



BOTANIC BUZZ NEWSLETTER

TERM 1
WEEK 4
2026

Growth - Respect - Responsibility - Safe



Settling Into School Life

Principal News

Hello Everyone,

It's hard to believe we are almost at the half-way mark of Term 1! The Foundation students will soon be here full time, and we look forward to having them at school on Wednesdays (starting Monday 2nd March)!



Mrs Fuller

Here are some updates:

Staff First Aid: After school last week all staff completed their first aid training. We endeavour to have all staff trained in first aid to ensure the safety of all students and adults at BRPS. Please ensure you have informed the office of any medical conditions your child/ren may have.

AEU Stop Work Action: You may have heard that the Australian Education Union is considering our work conditions at the moment. We are seeking more funding for our schools, as well as a pay increase. There may be a 'stop work' in March, and I will keep you informed as I hear anything.

School Council Elections: We have three vacancies on school council. Please refer to the Compass post Ms Brumbaugh sent on Monday.

Parent Volunteer Inductions: Thank you to the parents who attended the volunteer induction this morning. We love to have parents volunteering at our school. If you are interested, please come along to the next one on Wednesday 4th March at 2:30pm.

Swimming Week: A reminder that next week is swimming week. Please refer to the Compass post for more information. Thank you if you are volunteering to help!

School Strategic Plan: Mr Bloomfield and I are working hard on planning the next four years after last year's school review. I will share something with you soon!

Upcoming Dates



- Year 2-4 Swimming **Feb 23-27**
- Foundation students at school every day **starting March 2**
- Parent Helper Induction **March 4 (2:30pm)**
- Labour Day public holiday **March 9**
- NAPLAN (Years 3 & 5) begins **March 11**
- Curriculum Day **March 13** - students are not required at school
- Harmony Day **March 18** - wear orange or cultural clothing
- Year 6 Camp to Gilwell Park **March 18-20**

Reminders

- Don't forget your hats this term! Even on cloudy days, students must still wear their hats outside.
- Zooper Dooper sales every Friday this term (\$1 per icy pole - max 2 per child). Foundation Zooper Doopers will be brought to their classroom. Donations are greatly appreciated.



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Teaching and Learning Buzz

Home Reading and Why It Matters



Mr Bloomfield

At school your child is learning to read through explicit, systematic instruction. We carefully teach sounds, word reading, fluency and understanding. Home reading is where children practise these skills and build confidence.

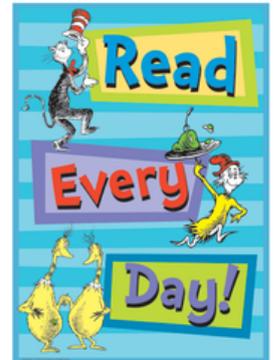
Many year levels have already begun (or are about to begin) home reading routines. If your child has not yet started bringing home take-home books, you can still support their development by enjoying books together from your home library or by reading familiar stories aloud each night.

Research shows that the amount a child reads strongly predicts their reading success. Even **10-15 minutes each day** builds fluency, vocabulary and comprehension, and adds up to thousands of extra words read across a term. Home reading is not about testing your child, it is practice. Like any skill, reading improves with regular use.

Books should feel manageable. If a text is too difficult, children spend all their effort working out each word and cannot read smoothly. Easier, familiar books help build reading fluency and confidence. Your child should be able to read most words with only occasional help, and re-reading favourite books is very valuable.

A simple routine helps: sit beside your child, let them do the reading, and if they get stuck encourage them to "sound it out" and give them time to try. Keep the experience calm and positive. After the book, spend a minute talking about what happened or what they think might happen next to support understanding.

Strong reading skills allow children to access every area of learning. The small, consistent reading practice you provide at home works hand-in-hand with the teaching at school and makes a powerful difference to your child's confidence and long-term success.



Year 5/6 Life Saving Education Program

On Wednesday our Year 5 and 6 students spent the day at Frankston beach as part of their water safety learning. They participated in a range of activities focusing on understanding beach conditions, identifying hazards, and discussing safe decision-making around water.



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Wellbeing Buzz

Youth Worker



Ms Culpin

We are pleased to remind families that our school has a dedicated Youth Worker to support students' social and emotional wellbeing, Lindy Culpin.

As the school's Youth Worker, I hold a Diploma of Mental Health and work closely with our Wellbeing Team to provide early intervention, emotional support, and practical strategies to help students manage challenges both at school and beyond.

We believe wellbeing underpins learning. When students feel safe, supported, and emotionally regulated, they are better able to engage in learning, build positive relationships, and reach their full potential.

Support may include individual check-ins, small group programs, social skills development, emotional regulation strategies, and collaboration with families and external services where appropriate.

Please contact your child's teacher or the school office if you would like more information or wish to discuss support for your child.

New Speaker System

A big thank you to our school community for your fundraising efforts over the past year. Recently, we were able to use some of the funds raised to purchase a new speaker system for the school, which will be used at future outdoor events. We're looking forward to playing some dance tunes at our next event!



Lunchtime Clubs

Everyday at 1:30pm we run a range of lunchtime clubs for students to participate in, based on suggestions from each class. Clubs include: drawing, Lego, sports, boardgames, music, tech and many more. A timetable of clubs has been posted on Compass.



Attendance

Accurate attendance records are essential and form part of our government-mandated responsibilities. To ensure our records remain up to date and correct. See on the next page the clear practices and protocols we follow across the school.

Families play an important role in this process. Please contact your child's classroom teacher and update Compass as soon as possible when your child is absent. Timely communication helps us maintain accurate records and supports the wellbeing and safety of all students.



Mrs Symons

ATTENDANCE PROCESS (Parents/Guardians)



Daily Absences

Rolls marked by 9:00am
Homeroom Teacher or
Specialist Staff

All late arrivals must come
through office
Kiosk/Admin staff

Automated SMS at 11am for all
absences as per marked rolls
Parents/Guardians notified to enter
explanation on compass

Unexplained Absences

Student Absent 1 Day

Automated Text
Message

Student Absent 2 Days

Automated Text
Message

Student Absent 3 Days

Automated Text Message
Phone Call from Homeroom
Teacher

Student Absent 4 Days

if no answer

Follow up email to
parents/guardians

Student Absent 5 Days

Automated Text Message
Phone Call from Homeroom Teacher
if no answer
Homeroom Teacher to refer to BRPS Leadership
Attendance Team
Call emergency contacts

ATTENDANCE PROCESS (Parents/Guardians)



Medical Absences / Parent Choice

Student Absent 3 Days

Medical Certificate
requested

Parent Choice

If no medical certificate
OR reason provided

Student Absent 4 Days

Parents/Guardians to
please provide a
medical certificate and
note medical reason on
compass.

Parents/guardians to
please provide
reason/explanation to
notes on compass.

Check in from Homeroom
Teacher
Email or phone call

Student Absent 5 Days

Check in from Homeroom
Teacher
Phone call

Holiday Absences

Parents/Guardians to please notify classroom
teacher and office 7 days prior to last day.
In writing via email:
botanic.ridge.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Parent/guardian to enter on
compass

Holiday exceeding 2+ Weeks
(10 Days)

Teacher to provide
'Absence Learning Plan'

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Student Leader Buzz

Meet your new Terrick and Walker Captains for 2026!



Hudson



Ava



Lucas



Millah



Terrick



Walker

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

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

Hudson: I'm excited to play with friends and help Terrick be the best!

Ava: Being a house captain.

Lucas: I am most excited about all the house sports and holding the house cup.

Millah: What I'm most excited about this year is being your house captain.

What does a positive school culture mean to you?

Hudson: Being positive about themselves and others around, and being kind to people no matter what!

Ava: Being kind, respectful, and using all of the school values.

Lucas: It means a lot to me because when I see kids happy it makes me feel joy.

Millah: It makes the school a better place.

What's your favourite thing about our school?

Hudson: My favourite thing about BRPS is how everyone is showing values and always looking after their friends and listening to peers and teachers.

Ava: My favourite thing about this school is that I get to see my friends everyday.

Lucas: Probably my friends and maths. Also all our great teachers.

Millah: My favourite thing is sport or art, and seeing all the students happy and at school.

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

Hudson: Always be positive and be kind to others, and don't talk back to teachers.

Ava: Go Terrick!

Lucas: To all students, "work well and keep trying!"

Millah: Stay happy.