



Week 1 Term 1, 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2026 School Year. We trust all our families had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday break and were able to spend quality time with family and friends. The weather was a little unpredictable at times, from cool days to extremely heat conditions, so I hope it did not stifle your holiday fun.

The new school year is always exciting but even more so for prep students and their families. I would like to extend a big welcome to our new students: Pipa, Lincoln, Orla, Kyden, Henry, Maxwell, Rivenlea, Bailey, Charlie and Zayne.

The staffing for 2026 is as follows:

Year 4/5/6 – Mrs Annie Ewings and Sue Monagle

Year 2/3 – Mr Dean and Baillee Terry

Year Prep1 - Miss Rikki-Lee O'Brien and Mrs Kymm Maddern

Year Prep/1 - Miss Chelsey Terry and Trish Bearsley

Art -Miss O'Brien

ICT- Mrs Bree Marshall

PE – Mrs Ross

MARC VAN – Mrs Trudy East

STEM – Mrs Ewings

Music- Mr Dean

Auslan – Miss Terry

Intervention - Ms Monica Berkelmans



Renae Williamson will continue her welfare role and take Resilience /Respectful Relationships lessons on Monday.

Alice Harrison will be in the office each Tuesday and Thursday.

Mr Dean has announced the delightful news that he and his partner Rhiannon will be expecting their first child in early April. Mrs Miller will teach his class he takes paternity leave.

OSH CLUB – Out of school hours care program

OSH Club provides child care facilities each afternoon, providing afternoon snacks and engaging activities for all students who attend. This program is highly subsidised by the government. Fees are calculated on a sliding scale depending on your income. Enrolment for the program is free and there are no obligations to use the service. I highly recommend that all families enrol so that in case of an emergency or if you are running late after school then your children can be supervised safely. Details about OSH Club can be found in this newsletter, on our school website and at the school office.



Coimadai PS hours of operation

Teacher supervision of students operates daily from 8:45 am until 3:45 pm. Before-school supervision commences at 8:45 am and is provided both in classrooms and in the school yard.

If your child needs to arrive at school prior to 8:45 am, please contact the school office to arrange appropriate supervision.



Class times

9:00am - 11:00am Morning session of learning

11:00am - 11:30am Recess

11:30am - 1:30pm Second session of learning

1:30am - 2:15pm Lunch time

2:15am - 3:30am Afternoon session of learning

Arrival time at school

The ideal arrival time for all students is between 8:45 am and 8:55 am. This allows children sufficient time to unpack their belongings and socialise with their peers before the bell rings at 9:00 am.

If you wish to speak with a classroom teacher in the morning, please ensure you arrive prior to 9:00 am.

Should you require a longer discussion, we ask that you make an appointment with the teacher at a mutually convenient time.

If you are running late to collect your child, please contact the school so that we can inform them. This courtesy is greatly appreciated by staff, particularly as meetings often occur after school, and it also helps to reduce any stress or anxiety children may experience if a parent or carer is not present at the scheduled pick-up time of 3:30 pm. Children who remain on site after 3:45 pm will be placed in the After School Care Program, and charges will apply for this service.

If your child arrives late to school or needs to be collected before the end of the school day, please ensure you sign the late arrival and early departure register located in the office foyer. It is essential that this record is kept up to date in the event of an emergency.

Parents and carers who remain on the school grounds for more than 30 minutes or who are assisting in classrooms are required to sign in using the visitor book located in the foyer near the office.

School events

Term 1 will be a busy and engaging start to the year, with a range of extracurricular activities planned. Selected students will represent the school at the BMPSSA Swimming Carnival, and all students will participate in the Small Schools Athletics Carnival. In addition, all Grade 3 and Grade 5 students will undertake NAPLAN testing, which is scheduled to take place in March.

Our free school swimming program will be held during the final two weeks of Term 2.

Looking ahead to later in the year, the Year 2/3 camp to Billabong, Echuca, will take place from 7-9 October, in the first week of Term 4. The DOXA Melbourne Camp for Grade 4-6 students will be held from 19-21 October. Prep/Year 1 students will also enjoy a special activity day and sleepover in October.

Further details regarding each of these events will be provided closer to the relevant dates

Cyber Safety, raising kids in a digital world - 26th February

Coimadai PS will be joining forces with all schools in the Bacchus Marsh district, Bacchus Marsh Police / Blue Light and Bendigo Bank to present a parent cyber safety information evening. Informing and empowering parents to be better educated and aware of children's activities on social media platforms is a great area of concern and I strongly encourage all parents to attend. The Informand Empower parent information night will be held at the Bachus Marsh Shire Hall at 7:00pm. The information presented on the night will complement the incursions and lessons being taught at school.

On **Friday the 6th of February we will be holding a Parent information session** on the use of COMPASS and our expectations/rules for Ned, the wellbeing dog.

This information session will be held at 2:30pm and will conclude in time for our first assembly for the year. I strongly advise all parents who are unsure of how to use COMPASS to attend as all communication with families will now go home via COMPASS.

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher interviews will be held on 10th February, 9:00am -3:00pm. All bookings for interviews will be made using COMPASS. Bookings on COMPASS will open 10:00am Thursday 29th of January and will close on Thursday 5th February at 4:00pm. Instructions on how to do this will be sent home on Thursday.

Parents and Friends

This year the Parents and Friends Committee hope to hold many activities that help foster and maintain strong community relationships. Our Parents and Friends Committee is a wonderful group of people who need your help to create the best school for your children. By sharing your skills, time and efforts you can become part of a very rewarding and influential group. Please see Jo Cornish, Jess Ciancirulo, Kryie Harris or Krystal Doohan, if you would like more information on the role of Parents and Friends. The next meeting and AGM for Parents and Friends will be held on Wednesday the 11th of February at 9:00am. During this meeting Child Safety training will be conducted for all parents wishing to volunteer in our school.

School Council

Next week we will be sending home calls for nominations for School Council.

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent category - more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.

A mandated elected DET employee category - members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional Community member category - members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

In 2025 our school council members were: **Blair Dellelijn, Regan Montgomery, Mark Green, Sam Hines, Courtney Smith, Kristie Lynch, Brooke Mc Grath, Stevie Fisher, Jodie Addamo, Krystal Doohan, Annie Ewings and Renae Williamson.**

I would like to thank all members for the time and dedication you have given to our committee in 2025. Sam Hines, Krystal Doohan and Annie Ewings have completed their term on School Council. All retiring school council members are welcome to renominate for another 2 years. Courtney and Blair's position have been made available as well.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club returns on Wednesday the 4th of February. The serving of breakfast will begin at 8:30 and run until 9:00am. Please note that students will not be served breakfast after 8:50am. This is to ensure that all students are in their classrooms at 9:00am, ready for the day's lessons. Cereal toast, hot porridge, spaghetti and baked beans are just a few of the things on offer for breakfast. Soup at lunch time will be offered when the weather becomes cooler. All of this is for free thanks to the School's Breakfast Club program run by the "Food Bank".

Car Park:

We are fortunate enough to be able to park on site at Coimadai, however to ensure everyone's safety we ask that all families model our car park expectations. When driving on the school grounds the speed limit is 10km. When parking in the car park, we ask that you park at a 90° angle. All pedestrians in the car park are to walk on the concrete paths and not cut across the car park. This is extremely important, as cars reversing may not see a young child behind their car if they are walking across the parking area.



School Fees— Student Book & Stationary

All student stationary must be purchased by parents. Those families who opted to purchase the online packs, these have been delivered to school and are being labelled by a group of volunteering parents. We ask that all items be returned as soon as possible. Teachers will then hand out books and equipment for students for use and extra supplies will be stored in classroom cupboards for future use. Families who chose to purchase the booklist themselves, we would appreciate it if all items can be brought into school as soon as possible. Grade 3 students who wish to purchase a computer for use at school need to purchase these privately. Any family wishing to obtain details of how to purchase a netbook please visit the office for the details. If any family wishes to discuss school fees please do not hesitate to see either Alice or myself in the office.

School Uniform

During term 1, all students are required to wear a school hat at recess and lunch time. If your child has misplaced their hat there will be a week's grace period. After this the policy of NO HAT, NO PLAY will be enforced. Hats and other uniform items can be purchased from the Uniform Shop in Bacchus Marsh.

Our school newsletter is a weekly electronic publication. If you are wishing to have an item included in the newsletter, please do not hesitate to email me at the school email address on the front page. If you would prefer a hard copy printed each week please advise the office.



Happy Birthday to the following students who had birthdays over the Summer holidays.

Amelia, Maxwell, Rivenlea, Xavier, Hope, Jackson T, Genevieve , Robert, Oakley & Eeli

We hope you had a lovely day celebrating your special day with family and friends.

School leadership

Congratulations Emmaly and Seth who were appointed school captains for Term 1. Both students are to be congratulated on their new leadership role. I look forward to working with them.



SCHOOL PROCEDURES FOR THE BUSHFIRE SEASON

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children's services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district.

Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a potential Catastrophic Fire Danger Day closure by letter and COMPASS notification.

A Catastrophic Fire Danger Day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1:00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Catastrophic Day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child.

It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic Day.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.



Our Bureau of Meteorology district is Central Victoria.

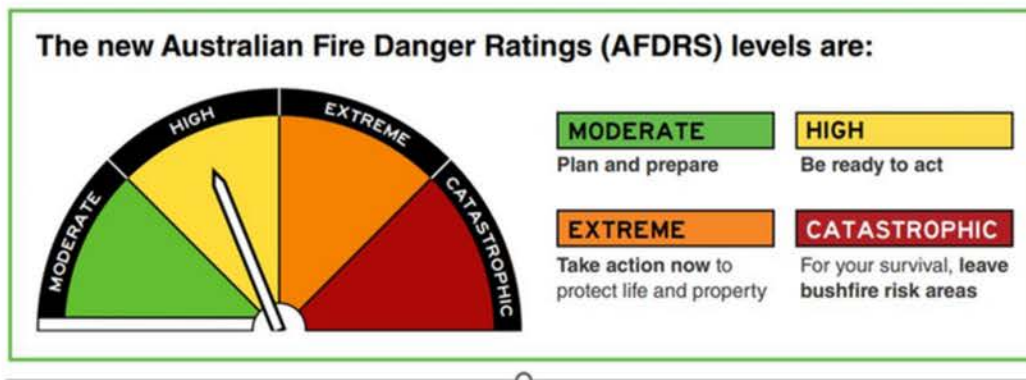
On these Catastrophic rating days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan - **on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.**

Emergency Procedures:

In the next few weeks we will be holding school fire drills. As a part of this process all students, staff and visitors on site are required to evacuate the buildings and relocate on the school oval or in the Library. During these times all students, staff and visitors need to follow evacuation procedures. Following in the newsletter are the steps on what to do if you are on site when an evacuation takes place.

In the event that we have an emergency, our first priority is to ensure that the students are safe and call for support through 000 and the DET Emergency Management number. As soon as 000 are called the media will be aware of our emergency. With social media and police scanners, you may be aware of the incident before we have had time to communicate with you. As stated, our first priority is to ensure all student, staff and visitors are safe. At our earliest convenience we will make contact with families either via phone, COMPASS or email.

Families can stay informed by monitoring warnings through the free [VicEmergency app](#), via the VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226), and listening to [emergency broadcasters](#). Avoid travelling near fire zones unless absolutely necessary and always follow the advice of emergency services.



In the event of an emergency

When on site, please ensure that you sign yourself and any other person/child with you into our visitors book.

If the emergency alarm is sounded, please evacuate immediately (external to the oval—road end, internal to the library) via the most direct route.

Once in the designated area, staff will ensure that all personnel are present and accounted for—the sign in book will be used to ensure all visitors to the site are present.

This is why it is vital that you sign in.

Remain in the designated area until further instructions are given by the incident commander. No one will be allowed to return to the classrooms etc. until the emergency services have deemed the site safe.



Important Dates

January

- 28th School begins for all students from Years Prep-6
- OSH Club begins afternoon sessions

February

- 10th February Parent -teacher interviews
- 11th Parents & Friends AGM & Child Safety training for volunteers
- 17th School Review
- 26th Inform and Empower parent information night
- 27th BMPSSA Swimming Carnival

March

- 2nd Clean Up Australia Day for schools
- 3rd March Proposed School Council Meeting
- 9th March Labour day - Public Holiday
- 11th NAPLAN testing begins
- 31st Small Schools Sports Day - Mason Lane

April

- 2nd School dismissed at 2:30 for Term 1 holidays
- 3rd Good Friday - Public Holiday School holidays begin
- 20th Term 2 begins
- 28th BMPSSA Athletics Carnival for Years 4/5/6

May

- 8th BMPSSA Cross Country Carnival
- 8th Mother's Day morning activities

June

- 9th & 10th Gr 5 Sovereign Hill Excursion
- 12th Winter Sports Years 4/5/6
- 15th -25th whole School Swimming Program
- 2th School dismissed at 2:30pm for Term 2 Holiday

July

- 13th Term 3 commences

August

- 28th Summer Sports Years 4/5/6

September

- 2nd Father's Day BBQ breakfast
- 18th School dismissed 2:30 for Term 3 holidays

October

- 5th Term 3 begins
- 7th -9th Year 2/3 Billabong Camp, Echuca
- 19th - 21st Melbourne Camp Years 4/5/
- 28th School Photo Day

December

- 18th Last day of the school year

