



BOTANIC BUZZ NEWSLETTER

TERM 4
WEEK 5
2025

Growth - Respect - Responsibility - Safe



Connecting with Our BRPS Families

Acting Principal News

It's been another busy and exciting two weeks at Botanic Ridge Primary School! Our Community Night was once again an amazing event. It was wonderful to see so many happy faces enjoying the evening together. We also had a fun-filled Year 2 Sleepover, which was a great success. A big thank you to all the staff and parents who supported and helped make these events possible. Without the support of our parents and teachers, events like these simply wouldn't be possible, so thank you!



Ms Comben

Last week, we began our Department of Education (DE) School Review, which takes place every four years. This process helps us reflect on our achievements and shape our Strategic Plan for the next four years. I'll share more information about the review on Compass in the coming days.



We're also excited to welcome Hannah Graham, who will be teaching 4A for the remainder of the year. Ms Graham will be replacing Ms Newsome, who will be stepping into the Acting Learning Specialist role while Mr Bloomfield is Acting Assistant Principal. In addition, we warmly welcome Madison Foster, who has joined our Education Support team this week. Both Ms Graham and Ms Foster have already brought wonderful energy to our school community.



Thank you for your continued support and positivity!

Reminders

Upcoming Dates:

- Year 4 Immigration Museum excursion **Monday 10th November**
- Foundation Moonlit Sanctuary excursion **Tuesday 11th November**
- Year 4-6 Elephant Ed incursion **Tuesday 11th November**
- Remembrance Day **Tuesday 11th November**
- Foundation 2026 Parent Information session **Thursday 13th November 5pm-6pm**
- Whole School Photo **Tuesday 18th November**

- Zooper Dooper sales on Friday (\$1 per icy-pole - max 2 per student). All money raised goes towards the Year 6 graduation. Donations are welcomed at the office.
- Term 4 is a sun-smart term, so please remember your hat.
- The Container Deposit Scheme is as Easy as 1, 2, 3! Collect your eligible drink containers. **Did you know?** You can donate to our school! Our donation partner ID: C2000013189 Or search us on the donation list at the deposit machine.



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Teaching and Learning Buzz

Building Reading Confidence through Fluency Pairs

At Botanic Ridge Primary School, we know that reading fluently (smoothly, accurately and with expression) is a key step toward becoming a confident, capable reader. One of the ways we support this growth is through Fluency Pairs.

In a Fluency Pair, two students work together to read a short passage aloud several times. These passages may practise phonics knowledge that has been taught or offer further reading connected to a topic being learnt such as in our Read2Learn units. One student reads while the other follows along and offers feedback, before swapping roles. This simple yet powerful routine helps improve reading speed (rate), accuracy and expression (prosody), while also strengthening listening and comprehension skills.

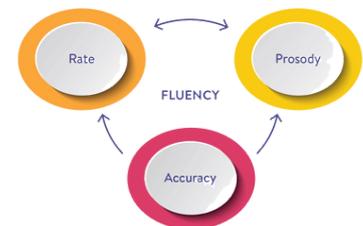
The repeated reading gives students a chance to practise unfamiliar words, notice punctuation, and build a natural rhythm when reading aloud. Over time, this leads to greater confidence and frees up their working memory in order to understand what they read.

Regular home reading can also make a big difference. When children read aloud to a parent, sibling or even a family pet, they're reinforcing the same fluency skills practised at school – accuracy, pace, and expression – while developing confidence and a lifelong love of reading.

Regular fluency practice, both at school and at home, is one of the bridges between *learning to read* and *reading to learn*, helping every student become a fluent, expressive and enthusiastic reader.



Mr Bloomfield



Community Afternoon

We couldn't have asked for a better afternoon! Our Community Afternoon was a wonderful success that brought together our school and wider community. Together we raised an incredible \$5,500! We would like to sincerely thank all of the staff and parent helpers who worked tirelessly to organise and run the event – your efforts made the day the success it was. A special thank you also goes to *O'Brien Real Estate*, *Miss CookieLicious*, *TheirCare*, and *Bakers Delight Cranbourne* for their generous sponsorship and support. Finally, thank you to our entire school community for coming along, joining in the fun, and helping make the event such a memorable occasion.



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How We Use Restorative Conversations at Our School – And Why They Matter

At Botanic Ridge Primary School, building a caring, respectful, and connected school community is at the heart of everything we do. One of the ways we achieve this is by using restorative conversations—an approach that helps students reflect, repair harm, and move forward together when things go wrong.



Mrs Symons

What are Restorative Conversations?

Restorative conversations are brief, structured discussions that take place after a conflict or incident. Rather than focusing on blame or punishment, these talks guide students to explore:

- What happened?
- What needs to happen to set things right?
- Who's been affected and how?
- What will they do differently next time?

By shifting the discussion from “Who’s at fault?” to “How do we make things better?”, we help students develop empathy, responsibility, and healthy ways to resolve conflicts.

Why Are They Important?

- **They repair relationships:** Restorative conversations help students understand the impact of their actions on others and rebuild trust.
- **They teach skills for life:** Students learn to listen, express themselves respectfully, and take real ownership of their actions—essential skills for life beyond school.
- **They foster a positive school culture:** When students know they’ll be heard and supported—not just disciplined—they’re more willing to be honest and work towards positive change.
- **They make our school safer and happier:** Everyone feels valued and respected.

Staff Buzz

Get to know our Amazing Staff!



Ms Culpin

Position
Youth Worker

Q: What did you want to be when you grow up?

A: A Nurse.

Q: If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?

A: I would visit the Pyramids.

Q: What song always makes you want to dance?

A: Gangnam Style - PSY. I love that song!

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: Yes! I have a cheeky little dachshund named Rosie who’s almost three years old. Her favourite spot to sleep is, of course, my bed, but only when I’m not looking.



Ms Symons

Position
Wellbeing Coordinator and
Acting Learning Specialist

Q: What’s your favourite movie or TV show?

A: I am Harry Potter obsessed. Movies, books, audiobooks, fanfiction anything Harry Potter related, and I am hooked.

Q: If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?

A: I was lucky enough to do a lot of travelling before I got into teaching. If I was to revisit somewhere it would be Ecuador.

Q: If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

A: This one is difficult. My superpower would be teleporting. To be able to travel back to England to see my family without the horrible flight would be AMAZING!

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Student Leader Buzz

Get to know our Terrick and Charles House Captains!



Terrick



What do you love most about your house?

Felisha: What I love about my house is that we always work as a team in every house sport that we do. We have major determination in everything we do, and I also love that we show the school values in house sports, in the yard and in the class.

Robinson: I love that it is very social and you can interact with many people. I also love that it is my favourite colour!

What is your favourite thing about BRPS?

Felisha: Being able to help everyone and being a good role model.

Robinson: My favourite thing about BRPS is I get to see friends and learn at the same time, I get to play outside and I get to write persuasive texts.

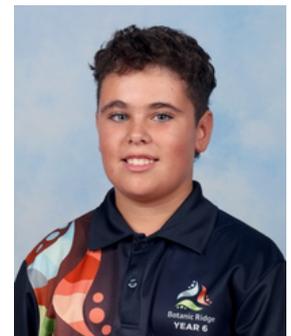
What is your favourite house activity this year?

Felisha: My favourite house activity this year would be 'Capture the flag'. Even though it was extremely chaotic, it was fun at the same time! **GO TERRICK!**

Robinson: My favourite house activity is cross country and athletics, as I can do a lot of running and I love long and high jump.



Charles



What do you love about your house?

Isaiah: I love that Charles has people that I know and that I get to have fun running my house.

Tyler: What I love about my house is that we have kind people.

What is your favourite thing about BRPS?

Isaiah: My favourite thing about BRPS is that I have lots of friends that care about me.

Tyler: My favourite thing about BRPS is that we have nice teachers and good friends.

What is your favourite house activity this year?

Isaiah: My favourite house activity was hosting cross country.

Tyler: My favourite house activity this year was 'Capture the flag'.

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Classroom Buzz

I know you wanted to know what **2D** were doing at 9.50am on a Tuesday!
Take a look!

What are you learning in this lesson?

Leah: Literacy and morphology.

Emilia: Persuasive writing

Lakhith: Reading

Brooklyn: Literacy

Jaxon: To convince someone of your point of view.

Scarlett: Literacy

What is your favourite thing to do in class?

Ayezal: I like maths.

Teagan: HOP and doing fun stuff.

Aiden: Maths because it's fun.

Heath: Phonics because I like to put the different spellings on the whiteboard.

Amy: Reading because it's peaceful.

Hunter: Maths and phonics. Maths is interesting to learn high numbers.

What do you like about Ms Smallwood?

Sonny: She helps people to learn.

Archie: She is a good teacher.

Evie: I like how she is nice.

Henry: She is a fun teacher.

Jelani: She is kind and helps people when they are sad.



Ms Smallwood



Botanic Brilliance Awards!

0A Lenny, Sehaj & Darcy

0B Charlee

0C Harvey R., Zehak, Kenzie & Case

1A Delilah & Neha

1B Evie F. & Ahaana

1C Asher & Macie

1D Hayley, Lincon, Anneliese & Silas

2A Anthony & Logan

2B Archer & Sarida

2C Billy

2D Jelani & Emilia

3A London, Olivia M., Lazar, Luka

3B Hannah, Alexi & Madelyn

4A Kahlan & Muzammil

4B Kole

4C Cooper, Ava & Azaylia

56A Milly & Brock

56B Laikyn & Hudson

LOTE Pippa, Zoe R.

STEM Lincon

PE Ivy W

ART Bhavya & Billie F

MUSIC Rhylan M

Wellbeing Ariana & Ridhwaan