



Great Western Primary School

January 29th, 2026

Principal: Kerri-Ann Harris

Welcome

WELCOME TO OUR NEW FOUNDATION STUDENTS

Matilda, Tex, Jeremy and Bella

We would also like to welcome Mila and Archie and Marni (Classroom support).



Welcome everyone to a new year. As it will be a busy Term 1 please keep an eye out for a number of forms. These forms need to be completed and returned to school as soon as possible.

Classes and Specialist Programs

Leisha:

- Yr. F-2 Classroom Teacher
- P – 6 Science and Performing Arts
- Welfare program

Miss Harris:

- Principal
- Yr. 3 - 6 Classroom Teacher
- P – 6 Physical Education

Karen Rethus:

- Visual Arts F – 6
- P – 6 Physical Education
- Classroom Teacher 3 – 6

Ms Fisc:

- Circus/Performing Arts

Mr Frank (Term 1):

- Chinese

Ms Fisher:

- MARC Van

Marni:

- Classroom Support

Swimming Program

Our swimming program will commence the week beginning 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 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.

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**



School Council Meetings

18th February 2026

18th March 2026 AGM

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.

Great Western Primary School is committed to child safety (Ministerial Order No. 870) and takes all reasonable steps to ensure that the safety of our students is paramount

Email: great.western.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Website: www.greatwestern.ps.vic.gov.au

Phone: 03 5356 2235 Mobile: 0458 562 235

Breakfast Program

Our Breakfast Program will begin next Thursday. Breakfast will be available from 8.30am - 8.45am each Thursday morning.

Toast, cereal, baked beans and fruit will be on offer. All students and family members 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

More information is attached

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 the **school mobile** 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.

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.

MARC Van

The MARC library van will visit Great Western Primary on Thursdays fortnightly. The first visit will be on Thursday the 12th of February. The MARC van allows students to browse and borrow books of their choosing. If you don't already have one, I recommend sending to school a dedicated library bag to store and carry books.

Happy reading, Caitlyn Fisher, Teacher Librarian

Lunch Orders

Lunch orders will take place each Thursday. Please ensure all orders are written on an envelope with your child's name clearly marked on it along with the correct money enclosed. There will be **NO CREDIT** available payment must be made on the day. Students need to place it in the bags provided outside the staffroom by 9:00am. We would like to thank the Great Western General Store for making the service available.

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.

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.

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



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Second hand Polo Shirts for sale.

\$5.00 each-assorted sizes.

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



Playgroup
First Session Monday 9th February

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.



Welcome Back BBQ

We invite all our families to this year's Welcome Back BBQ on

Thursday February 12th 6:00pm



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

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.

We hope you can all make it.



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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	24	25 PREP REST DAY	26 MARC VAN	27 SWIM PROGRAM

March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	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 ATHLETIC SPORTS
23	24	25	26 MARC VAN CLUSTER DAY	27 Athletic Sports BACKUP DATE

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