



Birregurra Primary School Newsletter

'Living & Learning Together'

Term 4, Week 4 – 27th October 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 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 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 to Week 4! We experienced some wild weather last week however, fortunately, there were no major impacts on our school day. The weather cleared for our Year 5/6 excursion on Friday, allowing students to make the most of the experience.

Colac Division Basketball

Last Monday, a group of senior girls and boys travelled to Colac to participate in the Colac Division Basketball competition. Congratulations to the following girls for their efforts and willingness to represent our school: Savannah, Vivienne, Emme, Kate, Stella, Imogen, Stevie, Rosie and Indie. Congratulations also to our boys' team: Xavier, Bodhi, Jackson, Parker, Harry, Logan and Freddie. Both teams performed exceptionally well on the day, with the boys making it all the way to the grand final, where they put in a strong performance but were defeated.

A big thank you to Boz, Holly, Belinda and Rob for transporting our students and supporting them throughout the event. Special thanks also to Mr King for coaching both teams.



Tools for Transition Parent Information Session

Last Tuesday, our Grade 6 students participated in a full-day program alongside other local schools, designed to equip them with tools and strategies to support their upcoming transition to secondary school. Thanks to BATForce for facilitating the program and to our neighbouring schools for attending and helping to strengthen local connections.

Following on from this session, this Tuesday evening (28th October) there is an online parent information session for Grade 6 families from 7pm-8.15pm. The session will cover topics such as:

- Importance of building school family partnerships in secondary school
- Supporting your Young Person to be their authentic self
- Supporting healthy & respectful relationships
- Supporting kids to ride the bumps
- The importance of role modelling
- Boundary setting & conflict resolution

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

- Importance of community connection
- Family tech support
- Where to go when worry happens
- 'What's your plan?' tool

The following link will take you to the session. We hope that you can join!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82970661216?pwd=gYChwR31CafzrmqEbahzs2zhrUtoJE.1>

5/6 Otway Ocean Leaders Day

Last Friday, our Year 5/6 students, accompanied by Mr King, Miss Dillon, Mr Burrell and Mrs Bath, attended the Otway Ocean Leaders Day in Lorne with staff and students from Deans Marsh Primary School.

The day was organised through a collaborative effort between Mr King, Kirilee Wilson, and volunteer leaders from both the Lorne and Torquay Surf Life Saving Clubs. Students took part in a range of land and water-based activities and enjoyed a session with Matt Montemurro from the Marine Mammal Foundation. Matt shared insights into ocean and beach environments, highlighting the importance of protecting marine life.



Kinder Buddy Visit

This **Tuesday 28th October**, our Grade 5 students will be walking down to the Birregurra Pre-School to meet and spend time with some of our 2026 Prep students. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the older students to introduce themselves, serve as role models, and help the younger children feel more comfortable as they prepare for the exciting transition into primary school next year. A separate session in the afternoon will be held at school for those not attending Birregurra Pre-School.

Barwon Area Principal Forum

This Wednesday, I will be attending the Barwon Area Principal Forum in Geelong. This forum brings together school leaders from across the Barwon area for a day of shared learning and important updates from the Department of Education. Please contact Mr Alistair Burrell if you require assistance in my absence.



Reading Relay

Our Reading Relay is this **Thursday 30th October**, and we have some excited readers eager to spend some time engrossed in their favourite books. Thank you to those who have returned their reading relay sponsorship forms and money. We kindly ask that forms and funds be returned by Thursday.

The sponsorship will greatly support our new library cataloguing and borrowing system, which we hope to have up and running in 2026, as well as to purchase some new books for our growing collection.

On the day, students are invited to bring along their favourite book, a special teddy, and/or a blanket to keep them comfortable during their hour of reading in the Multi-Purpose Room. Below is the schedule of when each class will be reading. Parents are most welcome to join in the fun!

Reading Schedule:

- 9:00-10:00 – Grade 5/6
- 10:00-11:00 – Grade 4/5
- 11:30-12:30 – Grade 3
- 12:30-1:30 – Grade 1/2L & 1/2M
- 2:15-3:15 - Grade Prep

World Teachers' Day - Friday

This Friday we celebrate World Teachers' Day, a special opportunity to acknowledge and thank our dedicated teaching staff for the incredible work they do every day. Our teachers inspire, support and guide our students, helping them to grow academically, socially and emotionally.

We encourage our school community to take a moment to recognise the commitment and passion of our teachers – whether it's a kind word, a note of thanks, or simply letting them know their efforts are appreciated. Thank you to all our teachers for making a difference in the lives of our students each and every day.



Talent Quest & Market Day

Our Talent Quest and Market Day are fast approaching, and students are working hard in preparation. A reminder that Talent Quest entry forms are due back today to support organisation and planning. Auditions will be held in classrooms throughout the week, providing students with an opportunity to practise their performance and build confidence before the main event.

Market stalls are being prepared, with students working on ordering, advertising and promotion. This year, some of our stalls include 'Trash & Treasure', 'Sweets, Spice & Everything Nice', 'Just Add Flair – Nails & Hair', 'Three Throws', 'Poppy Juice', 'Pet Rocks', 'What's in the Box?', a BBQ and more!

One stall will offer the opportunity to have your hair coloured with coloured hair spray, and another will offer face painting. Please note that if you **do not** wish for your child to participate in these activities, please email the school at birregurra.ps@education.vic.gov.au so we can provide a list to our stall holders.

Changes to Digital Device Use

From 2027, the Victorian Government is introducing changes to the use of digital devices for students from Prep to Grade 6.

Under the new guidelines, schools:

- will no longer invite families to purchase or bring their own digital devices to use at school for Prep to Grade 6
- will follow new recommended digital device times, including minimal device time for Prep to Grade 2; and a maximum of 90 minutes per day for grades 3 to 6.

These changes are intended to support families by reducing cost-of-living pressures. They will also support students by reducing screen-time which can reduce the risk of eye strain, sedentary behaviour, and reduced peer interaction. These reforms complement Victoria's nation-leading mobile phone restrictions, ensuring an integrated approach to addressing digital distraction and the inappropriate use of technology.

What this means for our school

As you know, we provide school-owned digital devices for all students, so this change will not affect our current device provision.

Students with disability who use a digital device as a reasonable adjustment are exempt from these changes. These changes are intended to support families with cost-of-living pressures and reduce student screen time. You can read more about the changes on the department's website: [Digital Learning: Policy](#).

Lunch Orders

Please see the volunteer lunch order roster below. Volunteers assist with packing lunches, handing out to classrooms and cleaning up. If the date doesn't suit, let us know and we can arrange a swap.

DATE	VOLUNTEERS (Approximately 1:00- 2:15)
Friday 31 st October	Cara Lidgerwood
Friday 7 th November	<i>No lunch orders due to Market Day</i>

Friday 14th November	Kristy Stagg
Friday 21st November	Sarah Scott
Friday 28th November	Kristy Stagg

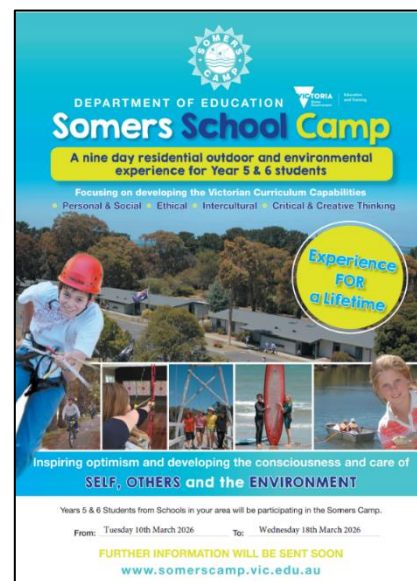
Somers Camp 2026

The Somers School Camp 2026 Calendar has now been finalised, and our school has the opportunity to attend! In Term 1 2026 schools in our network **“Barwon South & Colac”** will have the opportunity to participate in a ‘Somers Camp’ - available to 160 students in years 5 and 6 at a cost of \$350.00 per student. The camp will be held from Tuesday March 10 to Wednesday March 18 2026.

Somers School Camp (Somers Campus) is a Department of Education School offering a unique nine-day experience. The campus has been operating since 1959 with more than 180,000 children having attended.

Somers School Camp is an inclusive school where all students have the opportunity to develop confidence and independence, enhance their awareness of self, others and the environment and provides student the real-life opportunities to build their personal capabilities. The camp promotes respect, cooperation, communication and tolerance and provides leadership in outdoor education for both children and teachers.

Places are limited and further information including expressions of interest will be provided later this term.



Use of School Facilities Outside School Hours

A reminder that anyone using school facilities outside of school hours, including the basketball court and equipment, must do so safely and respectfully. Climbing or hanging from the basketball rings is not permitted, as it poses a safety risk and may damage the equipment. We appreciate everyone's cooperation in keeping our school grounds safe, well cared for, and enjoyable for all members of our community.

Reminder - Medication at School

We wish to remind families that students are not permitted to carry medication in their school bags. This includes over the counter and prescription medications. Carrying medication in bags poses a safety risk to all students.

All medication must be handed to the school office and administered in accordance with our school Medication Policy, which can be found on our website. This ensures that all medication is stored safely and administered correctly.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school a safe environment for everyone.

Road Safety Reminder - Beal Street

We have noticed some students walking across Beal Street on their own or in front of the bus, and some cars parking on the opposite side of the road. For the safety of all students, we encourage families to park on the school side of Beal Street.

Please remind your children to cross the road safely and wait for supervision if needed. By following these simple steps, we can help ensure a safe environment for everyone arriving at and leaving school.

Thank you for your support in keeping our students safe.

Reminders

- Assembly is this Friday afternoon @ 2:45pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. Grade 1/2M will be presenting.
- Breakfast Club is on Thursday morning @ 8:15am
- Tools for Transition Parent Information Online Session for Grade 6 families is this Tuesday evening at 7:00pm.
- Our Reading Relay is this Thursday! All welcome 😊

Have a wonderful week everyone and please reach out with any wonderings.

Jess Kattwinkel & team

Dates for the Diary

TERM 4	
Tuesday 28 th October	- Buddy visits for incoming 2026 preps
Thursday 30 th October	- Breakfast Club 8.15am - Reading Relay
Friday 31 st October	- World Teachers Day - Assembly 2.45pm – Gr 1/2M Class Presentation
Tuesday 4 th November	- Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
Wednesday 5 th November	- Lorne Band visiting 11:30am
Thursday 6 th November	- Breakfast Club 8.15am - Colac Division Cricket – selected students
Friday 7 th November	- Talent Quest & Market Day
Monday 10 th November – Friday 14 th November	- Scholastic Book Fair
Monday 10 th November	- School Council 6.30pm
Tuesday 11 th November	- Deakin Vision Screening Prep – Gr 2
Thursday 13 th November	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 14 th November	- STOMP Session - Assembly 2.45pm – Prep Class Presentation
Tuesday 18 th November	- Deakin Vision Screening Prep – Gr 2
Thursday 20 th November	- Breakfast Club 8.15am
Friday 21 st November	- 2026 Prep Transition Session 1 – 9am – 11am - STOMP Session
Monday 24 th November	- Common Professional Planning Day – Student Free Day
Thursday 27 th November	- Breakfast Club 8.15am - Grade 6 Excursion – TBC
Friday 28 th November	- 2026 Prep Transition Session 2 – 9am – 11.30am - STOMP Session - Assembly 2.45pm – Gr 5/6 Class Presentation
Tuesday 2 nd December	- Small Schools Transition Day CSC & Trinity College
Thursday 4 th December	- P-2 End of Year Excursion - 3-6 End of Year Excursion
Friday 5 th December	- STOMP session
Tuesday 9 th December	- Statewide Transition Day for Grade 6's attending CSC & Trinity - 2026 Prep Transition Session 3 – 9am – 2.15pm
Wednesday 10 th December	- Semester Two reports distributed to parents
Friday 12 th December	- STOMP session - School Concert & Grade 6 Graduation

Monday 15 th December	- Final assembly @ 2:45pm
Tuesday 16 th December	- Instrumental Music concert @ 2.15pm
Thursday 18 th December	- Last Day of the school year for students - Colour Run
Friday 19 th December	- Curriculum Day - no school for students





Victorian Virtual Emergency Department



I recently discovered the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department. This service is free and open 24 hours a day 7 days a week and is available for children and adults to access. Patients require a mobile phone, laptop or desktop to automatically connect with a doctor or nurse for a video consultation

You do not need a referral from your GP, a Medicare card or an appointment to access Virtual Emergency Care through the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department.

You can contact Victorian Virtual Emergency Department for a range of conditions, including but not limited to:

- [asthma](#)
- [fever](#)
- cough
- vomiting
- [diarrhoea](#)
- injuries
- first trimester pregnancy bleeding.

For quick access the link below will take you directly to the patient's page.

<https://www.vved.org.au/patients/>

Sunday 28 December

2025 BURSON KIDS DASH OCEAN SWIM

Point Roadknight Beach

KIDS DASH
ANGLESEA SLSC

BURSON **AUTO PARTS**
THE PARTS PROFESSIONALS

200m - 7-9 yrs (wade/swim)
300m - 10-12 yrs (swim)

For more information
and to enter:
www.rock2ramp.com
[Simply Click Here](#)

2025/26 Junior Blasters



Commencing 20th Nov 2025
at 5pm

Thursday nights at 5pm
Birre cricket ground

Recommended for
girls and boys aged 4-11
years



Register via the link

<https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/register/0bc5eb>



You're invited:

Twilight Social bowls/Barefoot bowls

When: Wednesdays from 5pm Oct 8-Dec 3

Where: Birregurra Bowling Club. 60 Roadknight St

Cost: \$2pp Nibbles provided and drinks available.

No equipment or experience necessary.

Bring a partner or get paired up on arrival.

(Kids activities available on back grass area)

No serious stuff! However grudge matches will be allowed and occasionally encouraged.

Weekly prizes for highest score and lucky scorecard.