



NEWSLETTER

Term 1
February 3rd, 2021

Exceptional Educational Experiences

DATES TO REMEMBER

Welcome BBQ and info night	Wed 10 th Feb
Swimming 11:00-2:00	15 th , 22 nd , 23 rd & 25 th Feb
Cooking – Year 3-6	Tues 16 th Feb
School Council Meeting @ 7pm	Tues 16 th Feb
Swimming 11:00-2:00	1 st , 2 nd , 4 th & 5 th March
Cooking – Year 3-5	Tues 2 nd March
Year 6 Sailing Camp	Tues 2 nd - Fri 5 th March
Labor Day (Public Holiday)	Mon 8 th March
School council & AGM @ 7pm	Tues 16 th March
Parent/student/teacher interviews	30 th & 31 st March
Term 1 ends 2:30pm	Thur 1 st April

SCHOOL CALENDAR DATES

The school calendar dates above, provide you with the excursions and events that are happening at the school this term. It is important that parents take notice of the events and dates (write them in your diary/calendar). It is important to know when things are on as we have a general permission form for local school excursions during school times. **Stick the latest fortnightly newsletter on your fridge!**

PREP REST DAYS

The new preps will have rest days each Wednesday. Full week begins after the Labour Day public holiday.

END OF DAY ARRANGEMENTS

At the end of each school day, the whole school meets to discuss the day and upcoming events and distribute notices (just like this newsletter). This is also when we announce the students who will be attending OSHC and give any messages to students regarding changes to their usual after school arrangements. It is important that those request are made by 3:15pm at the latest.

- Bookings for OSHC can be made via text or message on **0448 298 467**.
- Messages regarding after school arrangements can be made via text or message on **0428 298 286**.

These mobiles are checked every day at 3:25pm. Do not ring and leave a message on the school landline as we often cannot answer it or get to the messages whilst we are teaching and working with your children.



Literacy corner

HOME READING

We again have the 'Home Reading' this year across the school. The yellow books (P-3) and green books (4-6) have lots of great tips for parents to help their child learn to read and they have sticker awards to reward the children for their efforts. Praise and encouragement goes a long way and can be added to the comments section as well.

Your help and nightly practice is vital. Reading at home has many benefits for your child.

It gives your child time to.....

1. Practice reading using the strategies we have learnt at school. (This week we have been learning how to use the pictures, diagrams and illustrations to help us work out the words.)
2. Develop good habits to help with future homework demands. (Make a regular time to read, after school, before tea, before bed or after breakfast. Find a time that suits you and your child.)
3. Have quiet time and a cuddle with your child as they learn to enjoy books.



If you have any questions have a chat with the teachers at any time or come along to the Welcome back BBQ on Wednesday 12th February at 6pm.

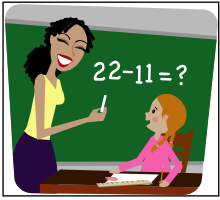
ART SMOCKS

Message from Hanna

Term 1 is painting. Please ensure ALL your students have their OWN art-smock. **No smock, no paint.**

Due to OH&S (and COVID) all shirts that have been in the share tubs from years past, will now be disposed of. All students will need to bring in their own.

Old shirts are great – make sure they are bigger than uniform so they can easily be worn over the top and cover the uniform. Otherwise Officeworks sells smocks for around \$5 for the good nylon versions.



Numeracy corner

The school has purchased Essential Assessments for online maths learning this year. Students are able to log in at home and do some additional maths practice. Students login and password details for Essential Assessments and Reading Eggs have been pasted into the inside front cover of their Home Reading books for use at home.

SWIMMING

Our 2021 swimming program begins on Monday 15th February. Thanks to those parents who have already volunteered to come and help out at Moore than Swimming. We have some spots free that would be great to be filled. The extra help means that each of our young emerging swimmers can get more practice and attention. Thanks ☺

	Swimming helper		Swimming helper
Monday 15th Feb	Jamie / Grace	Monday 1st March	Jamie / Grace
Monday 22nd Feb	Jamie / [redacted]	Tuesday 2nd March	[redacted] / [redacted]
Tuesday 23rd Feb	[redacted] / [redacted]	Thursday 4th March	Kate W / [redacted]
Thursday 25th Feb	Kate W/ Jacob	Friday 5th March	Jamie / Jess

COOKING

Term 1	Cooking helper	Term 2	Cooking helper
Tuesday 2nd Feb	Kate G	Tuesday 27th April	Mel G
Tuesday 16th Feb	Petra	Tuesday 11th May	Rosie
Tuesday 2nd March	Glenda	Tuesday 25th May	Jacob
Tuesday 16th Mar	Rosie	Tuesday 8th June	[redacted]
Tuesday 30th Mar	Mel G	Tuesday 22nd June	Petra

The grade 3-6's went cooking yesterday and cooked up some delicious food. In the coming weeks they will write some articles for the newsletter and describe the great nutritious food they make.



All school newsletters are available on the school website;
www.whitfieldps.vic.edu.au



PARENT HELPERS

Thank you to the parents that have offered to help with the swimming and cooking program.

Please contact the school if you are able to listen to the Year F-3 students reading in the mornings too, it is a great help. Thank you ☺

Monday's	[redacted]
Tuesday's	Jane
Wednesday's	Sabine / Thomas
Thursday's	Grace
Friday's	Kate W / Jane

PARENT WELCOME BACK BBQ AND INFO NIGHT

We will be hosting a welcome back to school BBQ for all parents on Wednesday 10th

February from 6pm. It's a great opportunity to meet the teachers and other parents and hear about all the wonderful programs we've got planned for this term and throughout the year and what you can do at home to help your child/ren. Thank you to those families who have let us know if they are coming, it would be great to have numbers and any specific dietary requirements by Monday (for catering purposes).

SCHOOL BUS TRAVELLERS

If your child is having a 'sleepover' at another student's house and is

catching the bus to get there, please notify Wendy. It is important that the bus rolls are accurate.

Please call Wendy in the morning if your child is not catching the bus to school (and usually does).
 Mobile **0418 989 938**

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Second hand school uniforms

The school currently has some second hand items in its collection. Parents are welcome to have a look and take items that would be suitable for their child, just see any of the staff. Thank you to the parents that have donated uniform items that their children have grown out of, we would welcome any more that your family no longer needs (our stocks are getting a little low). Thanks ☺

CAMPS

We have some great camps coming up this year. First up, the Year 6's have a King Valley Cluster Sailing and Transition camp in Rye from the 2nd - 5th March. Students will complete a Yachting Australia – Start Sailing 1 course, receive a certificate and will have an awesome time while doing it.



BREATH CIRCLE

We have been funded to incorporate a Breath Circle Program as part of our Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships (RRRR) subject. These sessions will alternate fortnightly between the two classes. The 4-6 class had their first session on Monday. Students used movement, mindful breathing and sound, to help create a clear mind, regulate emotions, and improve their focus in the classroom. Information and a photo consent form have been included with this newsletter.



PAYMENT PLANS

Invoices/accounts for swimming and excursions will be sent out this week. As the year progresses we have many great excursions and camps to offer our students. The school and parents association subsidise a great proportion of the cost of these. We do rely on the payments from parents that we ask for. CSEF forms for concession card holders went home last week, if you need another form we have more at the school.

As for previous years, parents are able to plan ahead and make payments towards camps and excursions coming up – or to pay off existing excursions in instalments.

Remember to make sure your family name is in any EFT – internet banking transfers.

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) details:

Acc. Name: Whitfield District Primary School

Acc. Number: 10107371

BSB Number: 063-531

BUDDIES – New Students

We have five new Prep students this year and all of them have made a fantastic start to their schooling. We also have two more new students in other grades.



Maddison with her buddy Normandy



Emily with her Prep buddy Esther



Grace with her buddy Delilah



Chloe (yr1) with her buddy Casey



Milly with her buddy Bonnie



Isabelle with her buddy Evie



Ruby with her (year 3) buddy Elsey

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

The first school council meeting of the year is on **Tuesday 16th Feb** starting at 7:00pm. The following meeting is the AGM, it will be held on Tuesday 16th March @ 7.00pm. All parents are welcome to attend school council meetings. Please consider being part of this fantastic group that help shape the direction of our school. Self-nomination forms are available from the office.

INTEGRATED STUDIES

This term we will have a focus on prehistoric Earth. We will be integrating this topic into English, Science, Maths and Media Arts (grade 4-6) and design & technologies (Prep-3)

Term 2 topic is Body systems.

Term 3 topic Geography (Olympics) TBC

Term 4 topic is Weather

ENGLISH

To start this term, we will be reading a range of texts and genres that incorporate our theme of prehistoric times. Dinosaurs, continental drift, etc. It would be great to discuss and share things related to this topic with your child at home and that they could share with their class. Make sure you have your name on any materials that your child brings to school.

ANNUAL PRIVACY Reminder

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 the school's collection statement, found on our website www.whitfieldps.vic.edu.au

For more information about privacy, see: Schools' Privacy Policy – information for parents.

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/Schools-Privacy-Policy-information-for-parents.aspx>

This information also available in nine community languages.

MATHS

In the area of number, we are beginning the year with counting and place value. Time is the topic for measurement and geometry. So if you can help your child take notice of the time, duration of events, days of the week, months of the year, seasons, and times in their daily routine, this real life learning will help them with their understanding.

EVERY DAY COUNTS – school attendance

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Remember...

*Phone the school **5729 8286**,

*Phone or text the School **0428 298 286**,

*Email whitfield.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

*Or supply **a note** before the absence.

The school must be informed of all absences by 9am. Same day reporting of absences

legislation means that if your child is absent and we haven't received notification, the school must then contact the parents regarding the absence. It really helps us here at a small school if we don't have to chase up absences during the teaching day. Thank you

Bluearth

Today students had their first Bluearth session with Georgia. These sessions will occur from 9am-10am Wednesday fortnightly in terms 1&2. Student articles about the program will be in the next newsletter in a fortnight's time.



In primary school, some students miss on average **3 weeks** of school per year. That's **half a year** of school by the end of year 6.



EVERY DAY COUNTS

Primary school attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.