

Dates to remember

FEBRUARY

Mon 7th —Preps at school
 8:55—3:30 Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri

Wed 9th — No preps at school

Tue 15th -School Council Meeting

Wed 16th—No Preps at school

Tue 22nd — Grade 3—6 house Aths Landy Field

Wed 23rd—Pupil free day

MARCH

Wed 2nd—No preps at school

Mon 7th—Preps attend 5 days

Mon 14th—Labour Day
 Long weekend—no school

Thu 24th—School Photos

APRIL

Fri 8th—last day term 1



We live in this special place to continue our learning journey together.

We acknowledge the Wadawurrung



people as the traditional custodians of the land upon which we live.

We understand their deep connection to country, to the waterways, the skies and the land.

We pay our respects to ancestors before us, to our elders and to those who stand for us today.

We acknowledge our past, and stand here for our future.

For all of us living and learning together on this country.

WELCOME

Welcome to the new school year. I hope you were able to enjoy a peaceful and relaxing break. It is my pleasure to welcome new staff members:

Miss Summer Shaw (Grade 2SS), Miss Maddie Saultry (Grade 4MS), Miss Chelsea Taylor-Hewson (Prep CT), Miss Kirsty Forssman (Grade 5KF), Rhiana Eedy (Grade 2RE), Mr Ryan Sharkey (Grade 6RS and Grade 6 Team leader) Mrs Lee-Anne McDermott (Prep Tutoring), Mrs Katie Watt (Technology and Indonesian), Selin Salih (Classroom Support) and Ms Lynda Spencely (Wellbeing).

I would also like to extend a special welcome to our 133 new prep students to Leopold Primary School. Please see below some photos of some preps on their first day.



**WELCOME
PREPS
2022**



NEWSLETTER

Our school newsletter is a very important part of the communication structure of our school. The newsletter is placed on Compass and our school website every second Friday. There is a lot of important information in the newsletter, so please take the time to read it.

ASSEMBLY

The first school assembly will be this Monday, February 10 at 2:45pm in the LINC. Due to COVID restrictions parents are not permitted to attend Assembly. Preps will not be attending this assembly to allow them time to settle in to school.



PUPIL FREE DAYS FOR 2022

To ensure parents are given ample notice for the planned Pupil Free Days for 2022 the following have been arranged:

- **Wednesday 23rd February 2022 - Best Practice in Reading and Writing**
- Friday 20th May 2022 - Respectful Relationships
- Monday 11th July - Sue Larkey – Understanding Autism (This date is yet to be confirmed)

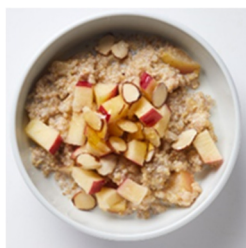
The last day for students is Monday 19th December 2022. School will conclude at 3:30pm.

TERM DATES FOR 2022

School Holidays	Starts	Finishes
Term 1 Holidays	9 Apr 2022 (Sat)	25 Apr 2022 (Mon)
Term 2 Holidays	25 Jun 2022 (Sat)	10 Jul 2022 (Sun)
Term 3 Holidays	17 Sep 2022 (Sat)	2 Oct 2022 (Sun)
Term 4 Holidays	20 Dec 2022 (Tues)	29 Jan 2023 (Sun)

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club has commenced again this year. This will be running Monday to Friday from 8:20am until 8:50am. This is free of charge and is funded by Food Bank. We also have Baker's Delight supplying bread for toast. Thank you to Bakers Delight for sponsoring this part of this valuable program. Ms Lynda Spencely and Mr Rob Hunter will be coordinating the Breakfast Program.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Councils play a vital role in the educational opportunity and outcomes of all students at school. In essence, the role of School Council is one of setting the long-term future for the school and maintaining oversight (not management) of the school's operation. I would like our parents and staff to consider nominating for School Council in 2022. Nomination forms for School Council will be available very soon.



SCHOOL CROSSING AND DROPPING STUDENTS OFF



It is important that when students are arriving and leaving they use the crossings provided for their safety. Parents / guardians walking their children to and from school are asked to provide a good example by using the crossings as well. When children are being dropped off, parking near a school crossing outside the designated parking bays is dangerous and illegal.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

When children bring their personal belongings to school it is at their own risk, as our school nor the Department of Education have insurance to cover damage to these items. So please be aware of this before children bring expensive personal belongings to school.

SPEED ZONES/NEW PARKING SIGNS

With the 2022 school year now formally commenced, it is an opportune time for school communities to be reminded of the importance of road safety around schools.

School Speed Zones have been enforced from the commencement of the school year and I need to alert parents/carers to pay attention to the safety speed signs around our school.



CARS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Parents and/or guardians are reminded that on hot days it is important never to leave children alone in a car. Temperatures inside a parked car during summer can be around 20 to 30 degrees hotter than the outside temperature. Leaving children in hot cars, even for a moment, can result in serious injury or death. Young children's smaller body size and underdeveloped nervous system places them at a much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks. If a parent or guardian is travelling with a child, never leave them alone in a parked car, not even for one moment.

ANNUAL PRIVACY REMINDER FOR 2022

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#).

Please take time to remind yourself of our school's collection notice, found on our website.

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents](#).

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL—BE ON TIME, BE AT SCHOOL, THAT’S THE RULE!

Going to school every day is important for a student’s education. This may seem to be stating something extremely obvious, but **absence from school means that learning opportunities are reduced and this can ultimately lead to poorer student achievement**. When this happens, the impact will be felt long after the student has left school.

Absence from school clearly affects the absent student, but also impacts on the teacher’s ability to plan and present class work in a sequential and organised way. This can affect the progress of all students in the class, not only those missing, and can make classroom management difficult.

ATTENDANCE FACT: Are you aware that if a child misses 15 days per year from Prep to year 12, then they have missed one complete school year?

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

A few years ago there was a new mobile phone policy introduced for all government schools. The policy means phones brought to school must be switched off and stored securely during the school day.

The aim of this policy is to provide:

- a safe environment to learn without inappropriate mobile phone use (including cyberbullying) or distractions
- greater opportunities for social interaction and physical activity during recess and lunchtimes.

The use of technology is important, but the risks and benefits from its use need to be managed.

In emergencies, parents can contact their children through the school office.

RESPECTFUL SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Our school community has demonstrated incredible solidarity and resilience throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Being back in our classrooms with extra health and safety measures is another big transition, but it’s the very best one for our children’s education. As we navigate these changes to onsite learning, including required mask wearing for some students, it’s more important than ever that adults in our school community treat each other with respect and kindness.

The Department of Education and Training has released a [new policy](#) that describes the positive behaviour expected from parents, carers, and other adults in Victorian school communities. The policy sets clear standards of behaviour to create a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment for students, staff and adults.

There are also other resources to support safe and respectful relationships in our school community, including information about getting involved in the school, advice on how to raise a concern or complaint, and parenting support resources. You can find the new policy and these resources [here](#).

You may also see a new poster up around our school, promoting positive behaviour.

Respectful school communities start with respectful behaviour

Parents, carers, staff and students can help keep our school community safe, supportive and respectful.

Good relationships are based on:



Open and honest communication



Trust and respect



Working together



Fair and reasonable expectations by all

These behaviours are **not** okay in our school community:

⊗ Threats
⊗ Violence
⊗ Rudeness

⊗ Harassment
⊗ Discriminatory and derogatory comments

⊗ Aggression
⊗ Intimidation
⊗ Threatening gestures

This includes in-person, over-the-phone, email, text message, social media and online.

For more information ask your school about the **Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy**.