Beechworth Primary School

Be ...

Respectful, **S**afe, **P**ersistent, **C**aring ... **A**lways!

Friday 30th January
2026 Term 1, Week 1

Beechworth Primary School is committed to the implementation of Child Safe Standards to promote the safety and wellbeing of all young people.

Principal's News

Welcome back to Beechworth Primary School for 2026. We hope everyone enjoyed a well-earned break over the Christmas and New Year period, with plenty of time to relax, recharge, and enjoy time with family and friends.

We have certainly had a very hot start to the school year, with temperatures soaring above 40 degrees. Despite the challenging conditions, we are incredibly proud of our students' resilience and eagerness to engage in their learning.

It has been a terrific start to the year at Beechworth Primary School, with teachers and students quickly settling back into classroom routines. We are also delighted to welcome our new Foundation students, along with several new students across the school. We hope they quickly feel part of our community and come to love BPS as much as we do.

Principal Role at BPS

This year, our school leadership will look a little different — and we are very excited about the opportunity it brings! I (Sue) will be working four days a week (Tuesday–Friday), and while I'm away, Ngaire King has been appointed as our Acting Principal.

This has been made possible through a new Department of Education and Training (DET) VIC Principal Flexible Work Initiative to support work–life balance for current principals and to nurture aspiring school leaders through tailored professional development. As part of this initiative, we receive additional funding to release Ngaire from her usual duties each week for transition and training. This means that we will have our wonderful Ngaire working fulltime this year.

We truly believe this is a wonderful opportunity for Beechworth Primary School. Ngaire and I are delighted to be leading the school together, and we look forward to supporting our students, families, and staff throughout the year.

Prep Bags

Thursday, each of our Foundation students received a Prep bag to celebrate this milestone in their education journey. As you can see, they are all pretty excited to see what is in the bag!

Each Foundation student starting at a Victorian government school in 2026 receives a Prep bag. The bags are full of engaging learning items and information for parents and carers to help families have a great start to the year. This year's theme, 'Reach for the stars', encourages our Preps to dream big, believe in themselves, and aim high in everything they do.

P.S. Parents, these bags will make perfect Library Bags!

New & Returning Teaching Staff

We are excited to welcome several new teachers to our team and look forward to the energy, experience, and enthusiasm they will bring.

Alison Meyland – 3/4 Classroom teacher

We welcome Alison Meyland to our school this year as a teacher in the Year 3 & 4 area. Alison will be working Monday through to Thursday, with Stephanie Mason teaching the class on Fridays, commencing in Week 2. Alison has worked at Baranduda Primary School and has extensive teaching experience across all grade levels. She has taught in a variety of locations within Victoria and the Northern Territory.

Stephanie Mason – 3/4 Classroom teacher

We are pleased to welcome Stephanie Mason who will be joining our Grade 3/4 team on Fridays. Stephanie and Alison will be team teaching.
Stephanie brings valuable experience and a positive, supportive approach to the classroom. She will be working closely with the Grade 3/4 students and staff, supporting learning and wellbeing throughout the day.
We are very excited to have Stephanie join our team and know she will be a great addition to our school community.

Sian Crowe – 1/2 Classroom teacher

Sian has joined the Year 1 & 2 team and will be teaching the 1/2C class from Monday to Wednesday. She is an experienced classroom teacher who has worked across a range of schools in regional Victoria, Melbourne, and the United Kingdom. Sian brings a wealth of experience from both classroom and specialist teaching roles, along with strong pedagogical skills and knowledge gained through the completion of her Master of Teaching degree.

Bianca Winslade – 1/2 Classroom teacher

Bianca has joined the Year 1 & 2 classroom team, teaching in 12G on a Monday and 12C on a Thursday and Friday. Bianca brings a broad range of teaching experience across different schools and curriculum areas, having worked with students from Prep to Year 12. She enjoys supporting learners of all abilities and creating engaging, well-structured lessons that help students reach their full potential.

Bianca and her family are returning to the North East area following several years living in the central Victoria area and is looking forward to becoming an active part of the school community and working closely with students, staff, and families.

Kayla Collier – Foundation teacher

It is wonderful to have Kayla back on our teaching team this year, even if it is just one day per week. Kayla will be teaching on Fridays in the Foundation AF classroom alongside Airley Forrest. She has worked as a classroom teacher at BPS on and off over the past nine years, taking time away for family leave.
Kayla brings with her extensive knowledge of the pre-school setting, having worked part time in this area over the past two years. We are pleased to welcome her experience and expertise back to our school community.

Specialist Timetable

Our specialist program kicked off this week and students are already enjoying the variety of learning on offer. This year, our specialist subjects include Art with Ms Kylie Love, STEM with Ms Jane Nicholas, Physical Education with Mr Scott Forrest, and LOTE – French with Ms Emilia Gladstone. Each specialist session runs for one hour and provides students with engaging, hands-on learning experiences.
Classroom teachers will share individual specialist timetables with families.

SunSmart – Slip, Slop, Slap!

We actively support our students to stay safe in the sun. During Term 1, all students are encouraged to wear their BPS full-brimmed hat whenever they are outdoors at recess, lunch or during PE. If a student doesn't have a hat, they will be asked to enjoy their break in a shaded area, ensuring they stay protected from the sun.

To help keep skin protected, students are encouraged to apply sunscreen before school and bring sunscreen to reapply during the day. A reminder is announced over the PA for students to reapply sunscreen. Please note the school does not provide sunscreen for daily use. Students are also welcome to wear sunglasses if they wish. Thank you for supporting our SunSmart approach!

Stationary Packs

Thank you to our families who have purchased and collected their stationery pack and have sent it along to school with your child/ren. We understand that some items are on back order.

Upcoming Events

BPS Student Leadership

SRC & House Captains Speeches

In the coming week, our senior students will have the opportunity to present their speeches for the roles of SRC and House Captains.

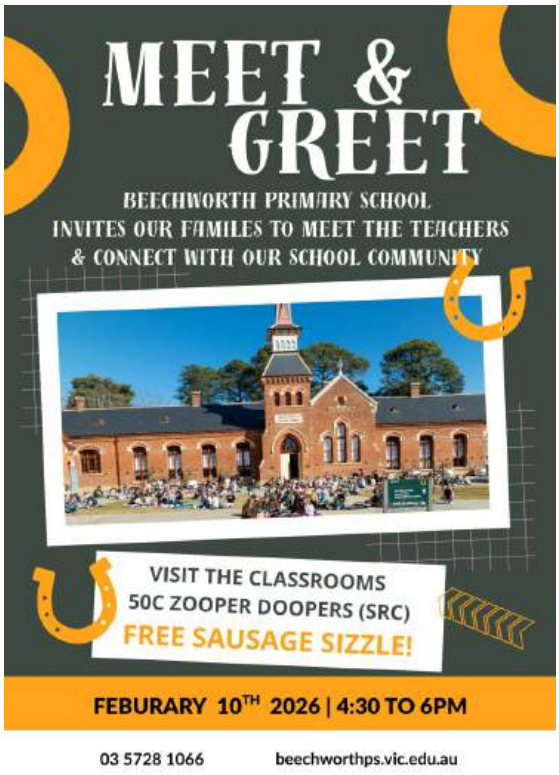
- **SRC** Speeches (Year 3 -6) will take place on Monday in their individual classes,
- **House Captain** Speeches (Year 5 & 6) will be held on Wednesday at 'House' meetings

These speeches will provide our students with the chance to share their ideas and vision for the year ahead. We're excited to see the passion and leadership our senior students bring to these roles and look forward to seeing who will be selected to represent their peers.

Leadership School Assembly- Badge Presentations

This year we will be holding our Leadership Assembly on Monday 9th February, commencing just after 9.00am. This will be our official Student School Leaders badge presentation assembly. Parents are invited to attend the assembly to see their child presented with their badge. Our whole school assemblies are usually held each Monday morning at 9.05 am in the BER building (the new building).

Tuesday 9 Feb – Annual Meet and Greet



Tuesday 17 Feb - Foundation Education Information Night

Our Foundation Education Information Night will be held Tuesday 17 February, commencing at 3.40pm. Families of our Foundation students are invited (encouraged) to come along and hear about the teaching and learning in your child's first year of schooling at Beechworth Primary School. Julie and Airley will talk about how you can support your child's learning. We will also be sharing information about our phonics program used to support reading, spelling and writing. All families receive a Foundation Resource Pack.

Thursday 19 February -District Swimming Carnival - Beechworth Pool

We have 24 students representing the school in the District Swimming Carnival. Parents of students who have made it to this level should have received a permission note today. Students will be walking down to the pool with Ms Kable. Mr Forrest, Samantha and Chez will also be at the pool supporting the event.

School Attendance

Your child's regular attendance at school plays a vital role in their success as a learner. Consistent attendance ensures that students can fully engage in their lessons and build upon their learning each day. We ask that you treat school as a priority and aim for your child to attend every day, except in cases of illness or emergency.

Notifying the School of Absences

If your child will be absent, please inform the school as soon as possible. You can notify us in one of the following ways:

- **Using the Compass App** (if you need help setting up or accessing the app, please contact the office)
- **Calling the BPS Office** on 5728 1066 and leaving a message on the absence line

We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain accurate attendance records.

The Importance of Punctuality: A Strong Start to the Day

The beginning of the school day is crucial for setting students up for success. It starts with roll marking, followed by a review of the day's timetable, and then diving straight into literacy learning. This early part of the day helps students focus and prepare for the tasks ahead.

When students arrive late, they miss this critical start to instruction, which can make it difficult to catch up and fully engage in the day's learning. For this reason, we kindly ask that students arrive on time to ensure they don't miss out on important learning moments right from the get-go.

Late Arrivals: arrival at school after 9.05am

School rolls are marked twice daily – once at 9:00am and again after lunch. If your child arrives later than 9:05am, they will need to go to the office to sign in as late. At the office, they will receive a **yellow smiley card**, which they must give to their teacher to confirm they've signed in. This ensures that late arrivals are accurately recorded on Compass; otherwise, they may be marked as absent, and you will receive an absence notification.

End of the Day and Student Supervision Reminder

A reminder to families that the school day ends at **3:25pm**.

From **3:25pm to 3:35pm**, staff will be on duty in the yard to supervise student departure:

- Staff will be positioned at the **front of the school** to farewell students.
- One staff member will be supervising at the **bike shed area** (rear of the school).

A designated staff member will be on **bus duty**, supervising students who travel home by bus until they are collected.

Please note: Once a student has been collected by a **parent or carer**, **that adult assumes responsibility for supervising the child**, even if they remain on school grounds.

Staff supervision **officially ends at 3:35pm**. Any student who has not been collected by this time will be taken to the school office, and the following steps will be taken:

- Attempts will be made to contact parents/carers.
- If unsuccessful, staff will try to reach listed emergency contacts.
- If the student has **not been collected by 4:00pm**, they will be placed in the **TheirCare (OSHC) program**.

If **no contact** can be made and the student remains **uncollected by 5:30pm**, the **Principal** will contact **Victoria Police** and/or the **Department of Health and Human Services (Child Protection)** to ensure the student's safety and wellbeing.

We appreciate your support in ensuring all students are collected on time and cared for safely after school hours.

Kind Regards,
Sue McDonald -Principal
Ngaire King – Acting Principal (Monday)

Email:
Susan.mcdonald2@education.vic.gov.au
Ngaire.king@education.vic.gov.au

Week	Date, Time	Event/ Activity
Term 1		
Week 2	Wed 4 Feb	No school for Foundation Students
Week 3	Mon 9 Feb Tues 10 Feb	Leadership Presentation Assembly Whole School Meet and Greet night (4.30-6.00pm)
Week 4	Tues 17 Feb Wed 18 Feb Thurs 19 Feb	Foundation Learning Information Session (3.40-5.00pm) School Council (5.30-7.30pm) District Swimming Carnival
Week 5		Currently no planned events
Week 6		Currently no planned events
Week 7	Mon 9 Mar Wed 11 Mar Wed 11 – Fri 13 Mar Fri 13 Mar	Labour Day Public Holiday Foundation students commence Wednesday attendance NAPLAN for year 3 and 5 students School Photo Day
Week 8	Wed 18 Mar Fri 20 Mar	School Council – AGM Harmony Day
Week 9	Wed – Fri	Year 5 and 6 Ballarat Camp
Week 10	Wed 1 Apr Thurs 2 Apr	BPS Athletics Carnival Easter Hat Parade & Last day for Term 1 (2.30pm finish)

Beechworth Primary School Office Hours are:

Monday – Friday 8.30 – 4.00

Samantha: Mon – Fri,

Kirsty: Tues & Wed,

TheirCare (Before & After School care at BPS)

Beechworth PS Service and Bookings: Ph: 0447 717 055