

## TERM 1 2026 IMPORTANT DATES

<b>WEEK 1</b> <b>JAN 26 – JAN 30</b> MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY	<b>Australia Day Public Holiday</b> Staff return 1:1 Getting to Know You Interviews (P-6) <b>Pupil Free Day – Teacher Professional Learning</b> 1:1 Getting to Know You Interviews (P-6)
<b>WEEK 2</b> <b>FEB 2 – FEB 6</b> MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY	All Year 1-6 students return (Half Prep Classes) (Half Prep classes) Prep Literacy 1:1 Interviews All students P-6 All students P-6
<b>WEEK 3</b> <b>FEB 9 – FEB 13</b> MONDAY FRIDAY	<b>ASSEMBLY</b> BMPS SWIMMING TRIALS AT BACCHUS MARSH POOL
<b>WEEK 4</b> <b>FEB 16 – FEB 20</b> MONDAY WEDNESDAY	Leadership Photos and Year 3 Hockey Clinic
<b>WEEK 5</b> <b>FEB 23 – FEB 27</b> MONDAY-FRIDAY FRIDAY	<b>ASSEMBLY</b> <b>BOOK FAIR</b> BMPSSA DISTRICT SWIMMING AT MELTON
<b>WEEK 6</b> <b>MAR 2 – MAR 6</b> MONDAY FRIDAY	
<b>WEEK 7</b> <b>MAR 9 – MAR 13</b> MONDAY TUESDAY	<b>LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b> WESTERN RANGES SWIMMING AT MELTON WAVES
<b>WEEK 8</b> <b>MAR 16 – MAR 20</b> MONDAY FRIDAY	
<b>WEEK 9</b> <b>MAR 23 – MAR 27</b> MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY FRIDAY	<b>ASSEMBLY</b> Year 6 Ecolinc Year 6 Ecolinc Senior Sports Day
<b>WEEK 10</b> <b>MAR 30 – APR 3</b> MONDAY TUESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY	Year 6 Ecolinc Western Metropolitan Region Swimming Final Day of term – 2.30 pm dismissal <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>



Dear parents, carers, students and staff,

Extending a warm welcome back to you all, with a special mention to our 2026 Foundation students and all families new to BMPS this year. We hope that a smooth week 1 and 2 will lead to a great term ahead.

Thank you for booking '**Getting to Know You Interviews**' for your children via Compass on either Wednesday or Friday this week in support of the value we place on connecting with all students, parents and carers to set everyone up for success.

Our first assembly will be on Monday, February 9 and our Foundation students will not attend assembly at this point as they settle into school life.

**SUNSMART HATS** – this week gives all families the opportunity to have hats ready and named to ensure play is not restricted. Students without hats will be directed to the undercover area for passive play.

### **STAFF UPDATE:**

We welcome and/or celebrate the return of the following staff for 2026.

**Catherine Moody**- Teaching and Learning Assistant Principal

**Liz Stonka** – Wellbeing/Operations/Student Medical Assistant Principal

**Janaya Walker and Jayde Clayton** – Numeracy Leading Teachers

**Kirsty Younger** – Literacy Leading Teacher

**Tiff O'Brien** – Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHIPS) /Trauma-Informed Practice Leading Teacher

**Taylor Travers** – Year 2 Classroom Teacher

**Amanda Spurr** – Foundation Classroom Teacher

**Aimee Walk** - returning from family leave, will join **Susan Burke**, who is well known to our students - 3WB Classroom Teachers

**Anna Baxter** – returning from leave – Year 5 Classroom Teacher

**Jenna D'Arcy** – returned from family leave in 2025 and will join Nick Frost in 1FD this year

**Damian Richards** has taken on a position at Bacchus Marsh Grammar, and we thank Anne Phyland for her support in stepping in to transition 5R until an appointment can be made.

### **Education Support Staff:**

With a warm welcome, we're very pleased that the following Ed Support staff will join our team in 2026.

- Rebecca Hibbert, Marleene Matthews, Jessica Gjernek, Lauren Briscoe, Julian Dahl and Jasmeet Kaur.

### **SCHOOL POLICIES**

To ensure accessibility our policies can be found on our website via the following link.

<https://bacchusmarshps.vic.edu.au/policies>

Soon to be uploaded is our Racism Prevention and Response Policy and we take the opportunity to highlight this policy to prompt conversation with families prior to our return.

## RACISM

Bacchus Marsh Primary School is committed to providing a safe, inclusive and respectful environment where all students, staff and families are treated with dignity and fairness. We have zero tolerance for racism, discrimination or harassment in any form. Our school actively promotes equity, respect and understanding, and works to ensure that everyone feels a strong sense of belonging.

Particular attention is given to the experiences and voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, students from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and those who may be vulnerable to discrimination. We recognise the importance of cultural safety and are committed to practices that value diversity and challenge bias.

Every member of the Bacchus Marsh Primary School community has a shared responsibility to prevent racism by modelling inclusive behaviour, speaking up against discrimination, and supporting respectful relationships. Any incidents or concerns related to racism are taken seriously and will be responded to in line with policies and Department guidelines.

- Our Racism Prevention and Response Policy is attached to this update.

Support can be sought at any time from the Principal, Wellbeing Assistant Principal or any member of the leadership team.

# CONGRATULATIONS...

## AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

What a great way to start the year, with Congratulations to staff member Anne Phyland, husband Ian McClure, and their team for the **Community Event of the Year recognition, in the Moorabool Australia Day Awards** for the work they have put in for many years to bring The Big Freeze to the Marsh. This is a major fundraiser in support of Fight MND with the event raising \$58 000 in 2025 and attracting hundreds of spectators.

We're thrilled to add recognition to Anne and Ian for the passionate, community-spirited people they are, giving so much in so many ways



## Please note:

### DROP OFF ZONE

- CARS **MUST NOT PARK** IN THE DROP-OFF ZONE AS IT IS A KISS AND DROP AREA ONLY.
- PLEASE DO NOT ACCESS THE STAFF CARPARK AREA AT ANY TIME.

### LERDERBERG STREET ENTRANCE

Thank you for your ongoing support with these changes:

- STUDENTS DO NOT USE THE FRONT ENTRANCE AS A THOROUGHFARE INTO OR OUT OF THE SCHOOL
- THE DRIVEWAY GATE ALONGSIDE THE ART ROOM WILL BE THE ENTRY POINT ONCE OPENED IN THE MORNING.
- STUDENTS ARRIVING BEFORE 8.30 AM ARE ASKED TO WAIT IN THE UNDERCOVER AREA UNTIL DISMISSED.
- **FORMAL YARD SUPERVISION COMMENCES AT 8.35 AM**

## HATS TO BE WORN FOR ALL OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES IN TERM 1

Ongoing reminder that navy blue SunSmart hats must be worn by all students and staff in the yard during term 1.



## THANK YOU FOR HEEDING OUR ONGOING SAFETY MESSAGES

### DROP OFF ZONE IMPORTANT SAFETY MESSAGE – NO PARKING ZONE

We take this opportunity to clarify that our Drop Off Zone, off Young Street at the rear of our school, is not a parking space. Thank you for reading and following the signage displayed in several strategic places to assist with this clear safety messaging.

- Vehicles are not to be left unattended in this area.

### OSH CLUB DROP OFF & PICK UP – Before 8.30 am and Post 3.30 pm.

No vehicles are to park in the staff parking area, and this area is not to be used as a walking thoroughfare.

Students are to walk in through the student access gate along the pathway and are to exit via this same pathway, not through the car park.

Thank you most sincerely for following the signage to minimise any further concerns for staff when they are entering or leaving the car park.

Having said all of the above, we acknowledge the ongoing challenges posed by limited parking, but must put the safety of our students, staff, and community at the centre.

## BUS ZONES ON LERDERDERG STREET

Our third reminder relates to the bus zones on Lerderderg Street.

All of the yellow line markings on the north and south sides of the street indicate **NO PARKING** before or after school to allow our buses to safely enter and exit the zone to collect our students.

Pulling up at the Prep entrance gate to collect students on Lerderderg Street is contravening the safety signage, impacting pedestrian and vehicle vision on our crossing. This blatantly ignores the safety rights of our school community.

## LERDERDERG STREET



**PLEASE DO NOT PARK  
OVER DRIVEWAYS.**

**OUR NEIGHBOURS  
HAVE ALWAYS  
APPRECIATED THE  
RESPECTFUL MANNER  
IN WHICH OUR  
COMMUNITY LIVE  
OUR VALUES**

## PLAYGROUND 28 – SHOUT OUT FOR HELP WITH EQUIPMENT!

Our students **LOVE Playground 28**, and it is open every Wednesday as a minimum and more often when possible.

If you have access to plastic crates, tarps, ropes, pool noodles, hoola hoops or any items that our children can create and build with that will not be affected by the weather, we would **LOVE your donations**.



<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/UC7LzmzG9Sg>

One example of fun with hula hoops!

We look forward to any support available

## ALWAYS REACH OUT

- Thank you to parents and carers for reaching out to your child's classroom teacher or any of our staff below, if we can assist in any way.

**Melinda Williams** – Principal

**Leanne Holt** – Business Manager

### *Wellbeing:*

**Daniel Morris** - Assistant Principal - Wellbeing & Engagement / Disability Inclusion

**Liz Stonka** – Assistant Principal – Daily Organisation /Student Medical Health & Wellbeing

**Tiff O'Brien** – Leading Teacher – Mental Health in Primary Schools – Trauma Informed Practice - Art-Therapy

**Bec Blokland** - Disability Inclusion Co-ordinator

**Belinda Horne** - Wellbeing Educator

### *Literacy and Numeracy:*

**Catherine Moody** – Assistant Principal - Curriculum / Teaching and Learning

**Kirsty Younger** - Leading Teacher – Literacy

**Janaya Walker and Jayde Clayton** – Leading Teachers – Numeracy

Best wishes for a great return to school from the BMPS team

# NEW YEAR

# NEW LOO

Bring a toilet roll  
to Peppertree Park  
on Saturday 7 Feb  
and join the  
campaign for a  
Parkrun Loo!

