

NEWSLETTER

Term 1
February 10, 2022

Exceptional Educational Experiences

Welcome back everyone!

We are all very excited to start the 2022 school year! It has been wonderful meeting our students, staff and families and beginning my journey at Whitfield. Everyone has been extremely friendly and supportive, thank you.

Our students have settled into the new year extremely well. It's such a delight to see them engaged in their learning and playing together in the yard. How lucky we are!

I would also like to send out a very warm welcome to our new students and their families. Charlie, Elwyn, Archie and Taiya have had a great start to their school careers and Melodee (Grade 1) and Krystal (Grade 4) have made a positive transition from their school in Wangaratta. Welcome to our wonderful community!



SCHOOL CALENDAR DATES

The school calendar dates in the pink text box below, provide you with the excursions and events that are happening at school over the next few weeks. It's a great idea to stick the latest newsletter on your fridge!

Dates to Remember:

Cooking (4-6)	Tue 15 Feb
Smile Squad	Thu 17 Feb
Swimming (F-6)	21, 22, 24, 25 & 28 Feb
	1, 3 & 4 Mar
School Council Meeting	Tue 22 Feb
Welcome Night	Thu 24 Feb
Labour Day	Mon 14 Mar
KVC Spark Art Project (4-6)	
KVC Curriculum Day (no school for students)	Fri 1 Apr
Last day of term 1	Fri 8 Apr
First day of term 2	Tue 26 Apr

COVID

We have started the year once again, with the challenges of COVID and the impact it has on our school. Although there may be hiccups along the way, we are hopeful that our school will remain open and we will have onsite learning every day. A huge thank you to everyone for completing regular RAT tests. As soon as we receive our next kits we'll send them home.

Please note: our Grade 6 Sailing Camp has been postponed until later in the year. Stay tuned for more details 😊.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Our next School Council meeting will be held onsite on **Tuesday 22 February at 7:00pm**. Please consider being part of this fantastic group that help shape the direction of our school. Nomination forms are available at the office.

Our AGM will be held on **Tuesday 24 February at 7:00pm**.



REST DAYS FOR FOUNDATION STUDENTS

Our new Foundation students will continue to have rest days every Wednesday. Their first full week begins after the Labour Day public holiday.



SPECIALISTS TIMETABLE

Weekly

Music & Science	Thursday
Italian	Friday

Fortnightly

Bluearth	Monday
Cooking (Gr 4-6)	Tuesday
Library/Literacy	Wednesday
Art	Thursday

EVERY DAY COUNTS

Remember, every day counts! Going to school 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? 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.

If your child is not able to attend school, please contact us as soon as possible via phone call, text or email.

'THUMBS UP' AWARD

I am proud to continue Mr Van Bergen's fabulous tradition giving the Principal's 'Thumbs Up' award to students who have been modelling our school values. It's been a tricky decision (I wish I had more than two thumbs)! Our students have all had such an impressive start to the year. This week, I congratulate Mike, Archie and Chloe who have showed awesome **teamwork**.

Mike: For his positive leadership and kindness in the classroom and in the yard. He has been very inclusive making sure everyone is involved in group work.

Archie: For his wonderful teamwork, engaging in learning tasks and encouraging others to join in playtime games.

Chloe: For helping others, suggesting strategies to help her friends and having a positive attitude to school life.



BUDDIES

Last week we launched our 2022 Buddy Program. Buddies were keen to get to know each other, create their similarities/differences posters and learn more about our school values. Students worked together to create and film plays showing our values (respect, learning, goal setting, team work and honesty) and how we can use them to guide our behaviours.

This week our buddies also selected their garden beds and began getting their hands dirty! It was great to see everyone chip in, pull out a few weeds and harvest potatoes, tomatoes, squash and eggplant. I

wonder what tasty treats our 4-6 students will create in cooking next week!



PARENT WELCOME BACK BBQ AND INFO NIGHT

We will be hosting a welcome back to school BBQ for all parents on Thursday 24 February from 6pm. It's a great opportunity to meet our team and other parents. You'll also 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. Can you please send us a text/email to let us know if you are coming, it would be great to have numbers and any specific dietary requirements by Monday 21 February (for catering purposes).

HOME READING

We again have the 'Home Reading' this year across the school. These little yellow books (P-2) and green books (3-6) have lots of great tips for parents to help their child learn and develop a love of books. There are also special stickers 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 with nightly practice is important. Reading at home has many benefits for your child and you.

It gives your child time to.....

- Practise reading using the strategies we have learnt at school.
- Have quiet time and a cuddle with you as they learn to enjoy books.
- Develop a love of reading...



The **more** that you read, the **more** things you will know. The **more** that you learn, the **more** places you'll go.

Dr. Seuss

If you have any questions, have a chat with our teachers.

PLASTIC POCKETS: Please ask your child if they have their plastic pockets each day.

HOME READING BOOK: Please also ask your child for their Home Reading Book every day. It's extremely important to establish a daily routine at home that works for your family.

WORKING BEE

A huge thank you to all the parents who have helped out already this year ☺. There was a great turn out for the working bee on Friday evening and the vegie patch looks great.



SCIENCE

Our students are enjoying learning about solids, liquids and gases with Fenella.



OSHC

Please phone **0448 298 467** to make bookings for OSHC or to cancel a permanent booking. Please do not ring the school number for OSHC or changes to end of school day arrangements.

Our school newsletters and general information is available on our school website:

www.whitfieldps.vic.edu.au

Our students' wise words...

The Buddies

Lars & Elwyn

Josh & Johann

Krystal & Chloe

Maddison, Ellie & Maya

Rueben & Charlie

Inanay & Bonnie

Mike & Archie

Ruby & Taiya

Kody & Maxwell

Aroha & Melody

Ivy & Evie

Nina & Grace

Elsy & Esther

Tobias & Liam

Joah & Ethan

Krystal & Chloe

Johann & Joshua

Maya, Ellie & Maddison

Sylvie & Ruby K

By Mikey and Joah



Our New Jobs

Last Tuesday, Miss Feldtmann announced our new end of day jobs. Some old jobs were tweaked a bit to fit this year. My job is the papers and the messages in the office. Grace and I also take the office bin out. Ruby and Taiya take out the staff room bins. All the pairs of buddies have a job. I like my job because it's easy and simple. Ruby doesn't mind her new job, she says its really easy. We might change our jobs every term this year.

Nina & Ruby O



Students Get Their Hands Dirty

Yesterday we picked garden beds with our buddies. Elsey got the potato bed and I got the bed next to Joah and Ethan. They got the bed next to Maxwell and I, which is the carrot bed. Johann and Joshua are on the other side of Joah and Ethan. We are happy with the garden beds we got.

By Elsey and Kody

Covid Hits Schools

Due to Covid hitting schools in our cluster in 2022, students are highly recommended to wear masks. Schools are giving out Rapid Antigen Test kits.

The government are providing our schools with tests. We are doing tests every Monday and Wednesday. None of us like doing either of them but we have to because we might get our friends infected.

By Johann and Reuben

Working Bee Crew Gets It Done!

On Friday we had a working bee. Ethan, Grace and I came and it was so much fun. We did loads of gardening. The gardens were scrappy and disgusting before we started. I pulled out five weeds. Ethan picked out about one weed. Joshua came a bit later and he picked out two weeds. We ran off to play for a bit. We played camouflage and silent ball while the adults kept working on the gardens. It was hard work but after we were all done the gardens were nice and clean and tidy. After the working bee, dad and I went home.

By Aroha



New Books, Student and Teachers.

It's a new year at school!

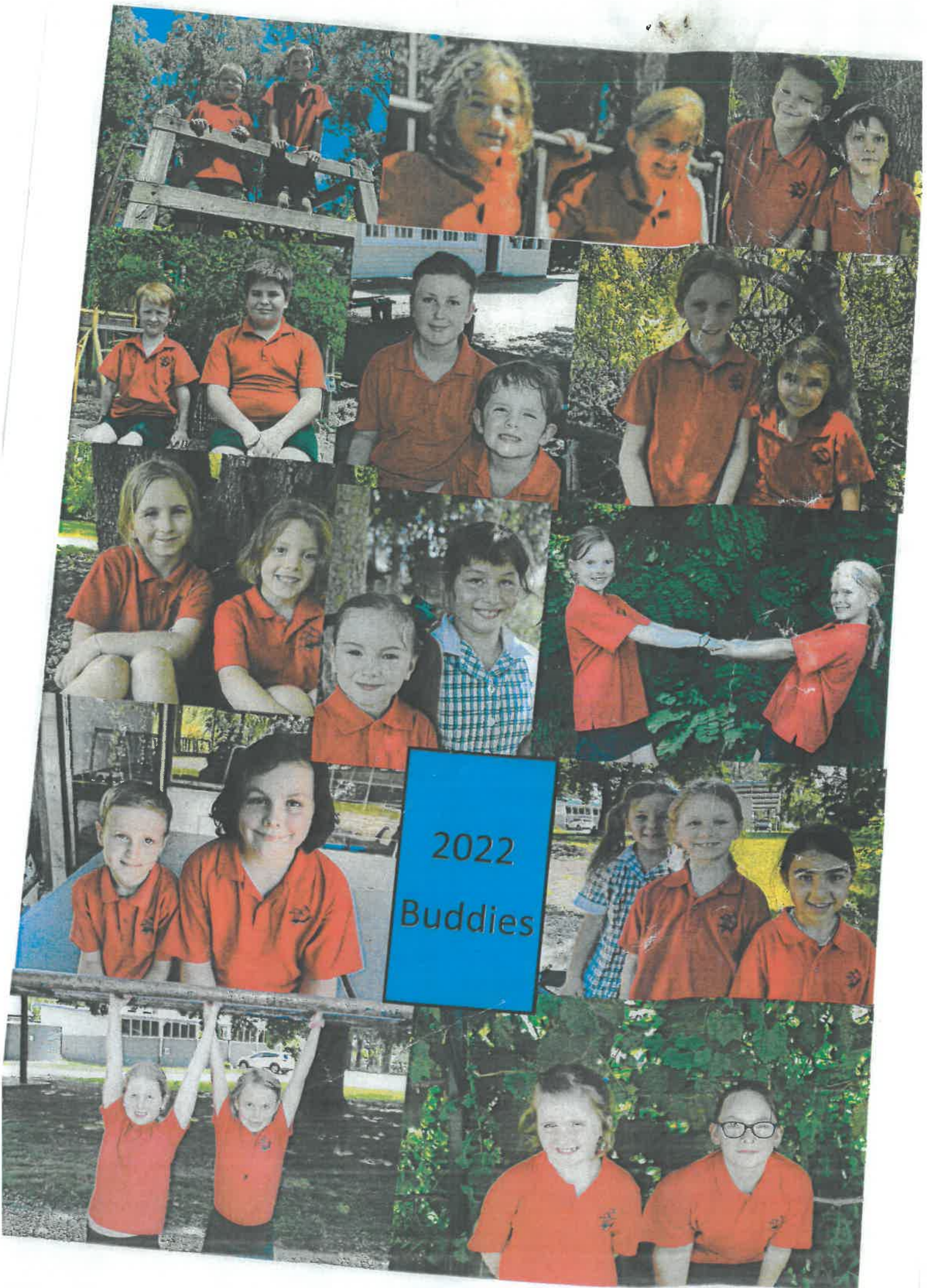
We have one new teacher/principal called Tammy and six new students: Krystal (year 4), Melodee (year 1), Taiya (Foundation), Archie (Foundation), Elwyn (Foundation), Charlie (Foundation)... and a whole lot of new books!

Our new books are: Readers notebook (workbook with no lines), Writers notebook (for collecting ideas for our stories), Writing Book (where we write stories), Word work (for WTW/spelling), Italian, Math's book (grid), maths mate folder (for our maths mates) and Handwriting (where we practice our handwriting).

We are so excited to be back seeing our friends!

By Krystal and Inanay.





2022
Buddies