

# Tarwin Lower Primary

## Mini Newsletter

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Tarwin Lower Primary School

Small School, Big Opportunities

2nd February 2022

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2022 school year.

There will be a full newsletter next week. This is a (not so!) mini newsletter to advise you of some important information.

Included in this mini news:

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## Rapid Antigen Tests

As you already know, DET has supplied our school with 5 Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) for each student and staff member. We are all required to test twice weekly (suggested - Monday and Thursday mornings) and to report and isolate if positive.

For more information on rapid antigen tests, including how to perform a test on your child and what to do if you record a positive result, visit [Rapid antigen testing in schools - information for parents and carers](#).

Further information: How to give your child a RAT – and what to do if they are positive

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-02-01/how-to-give-your-kid-a-rat-and-what-to-do-if-they-test-positive/100792282>

# Victoria's Back-to-School Plan

## What's new:



### Free rapid antigen testing

- more than 14 million rapid antigen tests to be delivered to schools and early childhood education and care settings
- twice-weekly voluntary testing at home
  - o primary school students and staff
  - o secondary school students and staff
- five-times-weekly voluntary testing at home
  - o specialist school students and staff



### Enhanced support to keep schools open and safe

- extra staff ready to step in where essential school staff are unable to work
- updated procedures and notifications to families when there are COVID-19 cases
- extra planning and support for school leadership



### Keeping schools open and as safe as possible

- remote learning only considered as a localised, short-term, last-resort option

## Continued COVIDSafe measures: the 3Vs



### Vaccination

- staff required to be vaccinated or medically exempt
- more than 90% of children age 12 and over are now vaccinated
- roll-out of vaccinations for children aged 5 to 11 through state vaccination hubs, pop-up school vaccination sites and in-reach grants



### Ventilation

- delivery of 51,000 air purifiers to schools before day one of Term 1



### Vital COVIDSafe steps

- physical distancing
- face masks
- regular hand hygiene
- testing

<b>Term 1 – important dates</b>	
Wed 2 Feb	Prep rest day
7-25 Feb	Welcome to our Pre-Service Teacher, Lauren Sexton in 4/5/6
Wed 9 Feb	Prep rest day
Tues 15 Feb	School Photos
Wed 16 Feb	Virtual District Swimming
Wed 16 Feb	Prep rest day
Tues 22 Feb	School Council Meeting @6pm
23 Feb- 2 March	School Council Elections
Wed 23 Feb	Prep rest day and prep individual testing
Wed 23 Feb	Swimming Lessons for years 1-6 @SPLASH
Mon 28 Feb	School Review
Tues 1 March	Family / Teacher Conferences – 3:40pm-6:00pm
Wed 2 March	Prep rest day and prep individual testing
Wed 2 March	Swimming Lessons for years 1-6 @SPLASH
Fri 4 March	Clean Up Australia Day
Wed 9 March	Prep rest day
Wed 9 March	Swimming Lessons for years 1-6 @SPLASH
Thurs 10 March	School Review
Mon 14 March	Labour Day Holiday
Wed 16 March	Preps first Wednesday
Wed 16 March	Swimming Lessons for years 1-6 @SPLASH
Tues 22 March	Venus Bay Bug Blitz and Mangrove excursion
Wed 23 March	Swimming Lessons for years 1-6 @SPLASH
Fri 1 April	Waratah Athletics for years 3-6 @Foster
Thur 7 April	District Athletics @Foster
Fri 8 April	Last day of school – finish 2.20pm
School Holidays 9-26 <sup>th</sup> April	
Mon 25 April	ANZAC Day – no school
Tues 26 April	Curriculum Day – no school
Wed 27 April	First day of Term 2

## **Student Enrolment Information Form**

Today we are sending home a 'Student Enrolment Information Form' with each of our students. Every year we need to ensure that all the information the school has on file is up to date and relevant. This information is also required for our student census at the end of the month and directly affects our funding. Please read through all the information and make changes if necessary. Please also ensure that we have your up to date employment details, phone numbers, emergency contacts etc. If you haven't been employed in the past year, please note that on the sheet. Please also ensure that any health or medical issues relating to your child are listed. If not, please write it down somewhere on the sheet so we can update our records.

These forms must be returned, even if there are no changes to the details. Please sign the form on the front to confirm that all information is correct and up to date.

**Please send these forms back to school by Friday 11th February.**

## **Annual privacy reminder for 2022**

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#).

Please take time to remind yourself of our school's collection notice, found on our website [INSERT LINK to your school's collection notice].

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents](#). This information is also available in nine community languages:

- ◇ Amharic
- ◇ Arabic
- ◇ Dari
- ◇ Gujarati
- ◇ Mandarin
- ◇ Somali
- ◇ Sudanese
- ◇ Turkish
- ◇ Urdu

## **Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund**

Applications for the Camps Sports & Excursions Fund are available at the office. If you have already received funding at Tarwin Lower PS for this fund, you do not need to re-apply. Your application will be rolled over.

Applicants for CSEF need to have a current, valid Centrelink Card.

CSEF funding is \$125.00 per year paid into your school account for use only with Camps Sport or Excursion costs. If you change schools within Victoria, your unused CSEF will be transferred to your new school.

Please see Lindy in the office for more information or to make an application.

## **Book Club**

Issue 1 of Book Club has just arrived at school. We will send it home with your children today (if possible!) or tomorrow. You can send your order with cash to school or order online using LOOP. Details are on the back of the catalogue. Orders are due by Friday 11th February.



# Newsletter article: Schools on the Bushfire At-Risk Register and Schools at Risk of Grassfire (Category 4)

## School procedures for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children's services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and those at risk of grassfire (Category 4) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. **Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire or grassfire risk.**

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter and Compass. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

**Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast.** This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days
- School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.

All bus routes that travel through the Code Red area will be cancelled.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan. We have had trees removed around the office, which is our Shelter in Place, and all gutters have been cleared over the holidays.

### **What can parents do?**

- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, checking Compass and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.

Most importantly at this time of year, if you're planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.

If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can access more information about children's services closures on the Department of Education and Training website – see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

Multiple sources that offer information on emergencies are listed below:

- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters



## Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy

Our school community has demonstrated incredible solidarity and resilience throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Being back in our classrooms with extra health and safety measures is another big transition, but it's the very best one for our children's education. As we navigate these changes to onsite learning, including required mask wearing for some students, it's more important than ever that adults in our school community treat each other with respect and kindness.

The Department of Education and Training has released a [new policy](#) that describes the positive behaviour expected from parents, carers, and other adults in Victorian school communities. The policy sets clear standards of behaviour to create a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment for students, staff, and adults.

There are also other resources to support safe and respectful relationships in our school community, including information about getting involved in the school, advice on how to raise a concern or complaint, and parenting support resources. You can find the new policy and these resources [here](#).

**Respectful school communities start with respectful behaviour**

Parents, carers, staff and students can help keep our school community safe, supportive and respectful.

Good relationships are based on:

-  **Open and honest communication**
-  **Trust and respect**
-  **Working together**
-  **Fair and reasonable expectations by all**

These behaviours are **not** okay in our school community:

- ⊗ **Threats**
- ⊗ **Violence**
- ⊗ **Rudeness**
- ⊗ **Harassment**
- ⊗ **Discriminatory and derogatory comments**
- ⊗ **Aggression**
- ⊗ **Intimidation**
- ⊗ **Threatening gestures**

This includes in-person, over-the-phone, email, text message, social media and online.

For more information ask your school about the **Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy**.

  Education and Training

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## 5-11 Year Old Vaccination Appointments

Bookings for children aged 5-11 years old to receive the paediatric Pfizer vaccine are now open.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) have approved the Pfizer vaccine as safe and effective and recommended its use for children aged 5-11 years.

Getting your child vaccinated will help:

- protect your child from getting sick from COVID-19
- reduce the spread of COVID-19, and
- keep schools and early childhood education and care settings open, so kids can have more face-to-face learning and playtime with their friends.

You can book at your local GP or pharmacy: <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/booking>

You can also book at a family-friendly vaccination centre by calling the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398.

Vaccination centre bookings can also be made online for children using a unique email address that has not been used before in the online booking system. For example, a new or alternative email address used by the child or their parent/guardian. Visit <https://portal.cvms.vic.gov.au/>

Accessible options and supports are planned for children who may have mild anxiety about vaccination or minor behavioural issues, as well as children with developmental disabilities, autism and/or sensory issues. There will also be services available for children with more severe needle phobias.

Appointments are also available at Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisations

🔗 Find out more about vaccination for kids: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-children-and-teenagers>



## Raising Resilient Children

### Online Parenting Course: February 2022

Hi Everyone,

Are you looking for an online parenting course where you can learn about *'raising children'* instead of *'managing children'*?

Raising resilient children is no easy task. Most children don't like to be pushed out of their comfort zones and a lot of parents juggle with balancing discipline and acceptance.

Due to popularity, our 'Raising Resilient Children' is now available again, starting Monday 7th February 2022.

- Do you want to develop a stronger and more rounded child?
- Are you concerned about the adult your child will become?
- Do you want your child to contribute to the world in a positive way?

This is a 4 week online course where you can work at your own pace and also with feedback from a trainer from The Resilience Centre. The cost of the course is \$200+GST.

Enquiries/Registrations:

[belinda@theresiliencecentre.com.au](mailto:belinda@theresiliencecentre.com.au)

0412 034 846

**Enquiries & Registration**

## Support for families experiencing family violence

External services and resources available any time of the year for all staff, students and families, including:

[Safe Steps, 1800 015 188](#) – Victoria’s 24-hour statewide family violence support service

[1800 RESPECT, 1800 737 732](#) – provides 24-hour sexual assault and family violence information, counselling and support  
[Orange Door](#) supports families experiencing or have experienced family violence and families who need extra support with the care of children

[Kids Helpline, 1800 551 800](#) – provides 24-hour counselling for young people aged 5 to 25 years

[What’s ok at home?](#), a website for children and young people aged 10 to 17 years old

[headspace Counselling](#) offers Victorian Government secondary school students counselling services. During the holidays, students can self-refer by calling their local headspace centre

Djirra, [1800 105 303](#) – provides telephone and face-to-face legal, emotional and cultural support for Aboriginal peoples experiencing or who have experienced family violence. Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

[InTouch Multicultural Centre against Family Violence](#) 1800 755 988 - for specialist family violence support for migrant and refugee women, Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm

[Rainbow Door, 1800 729 367](#) – a free service for LGBTIQ+ people and allies. Text, phone and email support daily, 10am to 5pm

[No to Violence, 1300 766 491](#) – works with men, to end family violence

[WIRE \(Women’s Information and Referral Exchange\), 1300 134 130](#) – provides free support, referrals and information on any issue for all Victorian women, nonbinary and gender diverse people. Support is available by phone, webchat and email, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.



### Myth



Family violence only happens in poor, uneducated or minority families.

### Fact



Family violence occurs among all types of families, regardless of income, profession, region, ethnicity, educational level or race.



## Bringing Up Great Kids

The Bringing Up Great Kids' program supports parents and carers to:

- learn more about the origins of their own parenting style and how it can be more effective;
- identify the important messages they want to convey to their children and how to achieve this;
- learn more about brain development in children and its influence on their thoughts, feelings and behaviour;
- understand the meaning behind children's behaviours, and how to respond to children's underlying feelings and needs;
- explore new ways of communicating with children;
- discover ways for parents to take care of themselves and to find support when they need it.

Come along to these 6 sessions to learn strategies, share stories and take some time out for you!

**DATES:** Wednesdays 16th February to 30th March 2022 (no session 2nd March)

**TIME:** 10:30am to 12:30pm

**WHERE:** Online via Zoom

**COST:** FREE. Bookings essential.

For bookings & enquiries contact:  
Parentzone Gippsland on 03 5135 9555  
or email  
[parentzone.gippsland@anglicarevic.org.au](mailto:parentzone.gippsland@anglicarevic.org.au)

**PARENTZONE**