

# Ferny Creek PS Connections



Together we make a difference

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025

*Hi everyone,*

## Nature Play

Our students have been enjoying the addition of nature play during our recess and lunch time breaks. Taking advantage of our beautifully spacious grounds. We have stick play and building huts happening around the back playground and we have added the very popular 'Friday Slope Day'.

### Why Nature Play Matters

*Getting kids outside and into nature does wonders for their development—and it's a lot of fun too! Whether they're climbing trees, digging in the dirt, or making up games with sticks and leaves, nature play helps build creativity, confidence, and problem-solving skills. It's also great for their bodies and minds—helping them move more, feel calmer, and stay curious about the world around them. The best part? They're learning important life skills without even realizing it. So don't worry about a bit of mud—it's all part of the magic!*



## Uniform

As we move into the colder weather, it is time to consider additional layers of clothing for some extra warmth outside. It is also time to bring the gumboots and slippers as well as the coats and beanies. You may like to include an extra set of clothes if your child is fully embracing playing in the dirt and mud!

We will be encouraging our students to embrace the changing weather by dressing appropriately and seeking shelter during the drizzly rain. We will only limit the outside time on extreme weather days which includes heavy rain.

### Fresh Air Fun—Even When It's Cold!

*Just because the temperature drops it doesn't mean outdoor play should stop! Fresh air and active play are just as important in the colder months as they are in summer. Rugging up with warm clothes, coats, and beanies allows kids to enjoy running, jumping, exploring, and soaking up natural light—even on chilly days. Being outside helps boost mood, strengthen immunity, and burn off energy, which can lead to better focus and sleep.*

## Using Our School Crossing

We are fortunate to have a supervised crossing out the front of our school to protect our students from road-crossing risks as they walk to and from school. Supervisors help young children to judge when it is safe to cross the road as young children do not usually have a well-developed sense of danger or 'road sense'.

Crossing supervisors are responsible for ensuring the safe passage of pedestrians and controlling the flow of traffic on the road. They may monitor and report any safety issues in relation to the crossing.

I encourage all adults to set a good example of road safety behaviour by always using the school crossing to cross the road.

### Parking around our school

We are very lucky to have available parking around our school. Please ensure that you are following any parking restriction signs around the crossing and entering and exiting the car park via the designated driveway. I also encourage you to ensure that children are exiting the car on the passenger side and that young children are fully supervised around cars and when crossing the road.

**Please be aware that the car park on the school grounds is for school-employed staff only during school hours.**

### Read to Shine program

Our 'Read to Shine' program has begun. You will have received a letter if your child will be enjoying some additional support for during term 2. This is our expanded approach to the Tutor Learning Initiative where tutors work with small groups of students, focusing on specific areas where they need support. Nat and Kelly will be supporting students in reading as part of this program.

### Community Support

There have so many parents, friends and staff who have contributed to the tidying and updating of various areas around the school recently. It is so wonderful to see the collaborative community spirit of Ferny Creek at its best. I would like to thank everyone who has helped with the gardening and planting, feeding our animals over the holidays, repairing or offering to repair elements of the outdoor spaces, the Democracy BBQ and Bake Sale, and the furniture rearranging.



**Our Parent's Club deserve a special mention as they are often the driving force behind many of our school and fundraising events, including our Mother's Day occasion today.**

### Please note

We have an exciting evening planned for our parents on Monday. Please come along and join us to hear about future plans for FCPS and also to hear ideas to support your parenting journey.

**Open Morning is next Tuesday.** Please come along and join in our classroom activities.

Grandparents and extended family are also welcome to come along, and I encourage you to pass this invitation on to any prospective parents as well.

**We have a Student Free Day on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May.** Our staff will spend the day focusing on student wellbeing, learning about some of our new programs UR Strong and Zones of Regulation and reviewing our existing behaviour matrix.

*Have a great week,*

*Susan*

Susan Vissenjoux – A/Principal



# SAME-DAY NOTIFICATION OF UNEXPLAINED STUDENT ABSENCES

## FACT SHEET FOR SCHOOLS

Protecting the safety and wellbeing of children through reporting and monitoring of absenteeism is the responsibility of both parents/carers and schools.

Parents and carers have an obligation to notify the school of their child's absence as soon as possible **on the day of absence** using the school's preferred method, including use of an online IT or app, by telephone or by email.

[Factsheet for school for same-day notification of unexplained student absences](#)

### New School Attendance Guidelines

From the end of Term 2 2018, all Victorian government schools must contact parents/carers as soon as practicable on the same-day of an unexplained student absence.

The same-day notification requirement supports the safety and wellbeing of all students. Schools need to know when and why a child is absent and parents/carers need to know if their child is not at school. Prompt communication also promotes daily school attendance. Going to school every day is the single most important part of a child's education. Children and young people who regularly attend school and complete Year 12 or an equivalent qualification have better health outcomes, better employment outcomes, and higher incomes across their lives.

Many schools are already implementing a same-day notification system. The Department of Education and Training (the Department) is supporting schools to meet this new requirement using available online solutions where practicable and ensuring parents and carers are aware of their responsibility to notify schools of a child's absence through promotional material including the Parent/carer Factsheet.

For further information on attendance, including the new School Attendance Guidelines, see the [School Policy Advisory Guide](#).

### Schools and parents working together to support student attendance

Building positive and collaborative relationships through clear communications with parents and carers is critical to the successful implementation of the same-day notification requirement.

The responsibility needs to be underpinned by shared understandings and expectations about the procedures for monitoring, recording and follow-up of student attendance as outlined in the school's *Attendance Policy*. Distributing the school's *Attendance Policy* to parents and carers will help ensure they are aware of their obligation to notify the school of their child's absence and minimise the follow-up required by schools.

For support to update your school's Attendance Policy, see: [Policy template portal](#)



## EVERY DAY COUNTS

### What is the school's responsibility?

- **Notify parents/carers:** The school must notify parents and carers as soon as practicable on the same day of an unexplained absence. This should occur in the morning allowing time for the parent or carer to respond. Schools can choose how they advise parent and carers based on their local context e.g. by email, push notification via downloaded app, SMS or phone call.
- **Follow-up (where required):** At times the parent or carer may not be able to be reached because the school does not have their correct contact details (i.e. changed phone number, SMS/email failure notification received etc.). In this instance, the school should attempt to make contact with any emergency contact/s nominated on the child's file held by the school, where possible, on the same day of the unexplained absence.
- **Record student absences data:** Under the [School Attendance Guidelines](#) schools are required to record or transpose absence data in CASES21, eCASES or a third party software which is compatible with CASES21. Schools using third party software are required to import attendance data into CASES21 on a monthly basis.

### Online solutions to same-day notifications

The Department is committed to supporting schools to meet their attendance requirements through an automated IT platform where practicable. Schools can decide which IT platform to use and current options include:

- eCases (a departmentally provided adjunct to CASES21) to generate SMS alerts
- third party software to alert parents of their child's absence via SMS or push notification

### Parent/carer's responsibility

Parents/carers are required to ensure their child attends school every day and have an obligation to contact the school to notify the school of their child's absence. Parents/carers should inform the school in advance of known upcoming absences, or on the day of absence as soon as practicable. In addition, in order to implement this requirement, it is essential that parent/carers provide schools with their most up-to-date contact details.

# F/1/2/3/4 READING FUN!

OUR GRADE 3 / 4 STUDENTS  
ENJOYED READING TO THE F-2S  
LAST WEEK!



# OPEN DAY

## TUESDAY MAY 13<sup>TH</sup>

### 9 - 11 AM

*Discover the Difference at Ferny Creek Primary School*

Where **Nature, Nurture, and Knowledge** Thrive Together

At Ferny Creek Primary School, we believe learning should be active, meaningful, and filled with wonder. Nestled in the heart of the Dandenongs with beautiful, spacious grounds, our small community school offers big opportunities for every child.

*Come see what sets Ferny Creek Primary School apart; where every child is known, valued, and inspired.*

Susan Vissenjoux - A/Principal  
School Road, Ferny Creek 3786  
Phone - 9755 1522  
Email - ferny.creek.ps@education.vic.gov.au  
Tours Available on Request



# Ferny Creek

Primary School



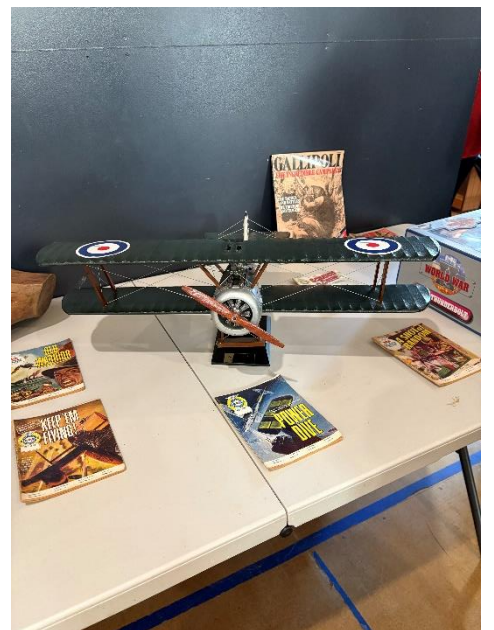
**Thank you to the wonderful families who cared for our feather friends over the school holidays. We really appreciate your help.**

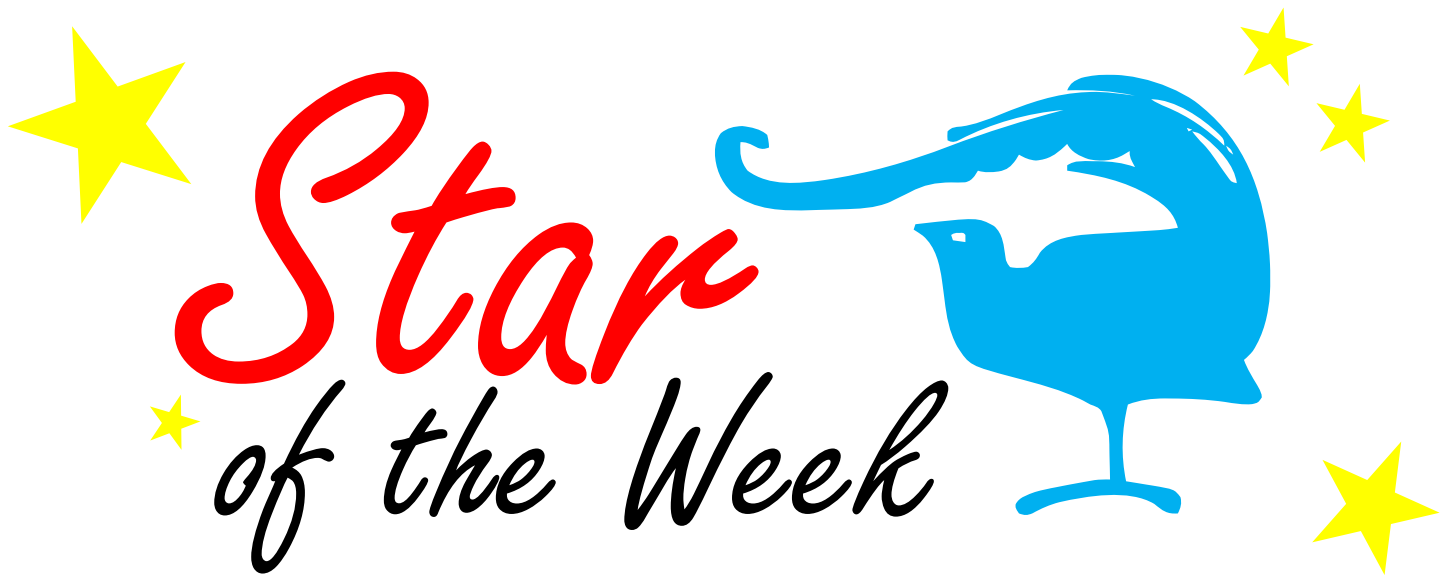




# ANZAC DAY

*Lest We Forget*





### Foundation/Grade 1

**Tess N:** For being a brilliant guineapig expert. Your help and knowledge is very appreciated, as well as Jeremy & Neapolitan loving you.

**Evelyn C:** For being resilient and persevering with challenging maths. Keep up the great work!

### Grade 2S

**Beau H:** For working hard to remain focused during learning times. Well don, Beau!

**Raffy C:** For his determination and resilience when decoding unfamiliar words in reading. Keep up the great work!

### Grade 3/4E

**Joel G:** For the wonderful effort that you put into your Mother's Day writing and for your positive attitude and helpfulness.

**Bella H:** For being an excellent team player and always including others. Your thoughtfulness and consideration of others is appreciated and valued.

### Grade 3/4KH

**Brodie D:** Who has a fantastic mindset and completes his work to the best of his ability as well as helping others understand a task. Thanks!

**Elodie G:** Who always comes to a maths session with a positive attitude, willingness to learn new things and a growth mindset.

### Grade 5/6A

**Baxter L:** For being the first student in 5/6A to achieve the perfect (and coveted) 20/20 weekly average for a unit of Think Mentals. In doing so Baxter you answered all 100 questions correctly across the week. Impressive stuff!

**Iris P:** For showing kindness and making an effort to include others. Your positivity creates a welcoming classroom environment.

### Grade 5/6B

**Duncan H:** For always trying his best and being willing to try new things – keep up the great attitude Duncan!

**Frankie T:** For being a polite and well-mannered student who always tries her best – keep it up Frankie!



# ***Mother's Day Afternoon Tea***

***We invite mothers, and other special persons  
to a special afternoon to indulge and connect***

## **Friday May 9<sup>th</sup>**

### ***All Day***

Student 'free dress' in Pink for gold coin donation to support the BCNA.

### ***2 pm***

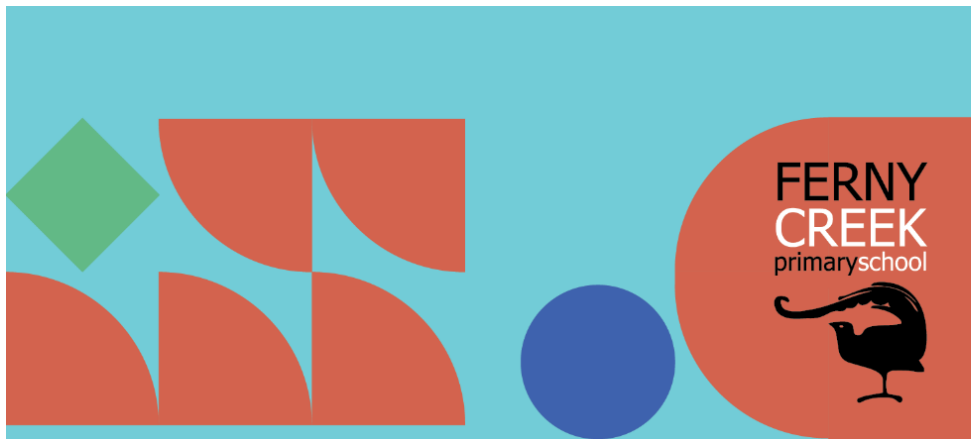
Refreshments provided in the multi-purpose room.  
Please bring a plate to share & consider making  
a donation to the Breast Cancer Network Australia

### ***2:45 pm***

Join your student in their classroom for  
a visit and activities.

Dismissal at normal time.





2025 EDUCATION WEEK EVENT

# GROWING OUR FUTURE GLOBAL CITIZENS

MONDAY 12 MAY

**6PM**     **An Evening with Susan**  
Q&A Session on what's happening  
at Ferny Creek Primary School

**7PM**     **Expert Panel**  
Guest Speakers Katherine Lawrence  
& Davor Topalovic

STAFF ROOM – FERNY CREEK PRIMARY SCHOOL



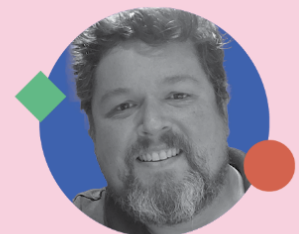
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

## The speakers



Associate Professor  
**Katherine Lawrence**  
Clinical Psychologist,  
Turner Institute for  
Brain and Mental Health,  
Monash University

Katherine is a specialist in child and family psychology, with particular expertise in parenting strategies for supporting young people's mental health. She is passionate about helping parents navigate modern challenges with confidence, in a way that can help them directly, as well as their child. Katherine is also Baxter and Freddie's mum, two of the many terrific kids who attend Ferny Creek Primary School.



**Davor Topalovic**  
IMT Manager,  
Collaboration Support,  
CSIRO

Davor works at CSIRO, supporting national research through delivery of IT services and digital collaboration tools. With more than 20 years of experience predominantly in the government and science sectors, he has a strong background in managing technology systems and helping people navigate an increasingly digital world. As a parent of three children under 8, Davor is interested in how technology is shaping our future, especially emerging tools like AI, and the impacts this has on the way children learn, play and grow.



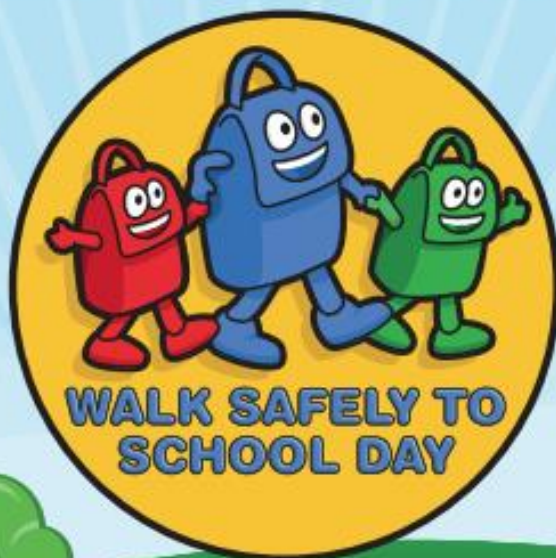
# COME TO OUR **BOOK FAIR** **NOW ON!**

Find us in the  
Grade 5/6 Hub

OPEN 8.30 – 9AM & 3.30 – 4PM

 SCHOLASTIC

# ACTIVE KIDS ARE HEALTHY KIDS



JOIN US  
**FRIDAY 16 MAY 2025**



**Until they're ten, children must always hold  
an adult's hand when crossing the road**



@nationalwalksafelytoschoolday



@natwalktoschool



@natwalktoschool

#WSTSD



National  
Road Safety  
Week 2025  
11-18 May

SUPPORTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND ALL STATE,  
TERRITORY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS  
**WALK.COM.AU**



National  
Road Safety  
Week 2025  
11-18 May



**PARENTS  
BATTLE**  
OF THE BANDS

**YARRA RANGES**

**JUL 31**

**SOOKI LOUNGE**  
**BELGRAVE**

**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](mailto:fcpsparentclub@gmail.com) if you want to join the band or find out more

**7 PM**  
**2025**

# We're coming to town

**Give life. Give blood in Upwey.**

26 to 31 May



**We're popping up at Upwey:**

Upwey Community Hall

1443 Burwood Hwy,  
Upwey 3158

See website for opening hours

Book your donation now



**13 14 95**



**give blood**

# Kindergarten Readiness

## When is the right time to start Kindergarten?

This evidence based session provides invaluable information to support you in knowing when your child is ready to commence kindergarten and help you in making an informed decision.

Presented by Early Life Foundation.

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**Date:** Thursday 22 May 2025

**Time:** 7.30pm - 8.30pm

**Where:** Online

**Book:** [trybooking.com/DARMP](https://trybooking.com/DARMP)

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For information about kindergartens in your area visit [Starting Blocks](#)



For enquiries or support with booking please contact:

**Michelle Lehmann - Yarra Ranges Council Family & Children's Services**

Phone: 0407 319 456 / Email: [m.lehmann@yarraranges.vic.gov.au](mailto:m.lehmann@yarraranges.vic.gov.au)

In partnership with Knox,  
Maroondah, Whitehorse  
and Yarra Ranges Councils





# Kaizen Kai Karate

## **TIGER TOTS**

**3.5 yrs - 4 yrs**

A program designed specifically to enhance physical motor skills and nurture brain development

## **LITTLE NINJAS**

**5 yrs - 7 yrs**

Our goal is to develop skills like teamwork, focus, control and discipline in a fun, safe and happy environment

## **JUNIOR DRAGONS**

**8 yrs - 12 yrs**

Focusing on traditional and practical sides of Karate, our main goal is self defense in a safe and supportive space.



## **NO LIMITS MIXED MARTIAL ARTS**

**!!CONTACT US NOW TO CLAIM YOUR 2 FREE TRIAL CLASSES!!**

0476 183 226 / [brettnolimitsma@gmail.com](mailto:brettnolimitsma@gmail.com) /  
1264 Mountain Hwy, The Basin 3154



AUSTRALIA'S #1 NON-COMPETITIVE SOCCER PROGRAM



## TERM 2, 2025 SOCCER FUN FOR GIRLS & BOYS AGED 2-12!

STARTING FROM 10TH MAY

*Free*

FIRST 15 NEW  
ENROLMENTS RECEIVE  
COMPLIMENTARY SHIRT  
AND SHORTS!

FOR A **FREE** TRIAL P: 0437 037 207

### YOUR PARAGRAPH TEXT

#### MITE (2-3 YRS OLD)

##### 35 MINUTE CLASSES

**\$165 FOR 8 WEEKS**

A GREAT INTRODUCTION TO SOCCER! CHILDREN WORK WITH THEIR PARENTS TO LEARN NEW SOCCER SKILLS AND DEVELOP THEIR MOTOR SKILLS! LOTS OF FUN GAMES IN A NON-COMPETITIVE ENVIRONMENT!



#### PINT SIZE (4-5 YRS OLD)

##### 50 MINUTE CLASSES

**\$170 FOR 8 WEEKS**

CHILDREN TAKE THEIR FIRST KICKS IN SOCCER! THEY'LL BE INTRODUCED TO SHOOTING, DRIBBLING, GOAL KEEPING AND MORE. CHILDREN GET TO PLAY LOTS OF FUN, SKILL BASED GAMES. GRASSHOPPERS GET INTRODUCED TO PINT SIZE 1V1 BIG GAME!



#### INTRO TO MICRO (5-6 YRS OLD) MICRO (6-8 YRS OLD)

##### 60 MINUTE CLASSES

**\$180 FOR 8 WEEKS**

THE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE FOR YOUNG SOCCER PLAYERS! THEY'LL LEARN THE RULES OF THE GRASSHOPPER SOCCER BIG GAME AND DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS IN PASSING, DRIBBLING, SHOOTING AND MORE!



#### MICRO PLUS (8-12 YRS OLD)

##### 60 MINUTE CLASSES

**\$180 FOR 8 WEEKS**

THIS PROGRAM FOCUSES ON SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND TEAMWORK IN PREPARATION FOR CLUB SOCCER. CHILDREN WILL ENJOY ALL THE FAVOURITE SOCCER BASED GAMES, FINE TUNE THEIR SKILLS AS WELL AS PLAY THE GRASSHOPPER SOCCER BIG GAME!



 [jorge@grasshoppersoccer.com.au](mailto:jorge@grasshoppersoccer.com.au)

 0437 037 207

 /grasshoppersoccermelbourneeastern/  [GRASSHOPPERSOCCER.COM.AU/MELBOUNE\\_EASTERN](http://GRASSHOPPERSOCCER.COM.AU/MELBOUNE_EASTERN)



# IMPORTANT DETAILS

## CURRICULUM DAYS

Term 2 student free days are  
14<sup>th</sup> May and 10<sup>th</sup> June.

The last day of Term 2 is  
4<sup>th</sup> 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 your school which includes quality care, booking flexibility, amazing programming for your children and commitment to deliver on our promise to your 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](http://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 | <b>21</b><br>Easter Monday<br>PUBLIC HOLIDAY              | <b>22</b><br><b>First Day of Term 2</b> | <b>23</b><br>Ferny Creek<br>PS Leaders<br><b>Anzac Ceremony</b>  | <b>24</b>                            | <b>25</b><br>ANZAC Day<br>PUBLIC HOLIDAY                                                                                                           |
|       | <b>28</b>                                                 | <b>29</b>                               | <b>30</b>                                                                                                                                         | <b>01</b>                            | <b>02</b> ANZAC<br>Acknowledgement<br>Assembly<br><b>03</b><br>ELECTION DAY BBQ                                                                    |
| May   | <b>05</b><br>Whole School<br>Event – “Being<br>Brave”     | <b>06</b>                               | <b>07</b>                                                                                                                                         | <b>08</b>                            | <b>09</b><br><b>Book Fair</b><br>Mother's Day<br>Afternoon Tea  |
|       | <b>12</b><br>Education Week<br>Book Club<br>orders due in | <b>13</b><br>Last day of<br>Book Fair   | <b>14</b><br><b>Student Free Day</b>                                                                                                              | <b>15</b>                            | <b>16</b><br>Assembly                                          |
|       | <b>19</b>                                                 | <b>20</b>                               | <b>21</b><br>National<br>Simultaneous<br>Story Time                                                                                               | <b>22</b>                            | <b>23</b><br>District Cross<br>Country                                                                                                             |
|       | <b>26</b>                                                 | <b>27</b>                               | <b>28</b>                                                                                                                                         | <b>29</b>                            | <b>30</b>                                                                                                                                          |
| June  | <b>02</b>                                                 | <b>03</b><br>Division Cross<br>Country  | <b>04</b>                                                                                                                                         | <b>05</b><br>School Photos           | <b>06</b>                                                                                                                                          |
|       | <b>09</b><br>Kings Birthday<br>PUBLIC HOLIDAY             | <b>10</b><br><b>Student Free Day</b>    | <b>11</b>                                                                                                                                         | <b>12</b><br>Region Cross<br>Country | <b>13</b>                                                                                                                                          |
|       | <b>16</b>                                                 | <b>17</b>                               | <b>18</b>                                                                                                                                         | <b>19</b>                            | <b>20</b>                                                                                                                                          |
|       | <b>23</b>                                                 | <b>24</b>                               | <b>25</b>                                                                                                                                         | <b>26</b>                            | <b>27</b><br>Working Bee <br>Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> June     |
|       | <b>30</b>                                                 | <b>01</b>                               | <b>02</b>                                                                                                                                         | <b>03</b>                            | <b>04</b><br>Last Day of Term<br>2.30pm Dismissal                                                                                                  |
| July  |                                                           |                                         |                                                                                                                                                   |                                      |                                                                                                                                                    |



**9755 1522**

fernycreekps@education.vic.gov.au