



## School Dates:

Wednesdays in February  
No School for  
Foundation Students

Tuesday 13th February  
Year 2 Incursion

Tuesday 13th February  
Year 5/6 Swimming starts

Wednesday 21st February  
Meet & Greet 4:00-6:00 pm

Wednesday 21st February  
Yr 4 Incursion

Friday 23rd February  
Inter School Sports Starts  
AWAY @ Gilgai Plains PS

Thursday 29th February  
Foundation incursion

Friday 1st March  
Whole School Cross Country  
Wear your house colours

## A Message from the Principal

Dear Families,

I hope you had a wonderful holiday with your family and friends over the December and January break. I am very excited to be back in 2024 as we have lots happening!

Building works:

- All ramps are now complete.
- The Foundation area entrance was completed over the holidays
- Our new 2-storey classrooms were finished on the holidays.
- New line marking was completed on the holidays.
- Fences went up for our water tanks and new 'bush' program space today.
- The new GAGA pit was constructed today and students will use this next week.
- Cubby houses are going up next week.
- The progress on our new gym is starting back up very soon.
- Our current gym is ongoing renovation due to recent flooding.
- We are building a kitchen for our Food program
- We are getting a new entrance to our administration building
- A new playground is still in the planning stages

Our Foundation students have settled in well over the past two weeks and have begun to understand the routines of the classroom. I see many smiling faces as I pop in each day.

### Welcome to our Newbies!

A warm welcome to all the new students joining our school community! We are thrilled to have you with us as you embark on this journey of learning and growth.

Wednesday 6th March  
The Brain Man  
Year 3-6 Incursion

13th & 14th March  
Cyber Safe Incursion F-6

Monday 11th March  
- No School - Public  
Holiday

28th March  
Last day of Term.

Check our website for  
more dates.



Whether you're starting a new grade, transitioning from another school, or stepping into the classroom for the first time, know that you are an integral part of our school family. Remember, each of you brings something special and unique to our vibrant community, and we can't wait to see all that you will achieve during your time with us. Welcome aboard, and here's to a fantastic year filled with friendship, discovery, and success!

Welcoming new staff members to our school team brings a fresh wave of energy, ideas, and expertise that energises our collective mission. Each new addition contributes unique perspectives and skills that enrich our school community and enhance our ability to meet the diverse needs of our students. Together, we look forward to the positive impact our new team members will bring to our school's journey of excellence.

New staff:

Aaron Kacarik, Sarah Papadopolous, Rachel Zundovskis, Rachael Noble, Jennifer Exton-Cash, Shanae Chambers Keira Gibson, Maddi Morgan, Olivera Todorovski, Sean Sherlock, Lily Yang, Michelle Wood, Helena Targett and Lachlan Mozina.

### Welcome to Real Schools!

New in 2024 we have partnered with 'Real Schools.' What does that mean? Real Schools works hand-in-hand with our school across three years to implement Restorative Practices as the underpinning methodology of our School Culture.

On day 1 2024, our whole staff attended a full day of professional learning to set us up for our journey. Our focus is ...

**'2024 the year to focus on language and restore.'**

We need your partnership in this focus. Our students, your children are listening each day to their teachers and parents as role models and we need to model positive language and values. In each newsletter, I aim to pose a challenge to you. This week, how many times can you use the word 'respect' with your child? "I like the way you respected... when you..." "Thank you for the respect you just demonstrated." "How did you show someone respect at school today?"

Thank you for taking on this challenge.

### Supervision before and after school

Please remember the school grounds do not have supervision until 8:30 am each day, this is minimal supervision and the gates are still open. We close the gates

**REMINDER:**

Bikes and scooters need to be walked in the school grounds. You can ride them outside the gates. Don't forget your helmet to protect your brain!



All Year 1-6 Students received a Meet and Greet sheet this week. Please complete it and return it to your teacher.

DO YOU WANT TO BE A PARENT HELPER?  
See Compass for more details.

at 8:45 am. Any children onsite before 8:30 am must be supervised by an adult.

It is also important to remember that the same school rules apply before and after school as during the day. This means that our playgrounds and play areas have set limits.

- The Foundation area and Junior Playground are for Foundation students only
- The Middle Playground near the basketball court is for Year 1-3 students only.
- The Upper Playground near Dudley St is for Year 5 and 6 students only. This playground is a lot higher and is not designed for younger students or toddlers.

**Dogs at school or near school.**

It's crucial to emphasize the importance of keeping dogs off school grounds or away from gates. Schools are environments where safety and order are paramount, and the presence of dogs in these areas can pose various risks. Firstly, some individuals, particularly young children, may have allergies or fears related to dogs, which could lead to discomfort or even panic if they encounter them unexpectedly. Dogs can exhibit unpredictable behaviour that may result in accidents or injuries to students, staff, or the dogs themselves. Additionally, allowing dogs near school gates can create distractions, potentially impeding traffic flow or causing disturbances during drop-off and pick-up times. We do love our four-legged friends but we need to maintain a safe and conducive learning environment for everyone involved. Thank you for your support.

**The Role of the School Council**

In essence, the role is one of setting the long-term future for the school and maintaining oversight of the school's operation. It is not about running the school, employing staff or assigning children to classes – that is the job of the principal.

**Why join the School Council?**

★ Being on the School Council is a great way to get involved and have a real say in what your school is doing.

★ Being on the School Council is a very good way to help present and future students of the school. One of the roles of the School Council is to help set the future direction for the school.

★ Many School Councilors have also found that their children have a greater sense of belonging within the school.

Please see the compass post for nominations.

Kind regards,  
Tanya Kirkright - Principal



The school is open on Wednesday 21st March 4:00 - 6:00 pm providing the opportunity for parents and families to visit the classroom and see their teacher. Just pop in for 10 - 15 minutes and have a look around.

Meet our specialist teachers at the BBQ and purchase a sausage to support our school.  
See you there!

### COVID SAFE PRACTICE

We have had some cases of Covid reported. We encourage you to test your children if they are showing symptoms. If they test positive we recommend they stay home for the first 5 days. We continue to have hand sanitiser available and maintain classroom ventilation.

### Important Mobile Phone Reminder

A reminder that the Department of Education has in place a mobile phone ban that requires students who bring mobile phones to school to have them switched off and securely put away during school hours.

The department is requiring all schools to ensure this ban is in place and enforced from the start of the 2024 school year.

The ban applies equally to all government schools right across the state.

This helps ensure that school is a learning environment free from unnecessary distractions and disruptions.

By ensuring mobile phones are kept away at recess and lunch times, students can interact with each other face-to-face, without the distractions and social pressures that mobile phones can cause.

I ask for the support of all our families, staff and students in continuing to support the implementation of this policy in our school.

Further information

Exceptions: For a small number of students with particular health needs, an exception to the policy may be granted. Please contact me, Tanya Kirkright, Principal if you would like to discuss this.

Emergencies: In the event of an emergency or if you need to immediately contact your child, I ask that families contact the school office who will pass on a message as required.

School mobile phone policy: A copy of our school's local mobile phone policy, which implements the government's mobile policy in line with our local context, is available



here: [school policies](#).

Parent support: The [Mobile Phones in Schools webpage](#) provides links to resources for families to help them balance their children's time using mobile phones.

If you have further questions, please contact the administration office.

### Year 6 2024

Just a reminder to our 2024 Year 6 students, please log on to Compass and order your hoodie or t-shirt now. Orders will close on Friday 16th February.

### SCHOOL HATS:

As part of our Sunsmart Policy, all students must wear a school hat up until April and again at the end of the year. If a student does not have a hat at school they will need to stay in the allocated uncovered areas at recess and lunchtime. If you need to purchase a school hat please go to [www.psw.com.au](http://www.psw.com.au)

### CSEF - Camps, Sports and Excursion

The Victorian Government has committed to continue the initiative to ensure students can take part in school camps, sporting and excursions events. The Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) provides \$125 per year for eligible students. Payments go directly to the school and will be tied to the student. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card will be eligible. Full details and an application form are available at the office for families to complete. You must bring your concession card for us to take a copy of as well. If your child is new to our school, you will need to apply at our school this year. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 21st February. Funds will be available in Term 2 for successful applicants.

### Daily Structure:

This year we continue our 60-minute session timetable structure.

- Each morning the gates open at 8.30 am.
- Staff are on Yard Duty from 8.30 am until the bells ring at 8.45 am.
- Gates are locked on the bells at 8.45 am.

SESSION 1 -	8:45 - 9:45 am
SESSION 2 -	9:45 - 10:45 am
Recess	10:45 - 11:15 am
SESSION 3 -	11:15 - 12:15 pm
SESSION 4 -	12:15 - 1:15 pm
Eating time	1:15 - 1:25 pm
Lunch Play	1:25 - 2:15 pm
SESSION 5 -	2:15 - 3:15 pm

- Each afternoon the gates open at 3.00 pm and close at 3.30 pm. Staff are on Yard Duty from 3.15 to 3.30 pm.
- We call a Wet Day Timetable when it is raining during timetabled yard times, sometimes they are called during the break if it starts raining.
- During a Wet Day Timetable, students are supervised in their classrooms for quiet play and indoor games.
- The school office is open from 8.00 am to 4.00 pm daily.
- The canteen is open for lunch orders every day of the week

### Conveyance Allowance

Conveyance Allowance is an allowance provided by the Department for children's transport to school. To be eligible to receive this allowance, a student must;

- Live more than 4.8 km by the shortest practicable route from the nearest school attended
- Be enrolled at the nearest government primary or secondary school, or the nearest appropriate registered non-government school.

Please call the office to collect the appropriate paperwork.

Applications close on Friday 8th March 2024.

Victorian Student pass - The Victorian Student Pass provides travel for students on all metropolitan trPass, trams and buses, all regional bus services and all V/Line train and coach services operating wholly within Victoria. The Victorian Student Pass is issued on a Myki. Students 16 years and under, who do not wish to purchase a Student Pass are not required to obtain a VPT Student Concession card but can still get a child myki for concession travel by visiting a metropolitan premium train station, a myki-enabled staffed V/Line station, a myki retailer, visiting [www.ptv.vic.gov.au](http://www.ptv.vic.gov.au), or calling 1800 800 007.

### Bus Travel

Seymour Coaches require students wishing to access bus travel from WPS to WSC to be in possession of either a Conveyance Pass or a MYKI Card to board the transfer bus. If students do not have either card they will not be able to board the bus and will be refused travel. When students arrive at WSC they will be required to show their Conveyance Pass or tap on using their MYKI Card to board their respective bus home. Drivers will be checking Conveyance passes and MYKI Cards.



## LOCAL ADVERTISEMENTS

Please note these are not endorsed by the school.

**Seymour's Annual**



**SHOW & SHINE**

**Labour Day, 11 March 2024**

**King's Park, Seymour**

**8am Start (Stall Holders 6am)**

Display Cars : \$10/car incl. all occupants  
Spectators : Gold Coin Entry

\*ALL MAKES OF CARS  
\*SWAP MEET \*MARKET  
\*KIDS' ENTERTAINMENT

For all enquiries contact:  
[secretary@seymouranddistrictcarclub.com.au](mailto:secretary@seymouranddistrictcarclub.com.au)  
or Judy on 0407 562 003

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