

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be A Learner

February 2024

We've had an amazing start to the year! I couldn't be more proud of all of the students and their efforts in their classes so far!

A BIG Merino CS Welcome goes out to Xavier in year 3.

Swimming Lessons

A HUGE THANKS to Glenda and her efforts in the pool—we've had an amazing 4 weeks of swimming so far and all of the students have come such a long way. This week, all families are invited to come down to the pool to watch the last two swimming lessons (Tuesday & Wednesday) and celebrate the successes of all students.



Kitchen



Kitchen classes will commence at the conclusion of swimming lessons. 1st of March will be our first Kitchen class for 2024. The students research and design their own lunch menu using foods that are grown in our school garden.

Nightly Reading

HUGE thanks to all students and their families for their fantastic nightly efforts. Please continue to keep reading each night with you child and sign in their reading diaries.



Parent Teacher Interviews

In the last week of school teachers are available (either before or after school) to chat with you about your child's progress so far this school year - please make a time with your child's teacher.

Anzac Day

This year, as Anzac Day falls within the school term, and as such, the students will be practising readings and poems. If you are available to have your child at the Cenotaph there will be a school representative present on the day.

Melbourne Excursion

On the 19th of April we have a planned day excursion to Melbourne to visit LUME to support the students work in their Artist in Residence classes. Due to it being a day trip, we will need to leave at 5:30am, returning at 6pm approx. A permission note will be coming home shortly. If you have any question regarding this please speak with your child's teacher.

Dartmoor Aths

We will be taking part in athletics events with Dartmoor Primary School after lunch on the 18th of March. Students who are 8 yrs old and up will then compete in the CDSSA Athletics competition in Casterton on the 27th.



Merino Community Market—this year, is being held on the Easter weekend. If you are available to assist please let us know.

February

Foundation Rest days: 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th

28th - Last Swimming Day

March

11th—Labour Day—Pupil Free day

18th PLANKS Incursion and Aths with Dartmoor

25th—Parent teacher Interview week

28th last day of Term 1

Dismissal at 2:30

April

15th—Term 2 Returns

19th—Melbourne art Excursion

**Term 2 Sport—Taekwondo—
Wednesday Afternoons 1:45—2:45**

25th—Anzac Day

A reminder that no Kitchen classes run during the 1st and last weeks term—please supply students lunches



Please make sure you are listening to your child read every night.

13 benefits of reading aloud:



1. Develops language skills
2. Improves listening comprehension
3. Increases attention span
4. Builds vocabulary
5. Exposes the child to good grammar
6. Exposes the child to new experiences and information
7. Stimulates the imagination
8. Stimulates brain development
9. Promotes critical thinking skills
10. Creates a bond between the child and the reader
11. Builds confidence and self-esteem
12. Teaches values
13. *It's fun!*

Read it LOUD!™

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Bushfire At-Risk Register - Schools



2024 - 2025 Fire Season

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) 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 risk and is listed on the BARR.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days' notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter or phone call. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm 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.
- 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.

As a bus co-ordinating school all bus routes 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 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, and reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

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 and by checking our website, ClassDojo, <http://www.dmsc.vic.edu.au/> or Facebook page.

If you have any further concerns, please contact either Genevieve Hulin (Principal/ Class Teacher) the school. 0355791305.

Our school is listed as a **Bus Coordinating School for the School Bus Program (SBP)**

An update to Department policy schools **that have bus routes that are within, or pass-through, weather districts where the fire danger is determined to be Code Red will be cancelled.**

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 a child is unwell, even with the mildest of symptoms, they must stay at home

If a child becomes unwell during the day, they must be collected from school/early childhood education and care (ECEC) as soon as possible.

2. If a child has any of the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) outlined below, however mild, they should get tested and they must remain at home until they receive their results:

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

In certain circumstances headache, muscle soreness, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea may also be considered symptoms.

For further advice:

- call the 24-hour coronavirus (COVID-19) hotline 1800 675 398
- call a general practitioner
- use the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) [online self-assessment tool](#).

Visit: [Where to get tested](#).

3. A child must stay at home until they are symptom free, even if their coronavirus (COVID-19) test is negative

If a person has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) they must isolate until they receive clearance from the Department of Health and Human Services. Read the [What to do if you've tested positive for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) factsheet](#) (PDF) for more information.

If a person is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) the Department of Health and Human Services will get in contact to tell them they are a close contact of a person who is confirmed to have coronavirus (COVID-19). A close contact must quarantine at home. Read the [What to do if you have been in close contact with someone with coronavirus \(COVID-19\) factsheet](#) (Word) for more information.

For information on the minimum periods students and children need to stay at home for other conditions, refer to the [DHHS school exclusion table](#).

4. Children do NOT need a medical certificate before returning to school/ECEC

Once symptoms have cleared, there is no requirement from the Department of Education and Training or DHHS for children/students to have a medical certificate before they return to school/ECEC.

Thank you for your support in following these steps, together we can all stay safe.





**OUR SCHOOL
STANDS UP FOR
INCLUSION
+
DIVERSITY**

