



BOTANIC BUZZ NEWSLETTER

TERM 1
WEEK 8
2026

Growth - Respect - Responsibility - Safe



Settling Into School Life

Principal News

Dear Families,

I hope you enjoyed the 3 day week last week. We had a very productive curriculum day, where teachers and Education Support have worked together to strengthen their approaches with your children. The feedback from the staff has been overwhelmingly positive. Here are some important updates and information for you all:



Mrs Fuller

Stop Work 24th March: As per the comms I sent on Compass this week, we will be undertaking a state-wide stop-work on Tuesday next week. I will inform you if you need to make alternative arrangements for your children by Friday after 5pm (as that is when the teachers will notify me). I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have sent positive messages supporting us with this action. I understand that this may have an impact on you and your family, and I appreciate your understanding at this time.

Mini Working Bee this Friday: If you are available to support Trisha and I on Friday with some working bee jobs, we would love to see you at 2:30 (if you have a Working with Children Check) or after 3pm if you don't. We are hoping to clean up our paths, blow some of the fake grass, and clean up the rubbish. Please let me know if you are able to help: emma.fuller@education.vic.gov.au

Premiers' Reading Challenge: This year we will be participating in the Premiers' Reading Challenge for the first time at BRPS. Please refer to Grace's information in this newsletter. I hope you are keen for your child to participate!

Social Media Ban: A reminder that there is a ban on social media for any child under the age of 16. This includes using parents' accounts, too. If there are any incidents involving social media use I will be contacting the police. For further information please click here: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/industry-regulation/social-media-age-restrictions>. If you are wanting to 'parent' your child's chat functions, please take a look at the following apps which can pick up bullying themes etc: Bark, Qustodio (for Android) or Famisafe. These apps provide AI-powered alerts and can monitor chat apps like WhatsApp.

School Council Monday: We will have our school council meeting on Monday at 5pm. For transparency, the newsletter will have a section from school council after each meeting. We are also looking at formalising some sub-committees. If you are keen to be involved, please keep an eye out in the next newsletter.

NAPLAN update: I wanted to let you know how proud I am of the students' attitudes to NAPLAN at BRPS. When I walk through they are persisting, engaging, and focused on these sessions. Well done, everyone. As always, the NAPLAN results won't be available until August.

School Tours starting next week: We are starting our Prep Tours for 2027 next Monday. If you know of any families who have young children due to start school next year, please encourage them to call the office. We will be advertising our tours with a Real Estate board on the fenceline prior to the end of this term.

End of Term 1: A reminder that the end of term has an early finish of 2:30pm. This term we finish on Thursday 2nd April. Their Care will be available for you to book over the holiday period.

Ride 2 School Day: We are having the Ride 2 School Day on Wednesday 1st April. Please keep an eye out for further information from Ms Hoogenboom.

Easter Raffle: Thank you to those of you who have already donated things for the Easter raffle. The raffle will be drawn on the last day of term. Please return raffle tickets by Monday 30th of March.

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Teaching and Learning Buzz

Building Strong Readers and Writers: Why Morphology Matters



Mr Bloomfield

As students become more confident readers, we continue to build their understanding of how words work. One important part of this is **morphology** (the study of the meaningful parts of words).

Morphology helps students understand that many words are made up of smaller parts called morphemes. These include:

- **Base words** - the main part of the word (e.g. help)
- **Prefixes** - added to the beginning to change meaning (e.g. unhelpful)
- **Suffixes** - added to the end (e.g. helped, helpful, helping)

At our school, teachers explicitly teach morphology each week to support both reading and spelling. Students learn how words are built, how meanings change, and how this knowledge can help them work out unfamiliar words. This is especially important as students move into more complex texts. Understanding word parts helps them: read longer and more challenging words; improve their spelling; and better understand the meaning of what they are reading rather than seeing words as something to memorise. Students begin to recognise patterns and make connections between words they already know.

You can support your child at home by noticing and talking about words in everyday reading, for example, discussing how *happy*, *unhappy* and *happiness* are related. These small conversations help build a deeper understanding of language over time.

By learning about morphology, students continue to strengthen their reading and writing skills and grow their vocabulary across all areas of learning.



Morphology Game: Word Builder Challenge

A fun and easy game to play at home to build your child's understanding of how words work!

What you need:

- Small pieces of paper or sticky notes
- A pen

Write a mix of:

- Base words (e.g. play, help, read, jump)
- Prefixes (e.g. un-, dis-)
- Suffixes (e.g. -ing, -ful)

How to play:

1. Place all the word parts face up on a table.
2. Ask your child to build a word by choosing a base word and adding a prefix or suffix.
 - e.g. play → playing, replay, player
3. Each time they make a word, ask:
 - What does the word mean?
 - How did the prefix or suffix change the meaning?
4. Take turns creating words and see how many you can make!



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Voluntary Contributions

Thank you to all our families who have made voluntary contributions to our school this year for your support and generosity.

Your contributions have ensured that all the children have started the year with pens, pencils, workbooks, whiteboards, markers and other necessary classroom resources. Your contributions have enabled your children to have hands on maths resources, access take home readers and start projects in art.

Any and all contributions are greatly appreciated and make a huge difference to the quality of programs, facilities and resources we can continue to provide to your children.

If you have yet to make a contribution and would like to do so, or for those who have chosen to pay via instalments, we would appreciate if you could make your payment by the end of this term.

Please remember, you are able to make a payment of any amount at any time through the Compass Payments Centre, or you are welcome to come into the office to pay via EFT or cash.

Thank you for your continued support!

Easter Raffle

Donations Needed!

We're excited to host our upcoming Easter raffle and are looking for generous donations to help make it a success!

Every donation—big or small—helps us create amazing prizes and raise funds for the school!

Donation ideas:

Easter eggs, bunnies, other easter chocolates
Other packaged sweet treats
Easter Toys or craft items or kits
Easter homewares or decorations
Easter-themed baskets, boxes or bags, ribbon or cellophane for wrapping

Thank you for your support and for helping us make this Easter raffle extra special!

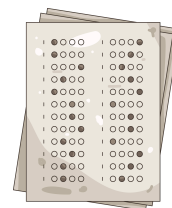
Remember to return your Easter raffle tickets by Monday, March 30th.



NAPLAN Update

Congratulations to all of our Year 3 and 5 students for completing their NAPLAN assessments. We are incredibly proud of the persistence and effort they demonstrated throughout the testing period.

We have already held several catch-up sessions; however, Monday will be our final opportunity for any remaining tests. If your child has been absent, please ensure they attend school on Monday to complete any missed assessments.



School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

As we move toward the end of Term 1, it's been wonderful to see students settling into routines, building friendships, and developing confidence across the school. Our focus this term has been on creating calm, predictable learning environments where every child feels safe, supported, and ready to learn.

We have introduced key elements of our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS):

- Using consistent behaviour expectations across the school
- Explicitly teaching what positive behaviour looks like and sounds like
- Reinforcing positive choices with clear, predictable language

Students are responding beautifully, and we're already seeing stronger consistency across classrooms and shared spaces.



Mrs Symons

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Student Leader Buzz

Meet our STEM and Art Captains for 2026!



Kyla
STEM



Lachlan
Art

We interviewed our new STEM and Art captains to learn a little bit more about them:

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

Kyla: Being able to help one another in STEM.

Lachlan: The year ahead.

What does a positive school culture mean to you?

Kyla: Everyone respecting everyone.

Lachlan: No bullying and adapting to people's needs.

What's your favourite thing about our school?

Kyla: That people follow and respect the school values.

Lachlan: It's inclusive and a great place to be.

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

Kyla: Make sure to continue being yourself and have an amazing year!

Lachlan: Give everything a go and be creative.

Botanic Brilliance Awards

Congratulations to all of our award winners:

- 0A** Sophie, Noah
- 0B** Isla, Alfie
- 0C** Vaishnavi, Jayden
- 0D** Luka, Frankie
- 1A** Wyatt, Hannah
- 1C** Luna, Carter
- 2A** Lewis, Ivy
- 2B** Isaiah, Delilah
- 2C** Alexa, Jye
- 2D** Annie, Hazel
- 34A** Isla
- 4B** Hayzel
- 4C** Layla
- 5A** Hela
- 5B** Munifa
- 5C** Bella, Harry
- 56A** Jaxon, Harrison
- 6A** Dechlan, Beauden
- STEM** Mahlee H., Arlo S.
- ART** Isla J. (5A)
- PE** Leo W., Nirvana G.

Upcoming Dates



- Year 5/6 students walking to Booring Reserve for athletics trials **March 23**
- School Photos **March 27** - wear full school uniform
- Subway Lunch **March 27** - orders due 9am March 20
- Learning Summit **March 30** - 2:15pm
- Easter Raffle tickets due **March 30**
- District Cross Country **March 31** - selected students from years 4-6
- Ride 2 School Day **April 1**
- Easter Parade & Raffle **April 2** - 9am
- Last day of school **April 2** - 2:30pm finish

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.





Library Buzz

Premiers' Reading Challenge



Miss Grace

We are excited to announce that BRPS will be participating in The Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge for the first time this year!

It is not a competition; but a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books by 5 September 2025.

To complete the Challenge, students should:

1. Access the Challenge book list

The Challenge book list has lots of books to choose from. Most of the books that students read during the Challenge should be taken from the list. It is important that students read books appropriate for their year or reading level.

2. Read a certain number of books

During the Challenge, a student will read a certain number of books that are suitable for their reading level.

- Prep to Year 2: Read a total of 30 books, with 20 or more of those books from the Challenge book list
- Year 3 to Year 6: Read a total of 15 books, with 10 or more of those books from the Challenge book list

3. Track books read

Each student has a login to track the books they read for the Challenge. Once a student has read a book, they should mark it as finished on their reading list.

4. Have books verified

Once a student has completed the Challenge, books need to be verified by their classroom teacher.

All children who meet the Challenge will be presented a certificate of achievement signed by the Victorian Premier.

Good luck and happy reading!

