



*"Working Together for a Better Future"*

## School Dates:

No Wednesdays in February for Foundation students.

Year 4 Swimming  
9th - 13th Feb

Friday 13th February  
Curriculum Day  
No School

Meet and Greet!  
Classrooms are open  
Wednesday 18th  
February 4 - 6pm  
SEE YOU THEN!

Year 6 Swimming  
16th - 20th Feb

Year 5 Swimming  
23rd - 27th Feb

Check our website  
for more dates.

Dear Families,

## 2026 - The Year That Clicks!



Welcome to the first newsletter of 2026, and a very warm welcome to all our new families joining the Wallan Primary School community. To our returning families, it is wonderful to have you back, we hope you have enjoyed a refreshing break and are feeling ready for another exciting year of learning.

Our theme for 2026 is "The Year that Clicks." As we enter the final year of our current School Strategic Plan, we have laid strong foundations and built significantly upon them over the past four years. This year represents a pivotal moment in our journey, a time when all the pieces of our work come together, align, and truly "click" into place for the benefit of every student.

As we also prepare for our School Review in Term 4, we look forward with optimism, confidence, and excitement about the growth, opportunities, and achievements that lie ahead. Together, we are committed to ensuring that every child continues to thrive, learn, and succeed at Wallan Primary School.

I look forward to a fantastic year ahead with our students, staff, and families.

## A Positive Start to the Year

We have had a wonderful start to the 2026 school year and are very proud of the way our students have settled back into routines with enthusiasm, effort, and respect. Our high expectations for behaviour and learning remain



PLEASE CHECK  
COMPASS FOR  
MORE  
INFORMATION.



## HAVE YOU SEEN OUR 2026 YEAR 6 TOPS?

*We are very proud of our First Nations connections and having our students wear our school image with pride. The middle circle represents the school. The outer circles represent our school community and the wider community coming together. The stepping stones are connecting us to move forward. This links to our school motto, "Working Together for a Better Future."*

firmly in place, guided by our School-Wide Positive Behaviour approach and our ongoing partnership with Real Schools.

Our school has also been selected as one of the first schools in Victoria to participate in PCMS (Positive Classroom Management Strategies) implementation which will roll out across Victoria. Our teachers have already spent time on day one self assessing their own spaces and practices.

Across the week, students continue to engage in our wellbeing sessions and refer to our student matrix to guide their actions and interactions with others. It has been encouraging to see students striving to do their best, supporting one another, and being mindful of how their choices impact those around them.

Our whole-school assembly at the end of last week was a particular highlight. We were extremely impressed by the respect shown and the way all members of our community demonstrated our school values so clearly and consistently.

Thank you to our students, staff, and families for contributing to such a strong and positive beginning to the year — let's keep this momentum going!

## Playground Safety Reminder

We kindly remind families of the importance of following our playground guidelines before, during and after school. Around the school you will see clear signage indicating which year levels are permitted to use each playground. Our yard duty staff actively support students to follow these signs during school hours, and we ask that families do the same outside of these times.

Please ensure that junior students are not playing on the Year 5/6 playground in the middle of the school. We understand that in the Foundation area there may be occasions when toddlers or kinder-aged children wish to join an older sibling on the playground — while we do not encourage this, we recognise this may occur with close adult supervision. Our playgrounds are intentionally designed for specific age groups. Keeping to these guidelines helps ensure the safety of all students and preserves the excitement of experiencing a new playground when it becomes appropriate for their year level.



Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us keep all children safe.

Kind regards,  
Tanya Kirkright - Principal

## COMMUNICATION AT WPS - How We Support Students and Families

As shared on Compass, we encourage families to raise any concerns about their child with the classroom teacher in the first instance. **Your child's teacher knows them best**, as they work with them closely each day and have a strong understanding of their learning, wellbeing, and social connections within the classroom.

If your child's teacher requires additional support, they will consult with their PLC Team Leader, whose role is to support teachers within each cohort.

PLC Leaders:

Foundation - Erin Cooper  
Year 1 - Blair Lightbody  
Year 2 - Emma Bernadone  
Specialist - Karen Keenan

Year 3 - Nick Oakey  
Year 4 - Olivera Todorovski  
Year 5 - Sheridan Millichip  
Year 6 - Adam McNamara

From there, matters can be escalated to the relevant Executive Team member, with each member of our executive team linked to a specific year level cohort. This allows them to develop a deep understanding of the students within that group, both academically and in terms of wellbeing.

Our Executive Team also leads key portfolios across the school — including literacy, numeracy, school-wide positive behaviour, teacher development, learning walks and peer observations, and priority cohorts — ensuring a coordinated and consistent approach to improvement.

Foundation - Katelyn Shephard (Portfolio: Teacher Development & Priority Cohorts)  
Year 1 - Lauren Lancaster (Portfolio: Marrung- First Nations & Priority Cohorts)  
Year 2 - Paul Kearney (Portfolio: Literacy)  
Year 3: Nick Hull (Portfolio: Numeracy)  
Year 4: Taylah Bryne (Portfolio: Peer Observations, Learning Walks and Development)  
Year 5 & 6: Rhys Gibbs (Portfolio: SWPBS, Real Schools, PCMS)

Our two Assistant Principals, Tracey Nihill and Ben Jewell, work closely with all staff, particularly the Executive Team, to ensure any emerging issues are communicated to the Principal Team so we can respond promptly and appropriately.

We introduced this structure in 2025 and found it to be highly effective in strengthening communication, collaboration, and student support. We look forward to continuing to build and refine this model throughout 2026.

Thank you for partnering with us to support your child's success.



## NEW HOUSE OPPORTUNITY - JOIN PINK HOUSE!



At the end of last year, one of our super Foundation students showed wonderful initiative by requesting a meeting with the Principal to share an idea he felt strongly about. His suggestion was that, as a growing school, we create a fifth house and that it should be Pink House, his favourite colour.

He also proposed that the house emblem be an emu, as none of our existing houses feature a bird, and even researched the First Nations name for emu 'dinawan,' to ensure it aligned respectfully with our other house names. We were delighted to share his idea with the whole school at assembly last week,

celebrating both his leadership and creativity.

This week, any student who would like the opportunity to move into Pink House can write their name and place it in the pink box in the Admin foyer. We will then draw names to form our new house and notify students before our first house dress-up day in the coming weeks.

Students are also very welcome to remain in their current house, we need to keep a balanced number of students across all houses. If your child is interested in changing and you are happy to support this, please encourage them to add their name to the box this week.

We are excited to see Pink House come to life and thank our young student leader for his fantastic contribution to our school community.

## Meet and Greet - Wednesday 18th February

We look forward to welcoming families to our Meet and Greet evening on Wednesday 18 February. All students are encouraged to bring their families along to visit their classroom and learning spaces.

From 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm, classrooms and specialist areas will be open for families to walk through, meet teachers informally, and gain a feel for your child's learning environment. This is a great opportunity to connect with your child's teacher and see where they spend their day.

Please also remember to complete the parent survey available on Compass. This provides your child's classroom teacher with valuable information about your child and supports a positive start to the year.

We hope to see you there and look forward to sharing this evening with our school community.

## Uniform Reminder 2026

Please refer to our website for the uniform policy. You can purchase items from PSW in Craigeburn. You can order online and have items home delivered, click and collect or shop in store. You can also buy items such as the bottle green shorts or tracksuit pants at general shops such as Big W, K-mart, Target etc. Please note that:

- Shorts must be mid-length between the hip and knee. No short bike shorts.
- Only year 6 students can wear black pants/shorts, and these need to be plain black with no logos or white stripes.

## Real Support Right Now

Dear parents and carers,

Cost of living support is available at all Victorian public schools. This term, you will see posters and signage at our school about Real Support Right Now.

At our school, ask us about Victorian government funded:

- School Breakfast Clubs
- Free period products
- More affordable uniforms
- Glasses for Kids
- Smile Squad
- Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

If required, program information is available at [Real Support Right Now](https://www.vic.gov.au/real-support-right-now) | vic.gov.au

Help is available. To learn about Real Support Right Now, contact Michelle Preston in the office.

## Anything But a School Backpack Day – Tuesday 17 February

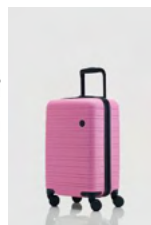
Thanks to our Upper School Student Voice, we are excited to announce a fun and creative event for Term 1 — Anything But a School Backpack Day! Two of our senior students worked with their parents to propose this idea, and we loved their initiative and enthusiasm.

On Tuesday 17 February, students are invited (optional) to bring the contents of their school bag in anything but a bag! This is a light-hearted way to celebrate creativity, connection, and student voice at Wallan PS.

Students have already shared some great ideas, such as bringing their items in a Christmas stocking, a bucket, or a hat. Other ideas might include: a laundry basket, toolbox, storage tub, picnic basket, milk crate, cooler (esky), saucepan, toy truck, bike basket, or a suit case.

Please ensure that whatever your child chooses is safe, clean, easy for them to carry, and appropriate for school. Students must still be able to transport their belongings independently throughout the day.

We look forward to seeing the creative (and sometimes very funny!) ideas our students come up with — and thank you for supporting this student-led initiative.



## Cross Country - Dress in House Colours

On Friday 6 March 2026, Wallan Primary School will be holding our Whole School Cross Country. All students will take part. Foundation to Year 2 students will run a modified course around the school oval, while Years 3 to 6 will run a longer course that includes the oval and surrounding streets. The course will be fully supervised. Years 3 to 6 students will also have the opportunity to be selected for the School Cross Country team.

Students will earn House points for participating. Please ensure students wear a SunSmart hat, bring a water bottle and may wear House colours (no singlets). We require parent helpers as course marshals from 8:45 am to 1:00 pm. A valid Working With Children Check is required. If you are able to assist, please contact the school.

Thank you for your ongoing support 😊 Kind Regards, PE Team

## A new year of learning

It's normal for students to experience a mix of excitement and nerves. New classrooms, teachers and routines can feel different for every child, and families play an important role in supporting this transition.

There are many simple ways you can help your child feel confident and prepared, whether they are transitioning from kindergarten to primary school, moving between year levels or schools, or starting secondary school. A helpful guide for families is linked below, with practical suggestions to support children through these changes.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back and starting another positive year together.

Information and resources for parents and carers to help their children unlock their potential for a new year of learning in 2026.

<https://www.vic.gov.au/new-year-learning>



## COMMUNITY INFORMATION/ REMINDERS:



The Teddy Bear Hospital hopes to provide children with a positive healthcare experience in a fun and interactive way. There will be several fun activities and an 'Operating Theatre' where children are invited to bring along a loved toy that may need some TLC in our sewing room. The Teddy Bear Hospital Entry is \$5, with proceeds going towards the NH Foundation.

