



BOTANIC BUZZ NEWSLETTER

TERM 1
WEEK 6
2026

Growth - Respect - Responsibility - Safe



Settling Into School Life

Principal News

Dear Community,
We are officially half-way through the first term! It has been a busy and exciting term and I have loved getting to know your children and watching them learn and grow across the school!



Mrs Fuller

Learning Focus Forums: It was wonderful to see so many parents engaging in their children's learning during the teacher meetings last week. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet with many of you and get to know you a little more.

School Council: We have a full school council for 2026. The members are: Melissa Hill-Thompson, Maddison Harker, Bella Crawford, Emma Hussey and Sien Penfold. Our staff representatives include myself, Scott Bloomfield and Zoe Williamson. Our first school council is on the 23rd of March. We will be discussing establishing some sub-committees and I will be reaching out for parent members soon, so watch this space.

Maverick Update: Due to changes in Department policy, Mav is unable to come into school until further notice.

School Strategic Plan: The School Strategic Plan is finalised, and you can find this on our website. The plan was developed as part of the school review process and will take us through to 2029.

Evacuation: Our planned emergency evacuation, which was planned last Monday, has been moved to the 16th March due to the rain!

24th March Stop Work: As per my previous newsletter, you would have seen there is a Stop Work planned for the 24th March. This has now been approved, and I have included the letter from the Australian Education Union in this newsletter. We thank you for your support and understanding.

Have a wonderful week! Emma.

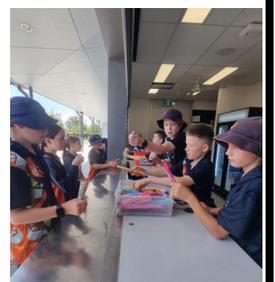
Upcoming Dates



- 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**
- School Photos **March 27** - wear full school uniform
- Subway Lunch **March 27** - orders due 9am March 20

Reminders

- Don't forget your hats this term!
- On time, every time:
Classroom doors open at 8:35am with learning starting at **8:45am**.
- 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

Phonics: The Foundations of Reading



Mr Bloomfield

One of the biggest priorities in the early years of school is teaching children how reading actually works. Reading doesn't develop naturally in the same way speaking does, so children need to be shown how the sounds in spoken words connect to the letters they see on the page. This is called **phonics**.

At our school, all students from Foundation to Year 2 take part in at least 30 minutes of explicit phonics instruction every day. We use the **Sounds-Write** program, which teaches reading in a clear, structured and step-by-step way.

You may hear some new vocabulary coming home:

- *Phonemes* - the individual sounds in a word (e.g. cat = /c/ /a/ /t/)
- *Graphemes* - the letters or letter groups that represent those sounds (e.g. sh, ay, ea)
- *Blending* - putting sounds together to read a word (/m/ /a/ /p/ → map)
- *Segmenting* - breaking a word into sounds to help spelling (ship → /sh/ /i/ /p/)

Students practise listening for sounds, blending to read and segmenting to spell. Teaching phonics in a systematic sequence means children learn how to work words out rather than guess. As their accuracy improves, reading becomes smoother and they can focus more on understanding and enjoying what they read.

You can support your child by listening to them read regularly and encouraging them to try sounding out words before helping. Even a few minutes each night makes a big difference and reinforces the skills they are learning at school.



Practice phonics and play the game, Sound Detective!

Time: All you need is 10-15 minutes.

Supplies: Paper, Marker, Small household items.

What to do:

Step 1: Write 5 - 8 sounds on small pieces of paper.

Appropriate sounds for Prep: a, i, m, s, t

Appropriate sound for Year 1: sh, th, ch, ck, ng, wh, a, i, o, d, h

Appropriate sounds for Year 2: sound /ae/ spellings (ai, ay, ea, a-e)

Step 2: Pick a sound. Your child picks one card and says the sound (not the letter name).

Example: If they pick m, they say "/mmm/" not "em."

If they need help, model it first!

Step 3: Go on a Sound Hunt

Set a timer for 1-2 minutes.

Your child becomes a Sound Detective and searches the house for something that starts with that sound.

Example: /m/ → mug, mat, mirror /b/ → book, bed, ball /sh/ → shoe, shirt

Bring the item back or just point to it.

Ways to Make It More Fun

- 🏠 Use a flashlight for "detective mode."
- 🎩 Wear a hat or badge.
- 🏆 Give 1 point for each correct item.
- 🤫 Use "secret spy voices."

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Wellbeing Buzz

Supporting Students with Emotional Regulation



Mrs Culpin

At school, some students participate in small social groups that use the Zones of Regulation framework. This program supports students in recognising and understanding their emotions by grouping feelings into four coloured zones: Blue (sad or tired), Green (calm and ready to learn), Yellow (worried, excited, or frustrated), and Red (very angry or overwhelmed).

During social groups, students take part in discussions, activities, and practical strategy-building to help them recognise their emotions, develop self-regulation skills, and build positive peer relationships. These sessions support students in learning ways to manage challenges they may experience in the classroom or playground.

Families who would like to learn more about the Zones of Regulation and explore strategies that can also be used at home can visit:

<https://zonesofregulation.com>

Another helpful Australian resource for supporting children's emotional wellbeing is the Raising Children Network, which provides practical guidance for families on children's emotions, behaviour, and development:

<https://raisingchildren.net.au>

Working together between school and home helps children build emotional awareness, resilience, and positive strategies for managing their feelings.

NAPLAN 2026

Each year, students in Year 3 and Year 5 take part in the **National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy** (NAPLAN). These assessments provide a snapshot of students' progress in reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy.

Testing will begin next week, with the full schedule available for families to view on Compass.

We are confident that our students will approach the assessments with a positive attitude, try their best and make us proud. We thank families for supporting their children by ensuring they arrive at school on time and ready for the day.



We found mummies in Year 2!

Our Year 2s have been 'wrapped up' in learning all about Ancient Egypt during their Read2Learn unit. They even tried wrapping some mummies.



Classroom Routines and Circle Time Focus

For the remainder of the term, classes will be using their daily Circle Time sessions to strengthen classroom routines and practices. Each class will select a specific goal based on our Positive Behaviour Matrix, classroom expectations, and school values.

During Circle Time each morning, teachers will explicitly teach and revisit the behaviours and routines that support a calm, productive, and respectful learning environment. This consistent focus helps students understand what successful classroom behaviour looks like and gives them the opportunity to practise these skills together.

We encourage families to talk with their children about the goal their class has chosen and to celebrate the wonderful effort students are putting into building a positive classroom culture.



Mrs Symons

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Student Leader Buzz

Meet your new Harrison and Charles Captains for 2026!



Beauden



Harper



Harrison



Willow



Ava



Charles

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?

Beauden: I'm most excited to spend my last year as a house captain and lead my house to victory and just have fun.

Harper: Running activities as house captain and year six camp.

Willow: I'm excited for learning new things.

Ava: Learning and making new friends.

What does a positive school culture mean to you?

Beauden: No bullying, no fighting, and listening to your teachers. Also no interrupting anyone.

Harper: It means that people are showing each other respect and there is no violence or bullying.

Willow: Being kind to others.

Ava: For the school to be sporty, creative and happy.

What's your favourite thing about our school?

Beauden: Seeing my friends and enjoying my last year having fun and everyone is always kind and caring.

Harper: Excursions, all the nice teachers and students or getting the opportunity to be a school leader.

Willow: It's clean and it's fun.

Ava: Learning and making new friends along the way.

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

Beauden: Hope everyone enjoys their year at BRPS. I'm looking forward to learning new things and having fun with my friends. Go Harrison!

Harper: I hope everyone is getting used to their new classes and teachers and I wish that everyone has a fun year. Go Harrison House!

Willow: To never give up and keep trying.

Ava: Be yourself and believe in yourself.

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Classroom Buzz

I know you wanted to know what 1C were doing at 12:03pm on a Thursday!

We dropped in while 1C were doing their Daily Review and maths lesson.

What are you learning about now?

Anna: We are doing patterns.

Zayla: Bundling because it helps us know numbers.

Harvey: Tens and ones.

Ashar: Tens and ones in maths.

What do you like learning about at school?

Toby: I like learning about numbers.

Phoebe: Literacy.

Madden: I like learning about bundling in maths.

Isla G: I like learning maths.

Ivy: The Grumpy Gruffalo work.

Izhaiyini: I like maths.

Carter: Everything!

What does your teacher do well when teaching you?

What do you like about your teacher?

Ben: She's very kind.

Sehaj: She teaches things really well.

Luna: I like that she's kind.

Isla H: She's nice.

Liam: I like when she gives power-ups for rewards.

Oscar: She's really good at teaching.

Charlotte: I like that Miss A teaches me.

Lewis: She teaches maths really well.



Miss Akkusoglu

Botanic Brilliance Awards

Congratulations to all of our award winners:

1A Amelia

1B Levi

2A Ava

2B Evie, Eli J.

2C Tyler

2D Dex

3A Ruby

3B Hunter

3C Yana, Tyler

34A Lachlan

4B Hannah

4C Riley, Luka

5A Lily

5B Harper, Hannah

5C Veronica, Silas

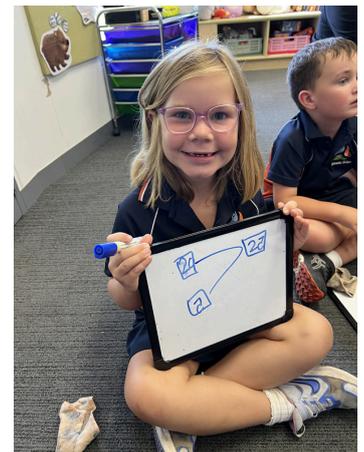
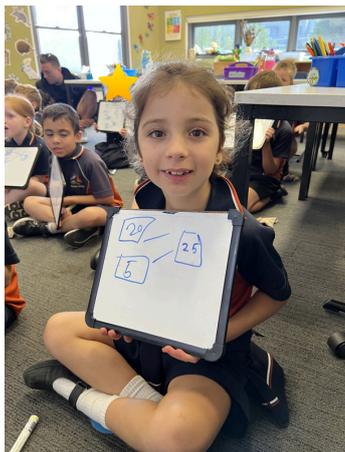
6A Jack, Hafsa

LOTE Amelia S., Casey W.

STEM Anneliese N.

ART Karan S.

PE Emelia O., Madden F.





TERM 1

MARCH / APRIL

2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 MAR Week 6	2 FOUNDATION FULL TIME	3	4 Parent Helper Induction 2:30pm 	5	6	7
8 Week 7	9 Labour Day 	10	11 Yr 3 & 5 NAPLAN Starts ASSEMBLY 2:15pm	12	13 Curriculum Day	14
15 Week 8	16	17	18 Harmony Day Yr 6 Camp	19 Yr 6 Camp	20 Yr 6 Camp	21
22 Week 9	23 School Council	24	25 ASSEMBLY 2:15pm	26	27 School Photos Subway Lunch	28
29 Week 10	30 Learning Summit 2:15pm 	31 District Cross Country 	1 APRIL	2 Easter Hat Parade & Raffle 9:15am Last Day 2:30 finish	3 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 	4