

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Week 2

Mon 3rd - 9am Assembly
Wed 5th - Prep Rest Day & Yr1-6
Swimming
Thur 6th - P-6 Swimming
Fri 7th - P-6 Swimming & 1.20pm
Welcome Picnic

Week 3

Mon 10th - 9am Assembly
Wed 12th - Prep Rest Day & Yr1-6
Swimming
Thur 13th - P-6 Swimming
Fri 14th - School Photos (no
Swimming)

Week 4

Mon 17th - 9am Assembly
Wed 19th - Prep Rest Day & Yr1-6
Swimming
Thur 20th - Swimming Sports

Tuesday 11th March - Pupil Free
Day for Staff Development



PREPS 2025

This year's Prep students have settled into the routines and expectations of school life exceptionally well.

Classroom visits reveal a group of students keenly participating in their English and Maths lessons; listening carefully and actively joining in when required.

Students in the Junior Hub are enjoying their very spacious new learning environment with the adjoining Gallery and the Wellbeing Room. Mrs Ezard and Ms Purkiss are thrilled with the smooth start to school for all of their students so far.

Principal's Report

COMPASS communication

It is very important that each family has a COMPASS account—the App can be downloaded to your phone or device from the App store. If you do not have an account or need a password reset—please contact the General Office for assistance with this ASAP.

Keeping Everyone at School Healthy

We are currently seeing a number of students absent due to a gastroenteritis illness. The Department of Health states that students should be absent from school until there has not been vomiting or a loose bowel motion for 48 hours; in the event of other diarrhoeal illness exclude until there has not been vomiting or lose bowel motion for 24 hours.

Other common illness that require exclusion include school sores (Impetigo) which requires exclusion until appropriate treatment has commenced. Sores on exposed surfaces must be covered with a watertight dressing.

Students have access to soap in the toilets for hand washing and hand sanitiser in classrooms for use before and after eating, coughing, blowing noses etc. Reinforcing good hand hygiene at home is a very helpful way to start.

Parents can read the school exclusion table information at this link;

<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion-table>

School Swimming Program

Students are currently participating in the School Swimming Program on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Swimming is a compulsory element of the Health and PE curriculum in every year level and all students are expected to participate actively and safely. If your child is unable to participate a written note or phone call to the school is required. Non-participating students will go to the pool with their class and watch in the shade.

Parent Teacher Interviews—week 4

At St Arnaud Primary School we offer a round of Parent Teacher Interviews early in Term 1. Bookings are made on COMPASS. If you need any assistance becoming acquainted with COMPASS please do not hesitate to contact Shirlee in the General Office (Tues-Fri).

School Photos

Friday 14th February—slips were sent home last week. All students are photographed.

- Students must be in their full and correct school uniform (navy shorts/pants, navy logo t-shirt or checked dress).
- Any hair ribbons should be navy or red and small in size.
- Socks should be plain white, blue or black.
- Year 6 students must wear their navy and red t-shirt in the group photo but may wear their Yr6 t-shirt for their individual or family photo (parent choice).

Welcome Picnic

Tomorrow we will be holding our annual Welcome Picnic on the front lawns of our school. All parents, grandparents and special friends are warmly invited to bring along a picnic blanket, chair and a packed lunch to join the students and staff for lunch together. This is a really lovely way to welcome new and returning students and their families to our school—we hope to see everyone there.

School Council

School Council is a wonderful way to be involved in your child's school. School Council is responsible for Policy and Finance aspects of the school. The Council meets 8 times per year, meetings run for 90minutes or less and are a great way to be involved.

Principal's Report

We currently have a number of Vacancies on School Council. Parents are able to self nominate or nominate another parent who is interested in the role. There are 1 and 2 year terms to be filled. Nomination forms can be requested from the General Office from next week. Newly elected members will attend the AGM in March. Our next meeting for current members will be Tuesday February 25th, 6.30pm in the Staff Room.

Student Absences

If your child will be absent from school, it is essential that you let the school know—either by making a note on COMPASS, emailing the school and teacher or ringing the General Office. While there is no safe number of days to miss, we aim for no more than 10 days per year, and ask parents to avoid unnecessary absences where possible. If you are experiencing any difficulty getting your child to school, we may be able to help. Speak to your classroom teacher, myself or Mrs Weir at any time.

No Smoking near School Entrances

The Tobacco Act 1987 bans smoking or vaping on school premises or within 4 metres of any pedestrian access point to school premises. This applies during and outside of school hours.

Homework & Reading

Formal Homework will commence in week 4—please keep an eye on your teacher emails for more information about this in coming weeks.

If your child has a reader satchel please use this for the transporting of diaries and books.

Reading and Reader Satchels

Students will be visiting the School Library each week and will have the opportunity to borrow books to bring home. We are asking that each child has a reader satchel to protect these books on their journey to and from school, as well as a safe place for their Reading Diary and any notes/newsletter being sent home.

We are currently waiting on the delivery of some new reader satchels, but if you have an old one at home or an alternate, protective bag/pocket to use please encourage the students to use this for now.

Rural Roads to Reading research project—PREP PARENTS

We are pleased to let you know that our school will be involved in a longitudinal research project over the next three years called *Rural Roads to Reading*.

This project, which will run from 2025 - 2027, is being conducted by researchers from the School of Education at La Trobe University. The focus of the project is on understanding how schools across regional and rural Victoria are approaching the teaching of reading in the early years of primary school (Prep-Grade 2).

The La Trobe researchers will track our 2025 Prep student cohort through to the end of Year 2. The research team will work with our teachers to use a range of assessments that the children will complete in their classroom. Our school's involvement in this project will provide our teachers with additional valuable data to support our children's progress as they learn to read.

The project has been approved by the La Trobe University Human Ethics Committee and by the Victorian Department of Education.

As parents and/or guardians of students in Prep 2025, please look out for more information about this project. You will be provided with information so that you can consider whether you wish to provide consent for your child/children to be involved in this project.

Principal's Report

Digital Technology Use Agreement—Ms Kirk

This week every student should have come home with their Digital Technology Use Agreements. They have already worked through these during their ICT lesson. Could parents/care givers please read through these again with their child, sign it, and return it to school as soon as possible. Any questions please feel free to contact Ms Kirk.

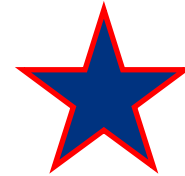
Family Contact details

It is essential that the school have the most up to date contact details for all families. If you have changed your email, phone number or home address in the last 6 months please let the General Office know. It is also important that your Emergency Contact details are up to date in the event that you can not be contacted.

Ambulance Cover

The school strongly encourages families to check their Ambulance cover is paid up and current. In the event of a medical emergency, an Ambulance may be called for your child.

Melissa Mitchell,
Principal



ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Every Day Counts ... A day here or there doesn't seem like much but ...

When your child misses just ...	that equals	which is	and therefore, from Prep to Yr12 that is ...	This means the best your child can achieve is ...
1 day per fortnight	20 days a year	4 weeks of school	nearly 1 1/2 years of school	Equal to finishing Yr11
1 day per week	40 days a year	8 weeks of school	Over 2 1/2 years of school	Equal to finishing Yr10
2 days per week	80 days a year	16 weeks of school	Over 5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Yr7
3 days a week	120 days a year	24 weeks of school	Over 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Yr4

WEEK 1 AWARD WINNERS



P/IE
JIMMI DONALDSON



1/2P
HARLOW NEWTON



2/3T
DOM CARR



2/3T
MATILDA WALLACE



3/4C
KAYNE WILLIAMS



5/6W
BRIDGET CULLIVER



MRS POLKINGHORNE
BRANDON JAMES



MRS POLKINGHORNE
GEORGE COLOE



BAKERY BUCKS
LOGEN CROSS



KINDNESS AWARD
CALYX CANARIA



The School Magazine for 2024 is available from the General Office.

If you are unsure if you have prepaid your magazine in your School Fees, please contact the General Office.

MRS WEIR'S WELLBEING WONDERINGS



Students,
teachers, parents
and community:
building
partnerships

It has been wonderful to see and catch up with so many students at school over the last week, their smiling faces and engagement in their learning has been such a privilege to witness. It has also been lovely to see some of my Year 6 legends from last year call in to say hello, all looking extremely grown up in their Secondary College uniforms.

I have also been fortunate to chat with a lot of parents this week. Whether you are new to St Arnaud Primary School or a familiar face, my door, and the door to your child's classroom, is always open. There is no celebration or worry that is too little or big to chat about.



Mrs Melissa Weir
Mental Health in
Primary Schools



Maria Taylor
Isobel Green
Zarley
Hutchinson
Wellbeing
Leaders

THE 'RAISING CHILDREN NETWORK' STATES:

'As a parent you know your child better than anyone else does. Your child's teacher will want to get to know your child too.'

You and your child's teacher can work together to support your child's learning and wellbeing.

When everybody is working together in the best interests of your child, your child is likely to reap academic and social benefits.'

WHAT CAN YOU DO AT ST. ARNAUD PRIMARY SCHOOL

- Say hello to staff and other families at school pick up and drop off time.
- Check the school website, social media pages and read The Link.
- Attend school events like the Welcome Picnic, Swimming Sports, Athletic, Diversity Dash, Breakfast and the School Dance.
- Attend Parent-Teacher interviews.
- Be involved in the Parent's Club or School Council.
- Offer to assist in whatever way you can!

2025 Class Room Team Members



P/1E



1/2P



2/3T



3/4C



5/6W



WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE

ON MARCH 7TH, YEAR 5 STUDENTS, MARIA TAYLOR AND ZARLEYA HUTCHINSON, WILL BE SHAVING ALL OF THEIR HAIR OFF TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE.



WELLBEING LEADERS WILL BE SELLING QUELCHICYPOLES EACH FRIDAY FOR \$1.00 TO SUPPORT THEIR CAUSE - THE LEUKAEMIA FOUNDATION.

ON MARCH 7TH ALL STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO COME TO SCHOOL WITH THEIR CRAZIEST HAIR STYLE AND BRING ALONG A GOLD COIN DONATION.



NATIONAL LUNCHBOX 9th-15th february WEEK

What is it?

National Lunchbox Week is an initiative of Nutrition Australia that aims to inspire Australian families to create enjoyable and nourishing lunchboxes. From the humble sandwich to colourful creations or culturally inspired meals, every lunchbox tells a unique story.

Top Lunchbox tips:

Make time to prepare

Buy your fresh, yummy produce in advance. Try to avoid the early morning dash to the supermarket.

Shop wisely

Buy in season fruit and veg to ensure good value for money.

Make your own snacks

Put together your own snack packs of crackers and dip.

Include a water bottle

No need for sweetened drinks. Save your money and pop a reuseable water bottle in the lunchbox.

Keep food cool.

In the warmer months freeze a water bottle or put a small ice pack in the lunchbox.

**National
Lunch
box
Week**

Did you know?

Children consume around 30% of their daily food intake at school!

For more information head to the Lunchbox Website.

<https://www.lunchboxweek.org/>

SSWIMMING





Welcome Picnic '25

Each year we look forward to welcoming our new and returning students and their families at our Welcome Picnic. Join us on the shady green lawns at the front of the school...



**FRIDAY
7TH FEBRUARY**



**TIME:
1.20-2PM**

