

Tarwin Lower Primary Newsletter

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Tarwin Lower Primary School

Small School, Big Opportunities

1st February 2023

Newsletter No. 1

Dear families,

Welcome to a fantastic start of the 2023 school year. New beginnings, new hopes, and new children. I know many families had a wonderful relaxed and restorative break. For myself, it has been great to commence the school year having finally had a rest for the first time since the 2019/2020 summer – no bushfires and no COVID updates.

It has been great to see everyone's smiling faces during the first three days back. The year has started very positively, with a sense of optimism and excitement. Thanks to everyone for helping us get away to such a smooth start.

As always, we use the first couple of weeks to build relationships and set expectations and routines and there has been plenty of evidence of this happening in all classrooms across the school. This work is very important as we set ourselves up for success in classrooms and the playground.

A very big welcome to our new Prep (Foundation) student who commenced school life at TLPS on Monday. It is wonderful to have the Fisher family back within our school community.

A special mention also to our Year 6 students who are completing their last year of primary school. I hope everyone has a wonderful year and I look forward to working with you all at different stages throughout 2023.

A big note of appreciation for the time and effort that our staff have put in to ensure everything was ready for the new school year. It was such a smooth transition, and we are

fortunate to have such a wonderful team.

Many of you have seen some of the works completed over the holidays. We have new bright cupboards in the portable – lots of space for fun and learning. If you attend Playgroup, you will appreciate the clean bright space for you and your family. Please note, when Playgroup recommences, it will now be on Thursday mornings.

The Office has also been newly painted, and the staffroom refurbished. The trees were inspected and trimmed. The buildings sprayed for pests. A concrete slab has been poured under our new shade sails, and the kitchen garden has a new(ish) fence around it.

Many events have been added to the calendar, and some dates have changed from last year. Our swimming lessons for Years 1-6 students begin on Wednesday. The lessons are at Leongatha SPLASH with qualified swimming teachers. Please go into Compass to give approval for your child to attend. There is no cost due to Sporting Schools and DET funding.

Stay tuned for the after school cricket program starting this term, with lots of give aways!

Warm Regards,

Jennifer Cox

Principal



Kindness

Cooperation

Resilience

Respect

**2023– important dates**

8, 15, 22 Feb, 1, 8 March 2023	Swimming Lessons at SPLASH for Year 1–6 students
Wednesday 8th February	Waratah Cluster Swimming Trials
Friday 10th February	Uniform orders due in
Friday 10th February	Book Club No 1 orders due in.
Tuesday 14th February	School Council
Wednesday 15th February	Parent Teacher Conferences
Wednesday 15th February	District Swimming Trials
Tuesday 21st February	School Council Nominations Open
Tuesday 28th February	Family BBQ evening
Friday 3rd February	Clean up Australia Day
Thursday 9th March	School Photos

Bell Times

Bell times have been changed. Please take note of the following:

Morning Supervision	8.45 - 9.00
Session 1	9.00 - 11.00
Recess	11.00 - 11.20
Session 2	11.20 - 1.20
Lunch	1.20 - 2.20
Session 3	2.20 - 3.20
Afternoon Supervision	3.20 - 3.30

300 Nights Reading

We would love to give a 300 night reading trophy to all our students this year. Last year we had only 2 students qualify. You need to read nearly every night to be eligible. Get started now. If parents have any questions, please speak to your classroom teacher.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher conferences will be on Wednesday 15th February. Bookings will be made via Compass from next week.

Swimming

Swimming for students in Grades 1 - 6 will be on the following dates:

8, 15, 22 February
1,8 March

There will be no charge for swimming. Please go

onto Compass to give consent.

Waratah Cluster Swimming

Students in Years 3 - 6 in Tarwin Lower, Fish Creek and Meeniyan PS's who can swim a competitive time and would like to try out for the cluster team can attend the tryouts at Toora Pool on Wednesday 8th February starting at 12.00 noon.

Successful students will progress to the District Swimming Trials and then onto the Divisional Swimming meet at Korumburra Pool on Friday 24th February where they will compete for our cluster against all other South Gippsland schools.

Please let us know if you would like your child/ren to try out, and we will enter them. Parents to transfer own children to the pool.

Attendance

There was a meeting of all state Education Ministers with the issue of declining attendance as one of the major discussion points.

As a result, attendance by the department will be followed up, to improve the attendance of our students. The Education Department will be working with schools to follow up every student who has missed more than 4 days school in first 2 weeks of Term 1, 2023.

There will be additional focuses students at risk, and students who have been chronically absent in past years.



Change of Bank Account

The school bank account has changed.

Account Name:

**Tarwin Lower Primary School
Council Operating Account**

BSB: 063000

ACC: 14191631

Parent Payments

Thank you to the parents who have already paid Curriculum Contributions for this school year. The 2023 Parent Payment Policy has been published on Compass and can also be found on our school website: www.tarwinlowerps.vic.edu.au.

Please note that payments can be made via the following ways:

- On Compass
- Cash
- Direct debit into the school account (see details on following page)
- Credit Card payment at the office via Compass

Compass

Please watch this quick YouTube clip if you need help when logging into the Compass App

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGXrTiUJitU>

If you need your password reset, please contact the office tarwin.lower.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Indonesian Language Classes

Unfortunately Bu Beasley will not be returning to our school to teach Indonesian. We wish her well for the future.

Saver Plus

Saver Plus is a free financial education program where participants can plan ahead for study costs and get up to \$500 for education expenses after 10 months. If you have a Health Care Card and are studying yourself or have a child studying you may be eligible to join the program. <https://www.bsl.org.au/services/saving-and-managing-money/saver-plus/>

Are you eligible to join Saver Plus & receive \$500 for your back to school costs?

Must meet all eligibility criteria:

- ✓ Have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card AND an eligible Centrelink payment*
- ✓ Be studying yourself OR have a child in school (can be starting school next year)
- ✓ Have regular income from work (either yourself or your partner)*
- ✓ Be 18+ years old

*Many types of income and Centrelink payments are eligible

saverplus

Paper Newsletter

If you wish to have a paper newsletter copy, please collect one from the office.

Book Club No 1

Book Club brochures are being sent home today. Please note that orders must be received by Friday 10th February.



Happy Birthday

We hope you had a great time on your special day.

- Ms Carbone
- Maggie
- Tess





From our Chaplain

Welcome to the 2023 academic year at Tarwin Lower Primary School. The staff have busily been preparing for the students' arrival and I plan to be waiting at the school gate to welcome as many of you as possible. As always, I'm available to support you and your family when and if you need a listening ear. I can also refer you onto other support services in the community. Last Wednesday I visited the Tarwin Lower Community Centre for the very first time and had the privilege of meeting a lovely lady called Teresa Davison. She introduced me to the community food cupboard. It is my hope that sometime this year, we as a school community will be able to donate some items. Watch this space for the 'when and the wherefores'. We are a community within a community, and this would be a wonderful opportunity to benefit Tarwin Lower and surrounds (Refer to Teresa's article below).

We plan to offer breakfast club again this year and I would really appreciate some parent helpers. Please let me or Lindy know if you're able to help. You will need a working with children check.

I also plan to continue running lunchtime craft classes for student's who are interested. These have proven popular the last 2 years and especially during the colder, wetter months.

Looking forward to meeting you all face to face again soon.

Kind regards,

Sue Cronk

School Chaplain

Food hampers

The Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre has set up a community food cupboard. Thanks to the generosity of people in our community we are offering food hampers that provide practical support and lets people know the community cares.

Need support yourself or know a family, pensioner or someone who could use some community support right now? Please contact Teresa (Health Centre President) on 0484 743 290.

If you are able to donate, we need the basics, breakfast cereals, spreads, tea, coffee, rice, pasta, noodles. Kids lunch box snacks. Things that can make a dinner like big tins of tuna and pasta sauces are really helpful. And it's always nice to add a treat or two to the hampers- biscuits, chocolate. Donations can be dropped off at the Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre 10am-2pm Monday to Friday. Thank you!



Uniform Orders

Attached to this newsletter is a uniform order form. If you wish to order uniforms, could you please complete the order form and send into the office. Alternatively, there are forms available in the office. All orders must be received by Friday 10th February.

Reminder - our new school uniform becomes compulsory for all students at the start of term 3 this year.

Year 6 students will once again have the opportunity to purchase a 2023 Year 6 top, if they wish to do so. It is not compulsory for students to have, or to wear the top, but it is generally viewed as a memento of being in Grade 6. Shirts are available at the office. Cost is \$45.00 per shirt.



Victoria-wide single-use plastics ban – from 1 February 2023

Single-use plastics make up a third of the litter in our environment and are difficult and costly to clean up. They pollute the environment, harming wildlife and contaminating our food and water. They are also a poor use of resources – they are often used for only a few minutes and generate significant waste that is not recyclable. They can often easily be replaced with reusable products.

Under new regulations, from 1 February 2023, Victorian businesses and organisations (including schools) will not be able to sell, supply or provide a number of single-use plastic items. The ban applies to the following single-use plastic items made from conventional, degradable or compostable plastics:

Drinking straws

Cutlery including knives, forks, spoons, chopsticks, sporks, splades, food picks and sporks

Plates

Drink stirrers and sticks

Cotton bud sticks

The ban also applies to:

Food service items and drink containers made from expanded polystyrene. This includes expanded polystyrene plates, cups, bowls, clam shells and any cover or lid that is also made from expanded polystyrene.

Tarwin Lower Primary School will be implementing the Victorian government’s single-use plastics ban in the items we use as a school community the kids kitchen, catering at fundraising events, classroom and staffroom activities and other school events. We will not be using any banned single-use plastic items from 1 February 2023.

Exceptions to the ban

People who need single-use plastic drinking straws due to a disability or for a medical need will still be able to purchase and use these items. If your child needs to continue using single-use plastic drinking straws because of a disability or medical need, please let their classroom teacher know and we will ensure that there is a supply available for your child’s use at future school activities.

The Victorian government has produced a useful fact sheet explaining which items are banned and

which are not, including information about exemptions. This is included in the newsletter.

Student lunches and snacks from home

Offences relating to the ban do not apply to private or domestic activities at home, eg. individual families’ decisions about lunch packaging. The intention of the government’s new regulations is to remove these items from the supply chain prior to reaching the customer.

At Tarwin Lower Primary School we already encourage nude food to be bought to school, as this aligns with our sustainability practices. If you have any questions, please contact your child’s classroom teacher.



www.vic.gov.au/plastics



Managing illness in schools and early childhood education and care services – information for parents and carers

One of the most important things we can do to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in our community is to stay at home when we are unwell, even when we have the mildest of symptoms.

What you need to know

- 1. If your child is unwell, even with the mildest of symptoms, they must stay home.**
 - If a child becomes unwell during the day, they should be collected from early childhood education and care (ECEC) or school as soon as possible.
- 2. If your child has any symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) below, however mild, they should get tested for COVID-19:**

- fever
- chills or sweats
- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath
- runny nose
- loss of sense of smell or taste

Some people may also have headache, muscle soreness, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea. For more health advice:

- call the 24-hour COVID-19 Hotline 1800 875 388
- call your child's general practitioner (GP)
- call Nurse on Call 1300 808 024

- 3. Your child can be tested with a rapid antigen test at home, or a PCR test. They must stay at home until they receive a negative result and their symptoms have resolved.**

- if you can't get a rapid antigen test or if you're still worried about your child, you can [find and go to a testing site](#) for a PCR test. Some [testing sites](#) have [rapid antigen tests](#) as well.
- if a rapid antigen test is negative but your child is symptomatic, your child should have a PCR test done.
- Find advice about [getting tested](#), as well as [parent and carer information about rapid antigen testing](#).

- 4. If your child has a negative COVID-19 test and their symptoms have resolved, they can return to ECEC or school.**

- You don't need written medical clearance from COVID-19.
- There are illnesses other than COVID-19 where your child must stay at home for a certain amount of time – these are listed on the Department of Health ECEC and [school exclusion table](#).

- 5. A medical certificate is not needed, but may be helpful if your child:**

- has ongoing symptoms due to underlying conditions such as hay fever or asthma
 - If their symptoms are usual for their condition, they can keep going to ECEC or school.
 - A medical certificate describing their condition can help ECEC and schools better know your child's health and care plans.
- is younger (pre-school up to Grade 2) and has ongoing symptoms after a viral illness
 - Children can still have a cough or runny nose after recovering from some common [viral illnesses](#) – if they are otherwise well, they can go to ECEC or school.
 - Your ECEC or school might ask for a medical certificate from their GP to make sure your child is otherwise well.
- Remember: if your child's symptoms are different or worse than usual, they should stay at home, get tested for COVID-19 again, and seek health advice.

- 6. If your child has a positive COVID-19 test, they must stay at home:**

- Follow the [checklist for people with COVID-19](#).
- If a [rapid antigen test](#) at home is positive, report the result as soon as you can so your family can start getting advice and help:
 - Tell the [Department of Health](#) by online form or COVID-19 Hotline 1800 875 388.
 - Tell your ECEC or school (including other children at home who are [household contacts](#)).
- Answer [texts and surveys from the Department of Health](#).
- You may be able to get [financial help](#) or [other help](#) to look after your family safely at home.
- When your child finishes their quarantine period, you don't need written medical clearance from COVID-19 to return to ECEC or school.

Further information

- All families can plan and prepare ahead for COVID-19 at home using [this checklist](#).
- You can find information about COVID-19 in [different languages](#).

This advice has been prepared by the Department of Education and Training and the Department of Health.



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



Know Your Daily Fire Danger Rating



Stay aware of the fire danger rating and know what to do.

Fire Danger Ratings tell you how dangerous a fire could be if one started. The higher the rating the more dangerous the conditions. Fire Danger Ratings feature in weather forecasts during the fire season.

Everyday you should:

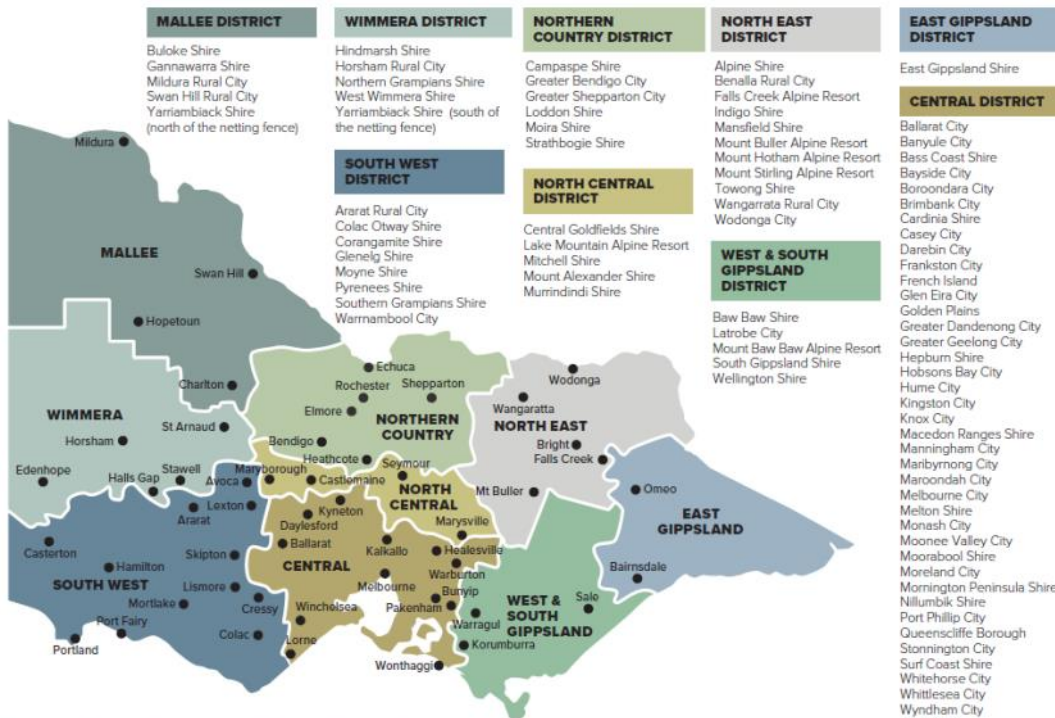
- » Monitor conditions and official sources for warnings.
- » If a fire starts near you, take action immediately to protect your life.
- » Do not wait for a warning.
- » Adhere to local regulations governing fire activity.
- » Ensure any industrial and agricultural activities adhere to relevant guidelines.

To check your district's daily Fire Danger Rating, visit cfa.vic.gov.au, download the VicEmergency App or call **1800 226 226**.

	What does it mean?	What should I do?
CATASTROPHIC	If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost. » These are the most dangerous conditions for a fire.	For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas. » Your life may depend on the decisions you make, even before there is a fire. » For your survival, do not be in bushfire risk areas. » Stay safe by going to a safer location early in the morning or the night before. » Homes cannot withstand fires in these conditions. You may not be able to leave and help may not be available.
EXTREME	Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous. » These are dangerous fire conditions. » Expect hot, dry and windy conditions.	Take action now to protect your life and property » Check your bushfire plan and that your property is fire ready » If a fire starts, take immediate action. If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, go to a safer location well before the fire impacts. » Reconsider travel through bushfire risk areas. » Leaving bushfire risk areas early in the day is your safest option.
HIGH	Fires can be dangerous.	Be ready to act. » There's a heightened risk. Be alert for fires in your area. » Decide what you will do if a fire starts. » If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk. The safest option is to avoid bushfire risk areas.
MODERATE	Most fires can be controlled.	Plan and prepare. » Stay up to date and be ready to act if there is a fire.

Monitor conditions and official sources for warnings by going to cfa.vic.gov.au, emergency.vic.gov.au or call the VicEmergency Hotline on **1800 226 226**

Know Your Total Fire Ban District



TOTAL FIRE BANS

Total Fire Bans are declared by CFA on days when fires are likely to spread rapidly and be difficult to control.

On days of Total Fire Ban there are legal restrictions in force to reduce the likelihood of fires starting.

Victoria is divided into nine Total Fire Ban districts. Total Fire Bans are declared by district and you must know which district you live in. A list of municipalities that are located in each of the districts is shown in the coloured boxes.

For more information on Total Fire Bans and fire restrictions please call the VicEmergency Hotline on **1800 226 226** or via National Relay Service on **1800 555 677** or visit cfa.vic.gov.au

For more information please visit the CFA website at cfa.vic.gov.au or phone the VicEmergency Hotline on **1800 226 226** or via National Relay Service on **1800 555 677**



Supporting School Learning at Home

When parents support school learning at home, this shows our children that we truly value education and the school.



Your job as a parent is to encourage them, support them and challenge them to learn and do their best. If you can instil in them the mindset that learning is a process, that is positive and enjoyable, they will grow up to be lifelong learners who thrive on challenges.

- Parent involvement in educational activities with their children is associated with improved educational outcomes for all students.
- Children at all ages with parents interested and involved in their learning have a clear academic advantage.
- Children do not stop needing their parents because they get older, or because lives get busy.
- You don't have to be strong academically yourself to have an impact on your child's education. Evidence shows you just have to be supportive and positive about learning.

Top tips

- **Read with your child from an early age** and encourage a positive attitude to learning from reading – both books and online.
- **Promote a positive mindset in your children** to help them see the benefits and enjoyment that can be found in learning and improvement.
- **Don't put too much pressure on them.** Encourage them to be as good as they can be and help them plan how to improve.
- **Be willing to help with homework**, even if that just means asking them questions.

- **Let them be independent learners and be there to support** if they want to do the home learning themselves.
- **Encourage them to see mistakes as an important part of the learning process** and help them to see how to use their mistakes to learn.
- **If homework is causing stress or arguments, put it aside and take a break.** Try again later and if there are still problems, contact the teacher to discuss solutions.

Acknowledgement: Dr Bruce Robinson: "Your Support of Learning Impacts Your Child's Results at School" in The Fathering Project, February 2022.



TARWIN LOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL UNIFORM ORDER SHEET

DUE DATE FOR ORDERS
10th February 2023

Samples of uniforms are available in the office.
Payment in full must be received before uniforms can be taken

FAMILY NAME:

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:

ITEM DESCRIPTION	PRICE	SIZE							TOTAL	TOTAL
		4	6	8	10	12	14	16	QUANTITY	COST
Polo Shirt - Short Sleeve with logo	\$ 21.50									
Top - Windcheater with logo	\$ 18.00									
Top - Microfibre Sports Jacket with logo	\$33.00									
Top - Polar Fleece Jacket with logo	\$26.00									
Dress - Blue Checked	\$ 19.00									
Shorts - Microfibre	\$ 13.50									
Shorts - Mesh	\$ 11.50									
Shorts - Cargo	\$ 18.00									
Skort	\$ 18.50									
Pants - Cargo	\$ 21.50									
Track Pants - Straight Leg	\$ 17.50									
Track Pants - Cuffed Leg	\$ 17.50									
Track Pants - Straight Leg Double Knee	\$ 19.50									
Track Pants - Cuffed Leg Double Knee	\$ 19.50									
Hat - Cargo (Slouch) S / M / L	\$10.00									
TOTAL										\$
		SIZE	SIZE	SIZE	SIZE	SIZE	SIZE			
		12	14	16	Sml	Med	Lge			
Grade 6 Polo Shirts	\$45.00									
TOTAL										\$

Updated 28/01/2022