

Ferny Creek PS Connections



Together we make a difference

Friday 6th June 2025

Hi everyone,

Whole School Cross Country Carnival

Last Friday, our school held its **very first Whole School Cross Country Carnival** – and what an incredible day it was! From our youngest Foundation students to our Year 6 leaders, **every single child participated with enthusiasm**, determination and a big smile.

It was wonderful to see our **school values come to life** throughout the day. Children supported one another with **cheers, encouragement and kindness**, showing what it means to be a caring and connected school community. Whether they were running their hearts out, jogging with friends or walking to the finish line, everyone gave it their best.

Staff and parents also joined in the fun, walking alongside students, cheering from the sidelines, and helping to keep everything running smoothly. The event wasn't just about racing – it was about **giving things a go, pushing through challenges, and celebrating personal achievements**.

We finished the day by **celebrating our super runners at assembly**, acknowledging their incredible efforts and sportsmanship. It was a great moment to recognise the stamina of those who gave it their all – and to cheer once more as a school community.

We are so proud of the **resilience, perseverance and positive attitude** shown by all. A huge thank you to everyone involved in making the day such a success, particularly Adam with his fantastic organisation.

Here's to more fun and active whole-school events that bring us together!



2025 CROSS COUNTRY SUPER RUNNERS

Grade 5/6 Super Runners:

Jess, Iris, Jarrah, Noah, Baxter, Edie, Duncan,
Fletcher G, Will, Asher

Grade 3/4 Super Runners:

Callum, Remy, Ivy, Eddie, Elliot, Liam S



About the Attitudes to School Survey (AtoSS)

The Attitudes to School Survey is conducted annually in Term 2. All schools must participate in the Attitudes to School Survey, providing the opportunity for students from Year 4 to Year 12 to complete the survey. The survey provides data that is invaluable in understanding the student perspective of their school and to improve the schooling experience.

We value student voice as a means to improving student engagement, wellbeing and quality instruction and will be asking your child about their thoughts and feelings in relation to their school, their learning, peer relationships, resilience, bullying, health and wellbeing, physical activity, and life in general. **This year, the survey will be conducted at FCPS from 11th-13th June.**

School Uniforms

As the colder weather settles in, we'd like to remind families to **dress children in layers** so they can stay warm but also remove layers easily as they warm up during active play. We have lots of energetic learners who love to run, climb and explore. If you haven't already done so, it is also time to add gumboots, slippers and a change of clothes and socks to the school bag.

Please ensure that **all items of clothing are clearly named**, including jackets, coats, and beanies – this helps all of us to return lost items quickly. We can also all work together to remind children to collect their jackets from outside at the end of break times.

While staying warm is important, we also ask that **students continue to wear school uniform**. If you're in need of winter essentials like **coats, beanies or warm jackets**, our **on-site uniform shop has stock available**.

Student Dress Code Policy update

Changes to the Department of Education Student Dress Code policy were announced in April. As per requirements, the Ferny Creek School Council will review our existing policy to ensure it meets the new guidelines. Please see below for a summary of the changes.

The Department of Education aims to provide every student in Victoria with equal access to high-quality public education. To assist in achieving this aim, student uniforms must be affordable, which means they must be financially accessible without creating an unreasonable burden on families or a barrier to enrolment for students. To ensure affordability, schools must not include branded pants, shorts, skirts, skorts or socks in their uniform.

The student dress code policy has been updated to help make uniforms more affordable. The update includes requirements that:

- all student dress codes ensure uniform are affordable
- uniforms do not include branded 'bottoms' such as pants, shorts, skirts, skorts, leggings and socks.

Schools and school councils must review and update their existing student dress code policies in line with the new affordability requirements by the end of Term 4, 2025. As part of this review schools must remove any branded 'below the waist' items from their school dress codes and consider additional strategies for reducing uniform costs.

From 2026, schools cannot include branded 'below the waist' items in their student uniform but they can continue to have branded tops including t-shirts, jumpers and jackets. Students may continue to wear existing branded 'below the waist' uniform items until outgrown or worn out.

The change in policy immediately impacts all branded 'below the waist' uniform items, including branded pants, shorts, skirts, skorts, leggings and socks. From the start of 2026 schools cannot include these items in their student uniform. Schools can continue to have branded tops including t-shirts, jumpers and jackets. Most school dresses are customised, rather than branded, and can therefore continue to be included as an item in a student uniform.

Students can continue to wear all branded 'below the waist' uniform items until they are outgrown or worn out, including during the 2026 school year and beyond. Schools can also continue to sell or provide second-hand branded 'below the waist' items to families. Students can continue to wear these items until they are worn out.

Please Chat About Mushrooms

With the recent wet weather, mushrooms and fungi have been popping up around our school grounds. While many are harmless, some can be **toxic or cause skin irritation**.

We kindly ask families to **have a quick chat with your child** about not touching or picking mushrooms they see during play. Our staff are keeping an eye out but an extra reminder from home helps keep everyone safe.

Stranger safety

We'd like to take a moment to remind all families about the importance of **stranger safety**, especially for children walking to and from school. Please talk with your child about **not talking to or going near people they don't know**, even if they seem friendly. It's important that children know to **seek help from a trusted adult** if they ever feel unsure or unsafe.

At school, we continue to remind students to **follow established routines**, stay within designated areas, and check in with staff if something doesn't feel right. Your conversations at home reinforce these important messages and help keep everyone safe.

PA System

Thankyou for your patience as we undergo an important upgrade of our PA system. The system has currently been reset to the default music times as the upgrade is carried out. We understand that this may have caused some confusion in the mornings but please be assured that it is business as usual and doors are open at 8.50am to ensure that all students are settled and ready to learn by 9am. We will keep you updated and notify you of any additional changes.

Have a great week,

Susan

Susan Vissenjoux – A/Principal



Fun Facts for Parents – Friendology & the Four Friendship Facts

At our school, we're supporting children to build strong, healthy friendships through the URSTRONG Friendology program – a fun, evidence-based approach that teaches kids how to be great friends and how to handle tricky friendship moments with confidence.

Here are the **Four Friendship Facts** we have started learning about – and how you can support them at home:

Friendship Fact #1: No friendship is perfect

Just like all relationships, friendships have ups and downs. It's normal to have disagreements sometimes! We're helping children understand that small bumps are okay – and they can be worked through.



Friendship Fact #2: Every friendship is different

Some friends are sporty; others are quiet or creative. Kids are learning it's okay to have different kinds of friends – and that each friendship is unique in its own special way.

Friendship Fact #3: Trust and respect are the two most important qualities in a friendship

We're encouraging children to think about how they treat others and how they'd like to be treated in return. Trust and respect help friendships grow stronger!



Friendship Fact #4: Friendships change... and that's okay

Children grow, change and develop new interests – and sometimes friendships shift too. We're teaching them that it's okay to let go of friendships that don't feel right and how to move on kindly.

By learning these simple facts, students are becoming more resilient, empathetic and socially aware. Thank you for talking with your child about what they're learning – it helps build a consistent message between home and school.



WHAT ZONE ARE YOU IN?

BLUE	GREEN	YELLOW	RED
			
I FEEL: ♥ Tired ♥ Slow ♥ Bored ♥ Sad ♥ Sick	I FEEL: ♥ Focused ♥ Ready to learn ♥ Calm ♥ Happy	I FEEL: ♥ Frustrated ♥ Worried ♥ Excited ♥ Silly ♥ Not in control	I FEEL: ♥ Elated ♥ Mad/Angry ♥ Terrified ♥ Out of control ♥ Yelling/Hitting
I CAN TRY... ♥ Getting a drink ♥ Walking ♥ Talking to a friend ♥ Reading a happy story	I CAN TRY... ♥ Helping others ♥ Remembering goals ♥ Finishing work ♥ Expected behaviours	I CAN TRY... ♥ Walking ♥ Counting to 10 ♥ Drawing the problem ♥ Talking to a teacher or trusted adult	I CAN TRY... ♥ Deep breaths ♥ Finding a safe space ♥ Exercise ♥ Talking to teacher



EVERY DAY COUNTS

ATTENDANCE FACT SHEET FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

School is better when you're here

In Victoria everyone aged from 6 – 17 has to go to school.

Missing one day a fortnight is the same as missing 4 whole weeks of school a year.

From Foundation to Year 12 that adds up to 1.5 years of school!

School is better when you attend. Your friends and your teachers notice that you are away and wonder if you are OK.

Right now, being at school is the most important thing you need to do for your future. School helps you build good habits for later on in life. You might think school is just about Maths and English but you're also learning about how to work with other people and how to solve problems.

Being at school every day also means you are becoming more independent as a learner and interacting with your friends and teachers. If you are at school you can get help from your teachers and friends and won't have to try to learn things in your own time.

Being an adult probably seems far away but we know that young people who attend school more frequently have better outcomes after school too. This means they earn more money, have better job opportunities and are generally healthier. So being at school really does make a difference!

Unless you are so sick you can't get out of bed or there is an event like a funeral, you should be at school. Every day you are away is a day of classes and social connection you miss out on. Taking a day off for your birthday or go shopping isn't a good reason to miss school.

When you are away from school, you miss out on all the big stuff – class discussions and all the interaction that happens in a classroom, the chance to get help from teachers and the opportunity to practice skills and gain knowledge. Being away means you might miss out on a lot of learning or that you need to catch up in your time.

Being away also means you also miss out on playing with your friends. Being away from school a lot can be lonely. It has a big impact on relationships and social connections.



Getting to school on time everyday can be about having a good routine.

If you find yourself running late or missing school because you're disorganised, try:

- Asking your parents for help getting ready
- Having a set time to go to bed
- Leaving all technology out of your bedroom
- Packing your school bag the night before with everything you need
- Having a set time for breakfast

Sometimes, though it can just be hard to go to school.

You might feel overwhelmed by the work or things might be tough with your friends. Maybe you don't feel safe at school or you really dislike a teacher or things at home aren't great. Perhaps you're feeling down or anxious and don't even really know why.

Whatever the situation is, staying away from school isn't the answer. Many people want to help you. Try talking to:

- Your parents or another adult family member
- A trusted teacher or adult at school

USEFUL WEBSITES/CONTACTS

Kids Matter - www.kidsmatter.edu.au

Youth Beyond Blue -
www.youthbeyondblue.com.au

Headspace - www.headspace.org.au or e-headspace www.eheadspace.org.au/ for online counselling & support

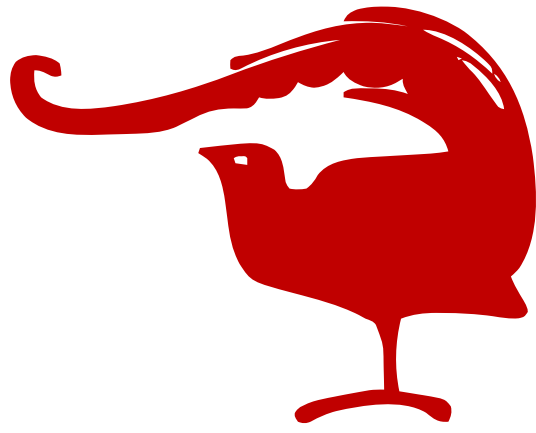
Reach Out – www.reachout.com

Kids helpline - 1800 55 1800 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or [web counselling](#)

Snapshots from STEM

It's been an exciting start to Term 2 in STEM! Students have been focusing on learning all about Chemical Science, so lots of hands-on demonstrations and experiments have been taking place. Bottle rockets with the F-2s were a real highlight, with many students also keen to try this one out at home – thanks to the wonderful grown-ups who have encouraged this exploration and made sure our future scientists remained safe! Across the school, students have also been trialling 'volcanic eruptions' with varying degrees of success. We have discussed how variables can alter results and seen this in action. Students have also been putting their engineering skills to the test, designing and building so many different things, from shelters to aeroplanes, catapults and vehicles for transporting a toy animal, based on the National Simultaneous Storytime book, 'The Truck Cat'. It's been fantastic seeing all of the creativity and innovation in action! 😊



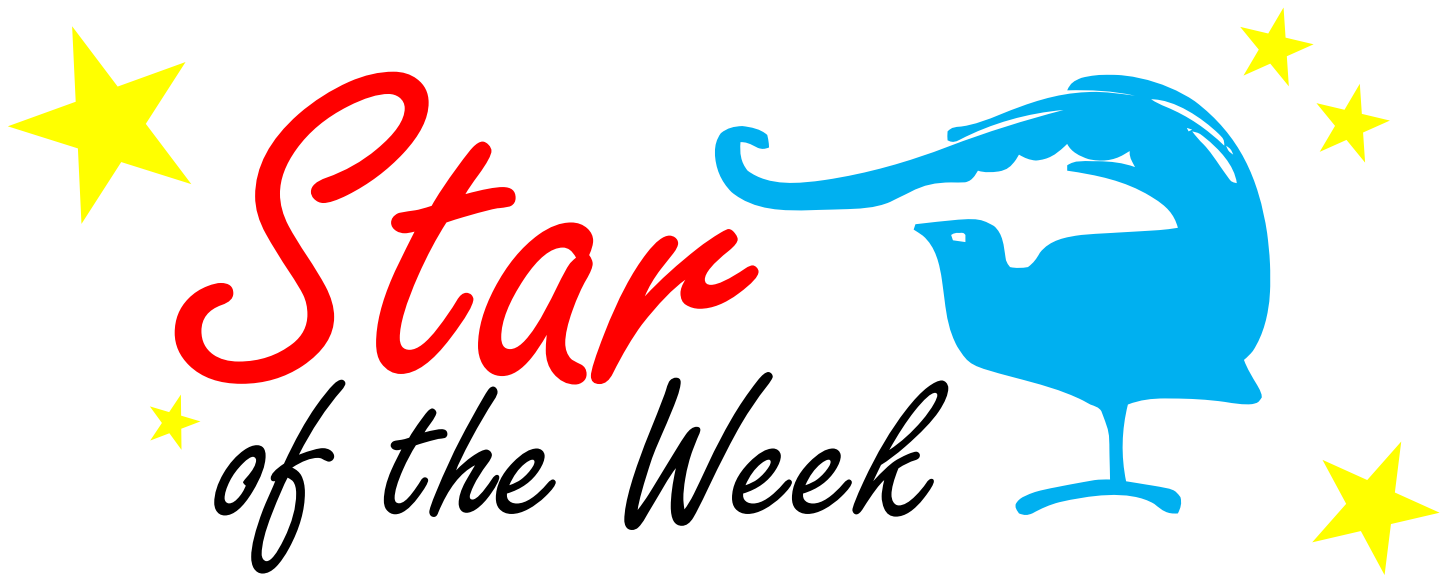


**Ferny Creek
Primary School**

**Student Free
Days**

Tuesday 10th June

Monday 21st July



Foundation/Grade 1

Alessio M: For being a great seed planter in veggie patch and for having a great week!

Ben M: For being a super reader! You're on fire!!

Grade 2S

Kye G: For showing the initiative to ask for help and move away from distractions during learning times. Keep up the great work, Kye!

Cassie R: For consistently demonstrating the school values of respect, responsibility and resilience inside and outside the classroom. Well done!

Grade 3/4E

Jessie K: For being an amazing member of 3/4E. You are a valued member of our class and always happy to help!

Esther M: For all of the hard work you have been putting in, in the classroom. I am very proud of your effort!

Grade 3/4KH

Oscar D: In recognition of your constant kindness, respectful attitude and dedication to always trying your best. You set a wonderful example for others.

Elsie L: For showing outstanding courage, positivity and kindness upon returning to our school. You've become a valued part of our classroom community.

Grade 5/6A

Asher E: For your creative Writers' Notebook response to the 'seed' – The Night Thieves. You created an intriguing beginning that drew me in to what was an entertaining narrative. Well done!

Eliza P: For your wonderful response to our text-based unit Alfred's War. You created a realistic diary entry from a First Nation Australian Soldier and present your work beautifully. Well done!

Grade 5/6B

Fletcher M: For being a friendly and positive student who gets along well with others.

Joshua M: For displaying a mature attitude to his learning and trying to improve his skills across the different subjects.



extreme tennis



WIMBLEDON THEMED JUNIOR TENNIS CLINIC 2025 (Designed for ages 5-13)



CONDUCTED BY CLUB COACHES

Tennis Australia Club Professionals, A.T.P.C.A Reg. Lvl 2, T.C.A.V. Reg. Adv. Coach, Bach of Teaching

DATE & TIME:

Monday 7th July 2025 (UPWEY SOUTH TC)

9:00 – 1.00pm

(Tuesday 8th July to be used as spare day in case of inclement weather)

FORMAT:

FOCUS: Skill development

Technique – correction and analysis, physical training, sportsmanship, court etiquette, fun, games & prizes.

FOCUS: Tournament/Match play – HOT SHOTS

All Hot Shots pupils rally & score. Hot Shots starter tournaments are a fantastic way for pupils to experience the thrill of match play in a multi-match round robin format. Pupils play in their own colour ball programs/levels with modified courts and balls- red, orange, and green- against players of similar ages under qualified coach supervision.

11+ age group will play round robin using normal yellow balls.

Tactical aspects of the game are also discussed via feedback from coaches.

-Trophies and prizes will be awarded to the best achievers-

****The session includes a sausage sizzle lunch & drinks for all participants****

COST: (GST incl)

\$70.00

Further enquiries please contact

Stuart or Diana Sutterby 0412 106 416 / 0403 525 111

Bookings via

<https://forms.gle/yZL74GSgMc78YvCn8>

E: contactus@extremetennis.com.au

W: www.extremetennis.com.au



**PARENTS
BATTLE**
OF THE BANDS

**CALLING ALL
FERNY CREEK PS
PARENT MUSICIANS!**

Let's form a Band and show them that our parents still know how to rock! and raise some funds for our schools music and performing arts programs.

Contact us at fcpsparentclub@gmail.com if you want to join the band or find out more

YARRA RANGES

JUL 31

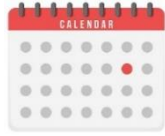
SOOKI LOUNGE
BELGRAVE

**7 PM
2025**

IMPORTANT DETAILS

CURRICULUM DAYS

Our next Term 2 student free day is 10th June. The last day of Term 2 is 4th July. The first school day of term 3 is Tuesday 2nd July.



COMMUNICATION

Ferny Creek Primary School recognises the importance of the partnership between schools and families to support student learning, engagement and wellbeing.

Your child's teacher will offer you a range of opportunities to communicate with them including:

- ✓ Compass
- ✓ Email
- ✓ Formal meetings
- ✓ Before/After school chats

If you do not have Compass please contact our school Office and find out how you can obtain the app. Compass will be used several times each week, so we want everyone to have access.

FACEBOOK

Please like our Facebook page. This will be used by the school to inform families and the public of events and updates at the school. Feedback and discussion with parents/carers are welcome, but the school will not use Facebook for this purpose.

Please contact the school directly if you wish to discuss matters, as per our communication process. Only this Facebook page is endorsed by the Principal. Any other Facebook pages are not officially authorised representatives of the school.

CONTACT DETAILS

It is very important the school has your most current emergency contact telephone details, home and e-mail address.

If you change telephone details or home e-mail address at any point, we ask that you update the school with your accurate contact details as soon as possible.

STUDENT SUPERVISION

Please note that our school grounds are supervised by school staff at the following times:

- ✓ Before school from 8.45am
- ✓ Throughout recess and lunch
- ✓ After school from 3.30pm to 3.45pm

The school grounds are not supervised outside the above times.

While some families use the front playground as a meeting place, please know children must be supervised by an adult outside of these times.



MORE IMPORTANT DETAILS

OUT OF HOURS CARE



TheirCare provides adventurous and stimulating Before & After School Care Programs in a safe environment for all children. During sessions children develop life skills, friendships, confidence and creativity through play.

Ferny Creek Primary School has partnered with TheirCare to provide this service to our school which includes quality care, booking flexibility, amazing programming for your children and commitment to deliver on our promise to our school community.

Operation Times:

Before School 7am-8.45am

After School 3.30pm-6.00pm

Service Phone Number:

0419 958 268

How to Enrol:

Visit TheirCare website

www.theircare.com.au

And click 'Book Now' in the top right-hand corner to register your child's details.

All families are strongly encouraged to register their child/ren for TheirCare as it is free to enrol, and while you are under no obligation to use this service, it does provide support for you in the event of an emergency. Plus, our students love attending this service! For further information about this program please contact TheirCare directly.

LUNCH ORDERS

Lunch orders are available each Wednesday. There is an ordering system via the QKR app and orders must be placed by 8pm each Tuesday for Wednesdays lunch.

Late orders cannot be accepted.



STUDENT SUPERVISION

All bike and scooter riders are required to wear a bike helmet in Victoria.

Approved helmets have the Australian Standards Mark TM (AS/NZS) 2063) and will be marked as suitable for cycling.

Children under the age of 12 may ride on footpaths as can a supervising adult. They are required to give way to pedestrians and to wheel their bicycles over pedestrian and children's crossings.

Bikes/scooters can be stored in our bike shed during school hours.

Also, by law everyone must wear a seat belt when travelling in a car in Australia.

SUNSMART

For Term 1 and Term 4 we wear our named broadbrimmed hat at all times when outside.



Term 2 2025



Keep this handy calendar on your fridge for upcoming events at school. Check Compass, visit our website <http://www.fernycreekps.vic.edu.au/> or follow our Facebook page as this calendar is subject to changes.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
April	21 Easter Monday PUBLIC HOLIDAY	22 First Day of Term 2	23 Ferny Creek PS Leaders Anzac Ceremony 	24	25 ANZAC Day PUBLIC HOLIDAY
	28	29	30	01	02 ANZAC Acknowledgement Assembly 03 ELECTION DAY BBQ
May	05 Whole School Event – “Being Brave”	06	07	08	09 Book Fair Mother's Day Afternoon Tea 
	12 Education Week Book Club orders due in	13 Last day of Book Fair	14 Student Free Day	15	16 
	19	20	21 National Simultaneous Story Time	22	23
	26	27	28 Reconciliation Activity Day	29	30 Cross Country Carnival 
June	02	03	04	05 School Photos	06
	09 Kings Birthday PUBLIC HOLIDAY	10 Student Free Day	11	12	13 Assembly
	16	17	18	19	20
	23	24	25	26	27 Working Bee  Sunday 29 th June
July	30	01	02 Musical Soiree  Parent Teacher Conversations 2-6pm	03	04 Last Day of Term 2.30pm Dismissal



9755 1522

fernycreekps@education.vic.gov.au