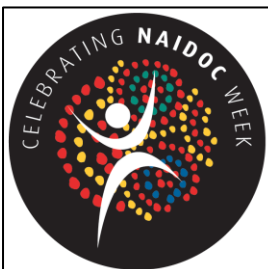
We're confident this arrangement will provide strong continuity for students and help maintain learning momentum throughout Term 3 and beyond.

NAIDOC Week 6th – 13th July 2025

National NAIDOC Week is celebrated across Australia in the first week of July each year (Sunday to Sunday) to honour and recognise the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is a time for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and to participate in celebrating the oldest continuous living cultures on Earth.

The theme for 2025, **'The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy'**, marks 50 years of NAIDOC Week. It invites us to reflect on the strength and achievements of the past while celebrating the bright future being shaped by the next generation.

Throughout the week, our school will acknowledge the contributions of our Elders by engaging in classroom discussions and activities that honour and explore the significance of NAIDOC Week.



**THE NEXT GENERATION:
STRENGTH, VISION & LEGACY**
6-13 JULY 2025

Wheelie Wednesday

Following feedback from our students, Wheelie Wednesday is back this term. 'Wheelie Wednesday' provides the opportunity for students to bring along their bike or scooter and safety gear and have fun riding at lunchtime (sorry no skateboards or rollerblades!) To ensure the safety of all we will rotate each week between the juniors and seniors. Week One our year 3-6 students are invited to participate in 'Wheelie Wednesday'. To participate students must have the required safety gear including an Australian Standards approved helmet and follow the set rules below:

- No sharing of bikes and /or scooters and helmets.
- No over arm flips with scooters.
- Students are to ride in the one direction to avoid any head on collisions
- No jumps off of any surface
- Bunny hops ok on scooters

Students not following set rules will be asked to put their bike or scooter away for the remainder of lunch.

School Review

As you may already be aware from previous communications, we are approaching our School Review. This important process occurs every four years and involves a rigorous evaluation of our school's performance. It provides an opportunity to reflect on our previous goals, assess outcomes, and set a clear direction for the next four years.

The findings and recommendations from the external reviewer will inform the development of our next School Strategic Plan (SSP) — the guiding document that shapes our work for the following four years. Each year, schools also develop an Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) that breaks down the SSP into focused yearly actions.

We look forward to this process, as it allows us to celebrate what has worked well at Birregurra Primary School, while also identifying opportunities to improve and refine our practices. It's a chance to sharpen our strategic focus and continue building a strong future for our school.

Staff have been working hard on preparing the necessary documentation, which is a detailed and thoughtful process. Our first review day is this **Thursday**, and it will be a valuable opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the past four years and plan ahead. The review panel will spend the day examining key documentation, observing in classrooms, and gaining deeper insights into our school's practices and culture.

The panel includes myself, Alistair Burrell, Brendan King, Brendan Bush (our SEIL), two Challenge Partners, and our School Council President, Rob Lidgerwood.

The second review day will take place in Week 2, on Wednesday 30th July.

A big thank you to the panel for generously giving their time and expertise to support this important process. We're looking forward to two productive and insightful days.

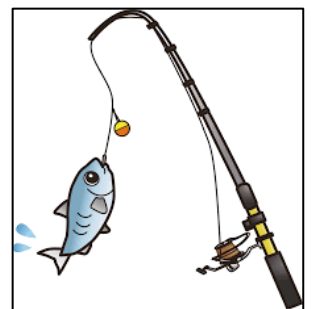
Clubs

Our first Clubs session will take place next **Friday 1st August**. Students have been placed into one of their top three preferences, and we're excited to launch a range of engaging activities.

One of our clubs, **Fishing Fanatics**, will be heading to the Barwon River to try their luck with a line and hook. While Miss Lowe is enthusiastically leading the group, she's a self-declared novice — so she'll be supported by some capable student leaders.

We'd love to hear from any parents or carers who are keen anglers and would be willing to join us on these excursions. Your expertise would be greatly appreciated! Please note that anyone wishing to volunteer will need a current Working With Children Check.

If you're interested, please get in touch with the school office or Miss Lowe directly.



Life Education



On **Thursday 31st July**, students in Grades 3-6 will engage in the 'Talk About It' Program facilitated by a trained professional from Life Education.

Children in Years 3 & 4 will engage in a session titled 'Body Safety' and learn to recognise and express their feelings, understand when they feel unsafe, know who to report concerns to, distinguish between body parts, understand consent and boundaries, differentiate between safe and unsafe touch, and practice protective behaviours.

Our Year 5's will develop an understanding of the physical, social and emotional changes that occur during puberty through the 'Welcome to Puberty' module.

Year 6 students will engage in the 'Thriving in Puberty' module which is an extension of the Welcome to Puberty module they completed last year. If you have any wonderings regarding these sessions, please make contact.

Prep Enrolments due this Friday!

A reminder that Prep enrolment applications for 2026 are due by this **Friday 25th July**. Getting in early helps with planning and ensures a smooth start for everyone. We're excited to welcome our newest learners to the BPS community!

Update On Suspension and Expulsion Powers

Our school is committed to providing a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for all students and staff.

You may be aware of recent changes announced to suspension and expulsion powers that will be available to Victorian principals from today, day one of Term 3, (Monday 21 July 2025).

We know that students' behaviour outside of school, particularly online, can sometimes impact the safety of students and staff at school.

In exceptional circumstances, principals of Victorian government schools will be able suspend or expel students for behaviour that occurs outside of school grounds and/or hours including online, if it poses a significant danger to the safety and wellbeing of students or staff.

These powers apply only to serious incidents where there is a clear and close connection to the school and the behaviour of a student outside of school unreasonably impacts the safety and wellbeing of students or staff at school, and their ability to learn or work. Please note:

- They do not apply to behaviours unrelated to the school or school community.
- They only apply to behaviour which occurs from Monday 21 July 2025 onwards.

Suspension and expulsion will remain measures of last resort – our primary approach continues to focus on proactive and positive behaviour support, including working with you to teach students the behaviours we expect of them, in school and in life.

Thank you for your continued support as we work in partnership to educate and support our young people.

[Webinars for Parents & Carers](#)

The eSafety Commissioner is offering free live webinars designed for parents and carers. These sessions aim to equip you with the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to help your children navigate the online world safely. There are a range of topics that will be presented throughout the term. To register for these webinars, visit [Webinars for parents and carers | eSafety Commissioner](#).

**Term 3, 2025**
eSafety parents and carers webinars

Join eSafety's free live webinars for parents and carers.

Term 3 topics:

- **Recognising online coercive control in young people's lives (45 minutes).** For parents and carers of young people in upper primary and secondary school.
- **Understanding AI Companions: What parents and carers need to know (45 minutes).** For parents and carers of young people in upper primary and secondary school.
- **AI-assisted image-based abuse: Navigating the deepfake threat (45 minutes).** For parents and carers of young people in upper primary and secondary school.
- **The changing face of cyberbullying: Protecting your child in 2025 (45 minutes).** For parents and carers of children in primary and secondary school.



For more information and to register now: [eSafety.gov.au/parents/webinars](https://esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars)

 eSafety Commissioner

eSafety.gov.au



Term 3, 2025

eSafety parents and carers webinars

Join eSafety's free live webinars for parents and carers.

Term 3 topics:

- **Understanding and using parental controls to help protect your child online (45 minutes).** For parents and carers of children in primary and secondary school.
- **Sexual extortion: What parents and carers need to know (45 minutes).** For parents and carers of young people in upper primary and secondary school.
- **Exploring the online experiences of boys and young men (45 minutes).** For parents and carers of young people in upper primary and secondary school.



For more information and to register now: [eSafety.gov.au/parents/webinars](https://esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars)



 eSafety Commissioner

[eSafety.gov.au](https://esafety.gov.au)

Reminders

- Breakfast Club in on Thursday from 8:15am, all welcome!
- Assembly is this Friday 25th July @ 2:45pm with Grade 1/2M presenting.
- Prep enrolment applications are due this Friday!

Have a great first week back everyone and please reach out with any wonderings.

Jess Kattwinkel & team 😊

Dates for the Diary

TERM 3	
Monday 21 st July	- Term 3 Commences
Thursday 24 th July	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 25 th July	- Assembly 2.45pm - Gr 1/2M Class Presentation
Tuesday 29 th July	- Prep's 100 th Day of School
Thursday 31 st July	- Breakfast Club 8.15am - Life Education Sessions - Gr 3-6
Friday 1 st August	- Clubs 2.15pm
Monday 4 th August	- School Council 6.30pm
Wednesday 6 th August	- STEAM Incursion
Thursday 7 th August	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 8 th August	- Assembly 2.45pm - Prep Class Presentation
Wednesday 13 th - Friday 15 th August	- Gr 3-6 YMCA Camp, Anglesea
Thursday 14 th August	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Thursday 21 st August	- Breakfast Club 8.15am - Clubs 2.15pm
Friday 22 nd August	- Assembly 2.45pm - Gr 5/6 Class Presentation
Thursday 28 th August	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 29 th August	- Clubs 2.15pm



Prep 2026

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

Please apply by Friday 25th July

Visit our school website or contact the school for more information.

'living and learning together'

5236 2222 birregurra.ps@education.vic.gov.au www.birregurraps.vic.edu.au



Healthy Screen Time Agreements

School holidays can see the relaxing of rules and boundaries around many household structures. In my experience this can include bedtimes, meals and screen time. While rest and relaxation are important so too are routines, structure and discipline. Living in a digital world whereby children have easy access to screens, and the internet requires careful guidance and support from parents.

Setting ground rules around the use of screens and devices from an early age supports children to develop healthy screen time habits. Engaging children in discussion about healthy screen time habits empowers children and provides them with a sense of ownership over the decision.

A family screen time agreement is a set of boundaries around the use of devices in the home. It incorporates not only the volume of time spent on screens but also when and where screens are used. It can also include when certain devices are used and for what purpose [social media, gaming etc.]

Children begin to understand boundaries around the age of three, so those of you with younger children this is the perfect time to start.

Attached below is a link to the e-safety Commissioner site that will lead you to further information including templates for setting up family agreements.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-01/Family%20tech%20agreement%205-8%20Yrs%20-%20Parents.pdf>

- Brendan King

eSafetyparents

Advice for
parents and
carers to help
kids stay safe
online



Create a family
tech agreement
with your
children

LEARN MORE





Try Scouts for Free for three weeks

Ready to try something new?

Join Scouts

3rd 4th Colac Scout Group is welcoming new members
to unlock Fun, Adventure, Friendship & Leadership!

Our Section meeting nights are

Joey Scouts | ages 5 - 8 | Wednesday 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Cub Scouts | ages 8-11 | Tuesday 6pm - 7:30pm

Scouts | ages 11-14 | Thursday 7pm - 9pm

Venturer Scouts | ages 14-18 | Monday 6pm - 8pm

Rover Scouts | ages 18 - 26 | Meet with Yarrimbak Rover Unit



3rd 4th Colac
Scout Group