



BOTANIC BUZZ NEWSLETTER



Growth - Respect - Responsibility - Safe

Welcome to 2026

Principal News



Mrs Fuller

Dear Families and Students,

Happy New Year, and welcome back! I hope everyone had a restful and joyful break.

As we begin this new year at BRPS, I'm excited for the opportunities ahead and grateful to be part of such a supportive and vibrant school community.

The start of a new year is always a great time for fresh goals, renewed energy, and continued growth. Over the coming weeks, students will be diving into new learning experiences, building on their strengths, and challenging themselves in meaningful ways. Our staff is looking forward to supporting them every step of the way.

Thank you for your continued partnership and trust. Together, we'll make this year one filled with learning, connection, and success. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or need support.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new staff, and thank everyone for making me feel welcome! I look forward to working with you!

Parent Helper Induction: Mr Bloomfield and I will be holding the first parent induction on the 20th February at 9:00am. This is for anyone who would like to volunteer at the school. You will need a Working with Children Check and you can apply for one here: <https://service.vic.gov.au/services/working-with-children>

Cheers and Tissues: It was lovely to meet some of our Foundation Parents on the first day for a morning coffee in the community room. This is something we will be inviting new parents to each year. It would be great to have some existing parents work with us to coordinate this for 2027. Please reach out if you're interested: Emma.Fuller@education.vic.gov.au

Enjoy the first few weeks of school! Emma

Reminders

- Don't forget your hats this term!
- Parent Payments - Thank you to those families who have already made a voluntary contribution to the school. If you have not already done so, we welcome your payment at any time.
- Are uniform items clearly labelled? Jackets and hats often end up in lost property unnamed or with labels that are difficult to read. Over time, labels can fade or fall off. Now is a great time to check that everything is clearly labelled and that your child can recognise their own label.
- Zooper Dooper sales every Friday this term (\$1 per icy pole - max 2 per child). Foundation Zooper Doopers will be brought to their classroom.

Upcoming Dates:

- Learning Focus Forums **Feb 10 & 11 - 3:20-5:30pm**
- Year 6 Camp Information Session **Feb 17 - 5:00-5:30pm** (Community Room)
- Year 5 & 6 Beach Day **Feb 18**
- Silly Sock Day **Feb 20** - bring a gold coin donation
- Parent Helper Induction **Feb 20 - 9:00am**
- Year 2-4 Swimming **Feb 23-27**



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Teaching and Learning Buzz

Building Routines and Setting Expectations

Welcome back everyone! It is so great to see our students settling into school for the year.

Clear classroom routines and expectations play an important role in creating calm, safe and productive learning environments for all students. When routines are consistent and expectations are clearly taught, children know what is expected of them, feel more confident, and are able to focus their energy on learning rather than uncertainty. These shared understandings also help build positive relationships, support student wellbeing, and allow teachers to maximise learning time in the classroom.

Over the past week and a half, teachers have intentionally focused on establishing and practising classroom routines and expectations with students before diving fully into curriculum learning. This time has been used to explicitly teach, model and rehearse everyday routines so that students understand how to work, learn and interact successfully in the classroom. By laying these strong foundations early, teachers are setting students up for a settled, positive start to the year, ensuring classrooms are well-organised, predictable and ready for high-quality learning as we move into our curriculum units.



Mr Bloomfield



Parking and Road Safety at BRPS

As we settle into the new school year, we would like to remind families about our parking and road safety expectations before and after school, when congestion is at its highest.

Parking

Please be mindful of our neighbours by avoiding parking across driveways or on nature strips and lawns. Families are encouraged to use the **Booring Reserve car park** behind the school, which offers over 100 parking spaces and a convenient drop-off and pick-up option via the basketball gate. This gate is staffed until 3:15pm each afternoon. For safety reasons, the staff car park is not available for family use, unless using our disabled parking facilities.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Zone

Our drop-off and pick-up zone operates between 8:00-9:00am and 2:30-3:30pm, located on Echidna Parade near the bike shed gate and Year 5/6 classrooms. This is a **2-minute zone only**—drivers must remain in their car, move forward as space becomes available, and exit if their child is not ready. Please note that council fines may apply if signage is not followed. Council parking officers have been patrolling our streets around drop-off and pick-up times.



Road Safety

Children up to around 11-12 years of age require active adult supervision around roads and car parks. Holding your child's hand, using pedestrian crossings, crossing at safe points and modelling calm, attentive behaviour all help children develop safe habits. Students riding bikes or scooters must slow down on the footpath and walk their bike or scooter once inside the school grounds.

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Wellbeing Buzz

Looking forward to 2026



Mrs Symons

Welcome to a brand-new school year. We hope the holidays brought rest, joy, and plenty of moments to recharge. It has been wonderful seeing students return with such energy, curiosity, and enthusiasm. The start of the year is a special time – a chance to build new connections, strengthen relationships, and create a positive foundation for learning and wellbeing.

As your child settles into their new class, we encourage you to keep the lines of communication open. You know your child best, and their teacher would love to hear about the little things that help them feel safe, confident, and ready to learn. Sharing insights about their interests, strengths, routines, or worries can make a meaningful difference in supporting their transition.

We also invite you to continue having positive conversations with your children at home – celebrating their efforts, talking about their day, and helping them navigate challenges with confidence. These small moments build resilience and strengthen their sense of belonging at school.

We're looking forward to a year filled with growth, connection, and shared success. Please reach out to the wellbeing team at any time – we're here to support every student and every family.

Mobile Phones and Smart Watches



As a reminder to families, Botanic Ridge Primary School follows the Department of Education's Mobile Phones - Student Use Policy, which supports a safe, focused and positive learning environment for all students.

Students may bring mobile phones or smart watches to school; however, all phones must be switched off and securely stored during school hours. At Botanic Ridge Primary School, phones are stored either at the office or in a locked classroom cupboard. Smart watches may be worn, but notifications, phone, messaging, camera and internet functions must be turned off during the day.

In the event of an emergency, parents and carers should contact their child via the school office, rather than directly through student devices.

Students who use mobile phones or smart devices inappropriately may face consequences in line with our student wellbeing policies. Devices will be confiscated and must be collected from the office by a parent or carer if a breach occurs.

Thank you for supporting a safe and focused learning environment.

For further information regarding this policy, please refer to the full policy on our school website: <https://brps.vic.edu.au/>

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Student Leader Buzz

Meet our School Captains for 2026!



Eddie

We interviewed our new School Captains to learn a little bit more about them:

What are you most excited about this year at our school?

Eddie: *I'm excited about being able to run the assembly and show the younger kids how to do the right thing.*

Eloise: *This year, I am most excited about making new friends and having the privilege of being school captain.*

Jack: *I am most excited about Cross Country.*

Ethan: *I'm excited for school camp, beach day and assembly.*



Eloise

What does a positive school culture mean to you?

Eddie: *It is where everyone is nice, positive and kind.*

Eloise: *It means that everyone is being caring towards one another.*

Jack: *It means checking in on your classmates and making sure everyone feels good at school.*

Ethan: *Everyone helping one another and helping them up when they get knocked down.*



Jack

What's your favourite thing about our school?

Eddie: *My favourite thing about our school is that everyone is kind to one another.*

Eloise: *My favourite thing about our school is that it is very clean, and the kids are really nice and caring.*

Jack: *My favourite thing about our school is that the staff are kind.*

Ethan: *My favourite thing about our school is the positivity the teachers and kids spread and getting to be with my friends.*



Ethan

What message would you like to share with the school community as we begin the year?

Eddie: *Always do your best. Always be kind.*

Eloise: *Make sure you put your rubbish in the correct bin!*

Jack: *Everyone should try their best and have a good year.*

Ethan: *Try your hardest and no matter what, never give up (even if it feels impossible).*

Dogs on School Grounds

Whilst we have many loveable furry friends in our school community, as a reminder to families, **dogs are not permitted on school grounds at any time**, including drop-off and pick-up times and during school events. This helps ensure the safety, wellbeing and comfort of all students, staff and visitors, including those who may feel anxious around animals or have allergies. Thank you for your understanding and support in keeping our school environment safe for everyone.



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Annual privacy reminder for our school community

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' privacy policy](#) and the [Schools' privacy collection notice](#).

Our [Photographing, Filming and Recording Students policy](#) as found on the school website, describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

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

- Amharic
- Arabic
- Chinese
- Dari
- Gujarati
- Mandarin
- Somali
- Sudanese
- Turkish
- Urdu
- Vietnamese

1st Day Back (Years 1-6)

