



Great Western Primary School

February 12th, 2026

Principal: Kerri-Ann Harris

Dear Parents, Grandparents, Community,

Egg and Bacon Fundraiser

On Wednesday we witnessed a wonderful display of community spirit. Our breakfast fundraiser for Ms Fisc was hugely successful. Thank you to Tim, who chased up donations, eggs and cooked the BBQ, Amy for organising the rolls, to Diane and Wendy who called in to assist with food prep. Also a big thank you to our school team who are always ready to help.

Thank you to the businesses in Stawell, Ararat, and Great Western for your kind donations. Please keep an eye on our FaceBook page as we acknowledge their generosity.

To all those who came along to support by purchasing breakfast and/or give monetary donations, thank you. We are all very lucky to be a part of such a wonderful community and we will be very proud to hand over \$2500.00 to show Ms Fisc our support and love.

Leadership Day.

Charlotte and Finlay will be travelling to Horsham on Monday 23rd February to participate in a Leadership day. These days build confident, capable student leaders.

Fruit Snack

Just a reminder that students can have a fruit snack during the morning session. Please remember this fruit needs to be quick and easy to eat, such as bananas, carrots, grapes, sultanas etc.

Melons, oranges, nectarines are much better for recess and lunchtime as they can make work sticky.

Book Club Issue 1

Please find attached issue 1 of Book Club. This is a great opportunity to purchase some great books at a great price. Please ensure all orders along with payment are returned by **Friday 13th February.**



Absences, Late Arrivals and Early Departures

A reminder, 'It's not okay to be away!' If your child is absent from school, is arriving late or leaving early we ask that you please send a text message to school prior to 9:30am. We are required by DET to follow up unexplained absences after 9.30am. A text provides us with the written parental consent for an absence.

Swimming Program

Our swimming program will commence Friday 13th February and will take place each Friday afternoon for 5 sessions. Students may be collected from the pool at 3:00pm if this suits parents. Please let us know prior to 11am on the day if you would like to collect your child so that children are organised with their school bags.

The program is conducted by the Stawell Sports and Aquatic Centre staff and supported by our teachers. Students learn basic swim and survive skills. We utilise both the indoor and outdoor pools.

It is vital that children experience the outdoor pool and swimming and survival skills in a challenging cold-water environment under close supervision.

Students will travel to and from venue by bus or private vehicle.

Please ensure that your child has lunch at school on these days, as sometimes we venture into Stawell for lunch at the park.

Students are reminded to bring along

- **Bathers**
- **Towel**
- **Bag for wet clothes**
- **Full uniform (polo and black shorts) with runners**



SMILE SQUAD

Smile squad will be coming to our school on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th March. Smile Squad offer high quality dental care.

This is a free service to all children.

All students have received a new drink bottle. Inside the drink bottle is a toothbrush, toothpaste **but more importantly information on how to apply and give permission for your child to take part in this service.**



Conveyance Allowance

Conveyance allowance is available to families who live more than 4.8km from their nearest school please see below for eligibility criteria. If you feel you are eligible please collect an application from the office.

Eligibility

An application on behalf of a student may be submitted if the student is:

- a Victorian resident;
- school aged and enrolled (3) three or more days per week at a school; and
- attend their nearest or designated neighbourhood government school appropriate to their year level, at which admission is permissible, or reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from the campus attended.

2026 ENROLMENTS NOT TOO LATE



If you or know anyone you know who would like to enrol their child for 2026 please contact the school on 03 5356 2235 for a tour and information package.

2026 Term Dates

Term 1

28th January– 2nd April

Term 2

20th April-26th June

Term 3

13th July-18th September

Term 4

5th October-18th December



SUNSMART

Just a reminder that as a part of our Sun Smart Policy all children must wear a hat while outside during Term 1 and Term 4.

Hats are available from the school



Tex, Jeremy, Bella and Tilly enjoying their first MARC Van session.

So many books to read and choose from.

Breakfast Program

Our Breakfast Program continues each Thursday. Breakfast will be available from 8.30am - 8.50am each Thursday morning.

Toast, cereal, baked beans and fruit will be on offer. All students are most welcome to join us for breakfast.

Camps, Sports and Excursion Funding

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. Please see eligibility criteria below. Application forms are available from the office.

For audit reasons we require a copy of your concession card.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non- government Victorian primary or secondary school must: on the first day of Term one, or Term two

- Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be the holder of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, or
- Be a temporary foster parent, and
- Submit an application to the school by the due date

MARC Van News

MARC van will visit Great Western Primary fortnightly on Thursdays.

Term 1 dates:

12th February, 26th February

12th March, 26th March



On MARC days, students will participate in library and literature lessons and borrow books to read for pleasure. *The more children enjoy reading, the more they read. The more they read, the better they read. The better they read, the more they enjoy reading.*

If you don't already have one, a library bag is well worth it, regardless of your child's grade. It doesn't have to be anything fancy, just a dedicated bag to store and carry library books.

Happy reading,

Caitlyn Fisher, Great Western MARC Teacher Librarian



Welcome Back BBQ

We invite all our families to this year's Welcome Back BBQ on
TONIGHT 6:00PM



This BBQ is a wonderful opportunity to meet and
make welcome our new families.

Sausage Sizzle and salad provided by School Council

It also provides an opportunity for our students to do some public speaking as they explain our learning programs
and activities that will be taking place throughout the year.

Students to wear school uniform.

We hope you can all make it.

Playgroup

Each Monday

We are happy to announce that Playgroup will be back again this year. Sessions for Term 1 will take
place each Monday from 10:00am to 11:00am. Children are then welcome to
join our students for recess (11:00-11:30)

We are looking forward to another fun year of activities.



Student Enrolment Details

Student enrolment details have also been sent home with
your child. Please look over the carefully and update any
new information. Please take particular care in Occupa-
tion Status. The Department are very strict in making sure
these are correct as it determines some of our funding. It
would be appreciated if these could be returned by

Wednesday 25th February to ensure all details are cor-
rect on CASES prior to CENSUS Day.

Students have also been sent home with updated 2026
forms. It would be appreciated if these could be returned
as soon as possible.

I have been asked if Voluntary fees can be paid in instal-
ments. The answer is yes. Any amount can be forwarded
to school anytime.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 18th MARCH

NEW MEMBERS NEEDED-PLEASE CONTACT

KERRI-ANN IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A
MEMBER

PROTECT

**Everyone has the right to be safe
and be protected from abuse.**

No one should behave in a way that
makes you feel unsafe or afraid,
including anyone in your family,
anyone at school or anywhere else
in the community.

Tell a teacher or any adult at your
school if you feel unsafe.

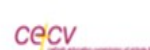


It's everyone's responsibility.

Adults at school must listen and
respond to concerns about
child abuse.

If you suspect abuse of any child
or young person, you have a
responsibility to report it,
even if you are not sure.

Further information & resources
www.education.vic.gov.au/protect



February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3	4 PREP REST DAY LOTE	5	6
9 Responsible Pet Owners Session	10	11 PREP REST DAY	12 MARC VAN Welcome Back BBQ	13 SWIM PROGRAM BOOK CLUB DUE
16	17	18 PREP REST DAY SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING LOTE	19	20 SWIM PROGRAM
23 LEADERSHIP DAY YEAR 6	24	25 PREP REST DAY	26 MARC VAN	27 SWIM PROGRAM

March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 CLUSTER DAY EMERGENCY SERVICES	3	4 PREP REST DAY LOTE	5	6 SWIM PROGRAM
9 LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	10 SMILE SQUAD	11 SMILE SQUAD NAPLAN	12 MARC VAN NAPLAN	13 SWIM PROGRAM NAPLAN
16 NAPLAN	17	18 SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING AGM LOTE	19	20 CLUSTER CROSS COUNTRY
23	24	25	26 MARC VAN	27

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 2nd April-Final Day Term 1

Monday 27th April School Athletic Sports