



Birregurra Primary School Newsletter

'Living & Learning Together'

Term 4, Week 7 – 17th November 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 LGBTQI+ 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 7! I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful weekend.

Casual Relief Teachers play an important role in supporting our school. While we do not use CRTs extensively, their assistance was particularly valuable last week with several staff members

away due to illness. We appreciate the understanding and flexibility of our school community during these times. Mr King will also be on leave this week, and we look forward to welcoming him back next week.

School Council

Last Monday evening, we held our November School Council meeting. Reports presented and accepted included the Principal's Report, Junior School Council, Parents and Friends, and Buildings and Grounds reports.

Key items discussed were:

- Recent senior sports participation and achievements
- Commencement of Stomp dance sessions
- Talent Quest and Market Day
- 2026 planning, enrolments, and staffing
- 2026 student transitions
- Accountability measures, including Parent Survey data, associated actions, and the Annual School Performance Report highlighting strong results across both learning and wellbeing domains

- Staff professional learning
- Curriculum reports from classroom teachers

Finance reports for September and October were ratified, and the 2026 Parent Payment Arrangements Policy was endorsed.

If you would like to know more about any of the above items, please feel free to speak with a School Council member. Our final meeting for the year will be held on **Monday 8 December**.

Stomp

Our Stomp sessions began on Friday, with high energy on display in the multipurpose room. I was fortunate to see a couple of classes in action and was super impressed by the student engagement levels. We look forward to welcoming them back this Friday for our second session!



Book Fair- Thanks

Our 2025 Book Fair has now finished. Thank you to Mrs Leigh and the parents who assisted throughout the week. It was wonderful to see students and families choosing new books for their personal collections, while also helping to expand the range of books available in our classrooms and library.

Classroom Observations

Today, we will welcome leaders and teachers from another school who will be joining us to observe our maths lessons in practice.

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

It is a great opportunity to showcase the learning happening in our classrooms and share effective teaching practices. A shout out to our teachers for being open to sharing their strategies and expertise with our visiting colleagues.

Prep Transition

We're very excited to welcome our 2026 Prep students this Friday for their first transition session. Our new students will be onsite from 9:00 to 11:00 am, and we can't wait to start getting to know them!



Helmet Safety Reminder

Over recent weeks, Josh Goonan and I have noticed a number of our senior students riding without helmets in the community. We have also seen some adults accompanying children who are wearing helmets, while they themselves are not.

Wearing a helmet is not only the law but an important part of keeping ourselves safe. As role models, both adults and older students play a key part in setting the right example for our younger riders.

We are very fortunate to have such a community-minded police officer in Josh Goonan, who takes a genuine interest in the safety and wellbeing of our students. One of the best ways we can show respect for Josh and the important work he does is by following the road rules and wearing helmets every time we ride.

Over the coming weeks, we will be running a helmet safety campaign to raise awareness and encourage everyone in our community to ride safely and responsibly.

Staffing Update for 2026

Our staffing profile for 2026 at this stage remains largely the same, with the addition of one new classroom teacher. We look forward to welcoming Mr Dominic Connor, an experienced teacher with a background in policing, who brings valuable skills and perspectives to our team. Miss Riseley will continue maternity leave for the first half of the year and is expected to return part-time in the second semester.

We are continuing to explore class structures and staffing placements to ensure we set up students and teachers for a successful start to 2026. Class structures will be shared with the school community on 1st December, with student and teacher placement information provided by Monday 8th December.

Sadly, we will farewell Kirsty Osborne at the end of the year as she focuses on family life. We thank Kirsty for her dedication to our school community and wish her all the best for the future.

Respectful, safe, engaged: shared expectations to support student behaviour

The Department of Education has asked schools to share the following information.

When schools, families and students work together, we achieve the best outcomes. These partnerships are essential to creating school environments that support all students to belong, learn and thrive.

At Birregurra Primary School all students are expected to be respectful, safe, and engaged. These behaviours help make our school a place where everyone can achieve their best. As a parent and carer, you play a vital role in helping your child to understand and meet shared behaviour expectations.

Students meet behaviour expectations by being:

Respectful

- Following staff instructions and school rules.
- Caring for school property and others' belongings.
- Using respectful language.

Safe

- Keeping themselves and others safe from harm.
- Speaking up or seeking help from an adult if they or someone else is being treated unfairly.
- Only bringing safe and necessary items to school.

Engaged

- Going to school every day, being on time, and ready to learn.
- Taking part, doing their best, and asking for help when they need.
- Knowing and following the school's policies, including the mobile phone policy.

Birregurra Primary School is supporting our students to meet these expectations by being:

Respectful

- Teaching and demonstrating school rules and positive behaviour expectations to students.
- Explicitly teaching, modelling and acknowledging expected respectful behaviour.
- Engaging collaboratively and positively with all students, parents and carers.

Safe

- Having clear policies and procedures to prevent and respond to bullying and keep students safe.
- Offering additional supports to students proactively and supporting students to speak up and seek help.
- Proactively identifying and addressing problems to maintain a physically, socially and culturally safe school environment.

Engaged

- Delivering evidence-based, inclusive education that meets the needs of all students.
- Empowering students to have a say in decisions that affect their learning and school life.
- Building strong, trusting relationships to ensure all students feel seen, heard and valued.

How parents and carers can help

By modelling and encouraging positive behaviour, you help your child build the skills and habits they need to be successful at school. This can include:

Respectful

- Knowing the school's rules and supporting them at home.
- Modelling respectful behaviour in how you speak to and about school staff, families, and others both in person and online.
- Making use of the school's processes to raise and resolve concerns early.

Safe

- Working together with staff if your child is having problems at school to understand and resolve the issue.
- Ensuring your child knows it is okay to ask for help from a trusted adult at school.
- Ensuring your child stays safe online by talking with them and addressing concerns early.

Engaged

- Helping your child to attend school every day - every day counts.
- Communicating with school staff and working together to support your child's learning and wellbeing.
- Talking with your child about their day and how they are feeling and encouraging their learning by noticing their effort and progress.

The [Respectful, safe, engaged: shared expectations to support student behaviour statement](#) is available on the department's website.

Further information, resources and support are available at [Supporting positive behaviour in Victorian government schools](#).

Lunch Orders

A huge thank you to our volunteers! Lunch orders must be in by 9am on Wednesday 19th November.

DATE	VOLUNTEERS (Approximately 1:00- 2:15)
Friday 21 st November	Sarah Scott
Friday 28 th November	Kristy Stagg

Reminders

- **Monday 24th of November** is a common Professional Practice Day where the teachers will be working on assessment and reporting. **This is a student free day.**
- A reminder we are finalising parent payments for 2025 to support budgeting for 2026. Please contact the office if you require more detail on your payment status.



Thanks for your ongoing support. Please contact either your child's teacher or me if you have any questions, queries or wonderings. Have a wonderful week.

Jess Kattwinkel & team

Dates for the Diary

TERM 4	
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	- End of Year Excursions
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



Wishing the following students a very
Happy Birthday

November

13th

Violet P

Students of the Week

Community	Arlo S	For always positively contributing to our class discussions, bringing great ideas and wonderings. Great work Arlo!
	Clementine D	For being an awesome helper on Market Day, happily jumping in to support our stall and providing friendly service with a big smile. Thanks so much, Clem!
	Zeb C	Zeb participated positively in our Remembrance Day discussions, showing a strong sense of community through his thoughtful reflections and respectful contributions
	Stella L	For being a true team player during Market Day, showing positivity and enthusiasm and supporting your classmates at our stall. Your cooperation and cheerful attitude helped make it a success. Amazing work, Stella!
	Bella G	For being a team player during Market Day. You were able to adapt your stall and change quickly on the run! Fantastic work Bella!
	Adele G	You are always willing to lend a helping hand to your teacher and classmates. Thank you for thinking of others in your community. Keep it up, Adele.
Aspire	Elise N	For your tremendous work during our sentence writing this week. You turned fragments into some wonderful sentences! Keep it up superstar.
	Val C	For showing such enthusiasm and confidence during our STOMP sessions. You kept up with the routines and learned the moves quickly. Fantastic effort, Val!
	Will S	During our assessments this week, Will demonstrated wonderful focus and persistence for all of them. Keep up the great work Will!
	Eleni L	For continuing to challenge yourself in all areas of school. You have pushed beyond your comfort zone and it's been fabulous watching your confidence continue to grow. Keep up the incredible work, Eleni!
	Eliza C	For demonstrating resilience and persistence during testing. You have been awesome and done so well. Great work Eliza!
	Augie C	You have demonstrated amazing commitment to your assessment tasks this week. You have been thoughtful in how you attempt each question and have tried your very best. Well done, Augie.
Art	Ollie M	Well done Ollie on your enthusiasm for art. You always work hard at developing new art skills and you are the first to help others when packing up. Well done!
Indonesian	Maxi G	For always doing your absolute very best by contributing thoughtfully to class discussions and striving to complete your work to a high standard. Your positive attitude and dedication to learning shine in every lesson. Bagus sekali!



Principal's Award

MuYa C

For extending her learning by taking on new challenges and always striving to improve.



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.

Pre-prep is coming to Colac Otway

So what does that mean for your child?

Part of the State Government's *Best Start. Best Life* reforms, Four-Year-Old Kindergarten is changing to **Pre-Prep**. The reform is rolling out in stages, with changes coming in to affect in Colac Otway Shire in 2026 and 2027.

What you need to know:

All Colac Otway kindergarten providers will be offering additional kindergarten hours to eligible children.

In 2026, the following can access 16 - 25 hours of kinder per week:

- children who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- children from a refugee or asylum seeker background
- children who have had contact with Child Protection or are in out of home care
- children who were supported by Early Start Kindergarten or the Access to Early Learning program for Three-Year-Old Kindergarten.

In 2027:

- All children will be eligible for 16-20 hours of kindergarten per week
- and the above eligibility will continue to apply

For more information on Pre-Prep and the kindergarten reforms speak to your local kindergarten provider or visit www.vic.gov.au/preprep



MELI

Colac Otway
SHIRE

little
tikes
EARLY LEARNING

nido
EARLY LEARNING

one | tree
community services
the place to be

APeX
PRESCHOOL CENTRE

Colac East
Kindergarten

CREATIVE
MINDS
EARLY YEARS

FORREST
LEARNING FOR LIFE

MILLVILLE CHILDRENS
CENTRE

LAVERS
HILL

Wyndin
Kindergarten

BIRREGURRA PRESCHOOL CENTRE
Play, learn grow together.

Coragulac and District Kindergarten

BUILD A FARM IN A DAY COLAC

COLAC SECONDARY COLLEGE

SATURDAY 22nd NOVEMBER to SUNDAY 23rd NOVEMBER



*Imagine a school that can feed its community
A farm, built within a school*

*Be part of a meaningful project leading change
Fostering sustainability, connection and education*

Register Here



Everyone welcome zero-waste event

Frogwood Arboretum

OPEN DAY

Sunday 23rd November 2025

Open 10am - 4pm

- Explore up to 10km of grassy pathways winding through 40 hectares of some of the world's most remarkable tree species
- Enjoy avenues of trees and vistas stretching the full width of the fledgling Arboretum
- Have a quiet sit in the "Neolithic" rock Henge
- Bring a picnic blanket and refreshments ready to laze away a couple of hours in your favorite grove of trees
- Explore an undulating access track along a rehabilitated section of the Deans Marsh creek



12 Deans Marsh - Lorne Road, Deans Marsh

Entry opposite former Martians Cafe
(parking in the cafe carpark)

Map of planted tree species available at the entrance gate. dogs on a leash at all times.

Informational talk by the Arboretum Designer at 11.30am at the Henge

Guided creek walk at 2pm from north gate.

Gold coin donation entry
www.frogwood.com.au



Help shape our long-term strategies

**Complete
the survey**

for your chance to win a
\$100 gift card!

Survey now open, have your say on our future

Barwon Water services a region that is an amazing place to live, work and play. We're proud to play our part in making our region great.

Long-term planning is critical to deliver sustainable, affordable and innovative services that support thriving communities.

We need your help to shape our exciting next period of growth and transition.

We want to hear your ideas and priorities, as we plan our next long-term strategies – Strategy 2040, Urban Water Strategy 2027 and Price Submission 2028-2033.

The survey is easy to undertake and should take no longer than 14 minutes to complete.

The survey is open until 5pm, Monday 24 November 2025.

Hard copies are available on request.

As a token of our gratitude for your participation, you'll have the option to go in the draw to win one of ten \$100 gift cards.

To learn more and have your say, please visit:
www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/strategies



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