



NEWSLETTER

PO Box 66 NORTH BENDIGO 3550

SCHOOL : www.lightningreefps.vic.edu.au

Phone: 5443 2501

ELC : www.bendigoaregionalymca.org.au

Phone: 5444 6666

Learners today Leaders tomorrow

COVID-19 SAFETY

We are so looking forward to our Room 3 class returning onsite from Remote Learning next Monday! A reminder to families who have a student isolating as a Primary Close Contact PCC that it is a legal requirement that we see your child's 13-day Clearance message from DH before being allowed onsite.

The message will be addressed to your child, and is a simple message stating the result of the Day 13 COVID19 test, indicated the virus was NOT detected. We do not need to copy these, but to make it easier for families, parents can either email me at Joanne.Ryan@education.vic.gov.au, the school at lightning.reef.ps@education.vic.gov.au or forward the text (easiest option I think) to my school phone on 0459890531. **You can forward the message at any time over the weekend. I will respond at some stage over the weekend to confirm your child can come back onsite.**

On Monday morning, Paul Keller, Katrina Johnstone and myself will be at both gates with a list of students whose clearance we will need to sight to let on the premises. If you would prefer to just show us on the day that is fine too.

Although we are loving having all children at school, we need to remind families that if your child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school, remain home and seek medical advice. We acknowledge this isn't easy as it is also the time of year that hay-fever, asthma and common colds can be more prevalent. The symptoms of Coronavirus can include fever, breathing difficulties, cough, sore throat, fatigue or tiredness. Having a cough or snuffle doesn't mean that you've got the coronavirus.

Although the number of positive COVID cases continue to decline, if you are unwell with any above symptoms you should stay at home, not attend school and we recommend a COVID-19 test is undertaken. If children present with these symptoms at school we will follow our protocols like with any illness: we will call parents/carers or emergency contacts and we expect the student to be collected from school as soon as possible. It is very important that we stay vigilant and a cautious approach occurs for anyone feeling unwell. Thank you for your support and understanding.

VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR VISITORS- REMINDER

Any visitor or volunteers performing work in school (including parent helpers, NDIS providers, volunteers, contractors and incursion providers) are required to be fully vaccinated by 29 November (unless a medical exemption applies) to attend on site. All visitors will be required to verify their vaccination status at the office.





All parents and carers attending schools, including for drop off and pick up must also adhere to physical distancing, density limits, face mask requirements and practise good respiratory and hand hygiene.

Parents and carers who enter school buildings must check in using the QR code.

Parents and carers attending any event or activity inside a school building including, but not limited to tours, graduations, kindergarten transition, whole of school events are required to show evidence of vaccination. Meetings and other discussions (such as Student Support Group meetings) with parents and carers who do not meet vaccination requirements should be held virtually.

Parents and carers attending school sites for drop off and pick up who do not enter school buildings do not need to comply with vaccination requirements.

Department of Education's Operations Guide has provided some good news for some of our most important Term 4 events. All schools will be able to recommence a range of activities, consistent with community settings and school vaccination requirements. Based on the current advice, we will be able to proceed with many of our onsite transition programs for our Kinder students beginning Foundation in 2022 and for our Year 6 students transitioning into Year 7 in 2022. Interschool activities can also resume, as well as incursions and excursions.

BE YOUR BEST 	BE RESPECTFUL 	BE CO-OPERATIVE 	BE RESPONSIBLE 
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STOMP INCURSION

For the next 5 weeks, students will participate in the annual STOMP dance incursion. We are dancing outdoors (weather permitting) so our 3-6 students don't have to wear masks while dancing. Teachers will start to take photos to share over the next few weeks.

As stated in our Fees earlier in the year, the cost is covered if you are eligible for CSEF. Kristie will make contact with those families who will be invoiced.

ASTHMA & HAY FEVER SEASON

Linked to the information above, it is essential that families make contact with the office if children need medication for Hay Fever through the school day. It will need to be sent to the office, clearly named with pharmacy label attached. Make sure that the medication is in date and please inform the school office if your child has been medicated before school on any particular day. If your child is asthmatic they should have their asthma medication with them every day, and for a more effective recovery they should also have a spacer.

SNAKE SIGHTINGS

There have been a number of snake sightings within the local community, including along the roadside and in the grass areas around the railway. We ask that parents and carers please take care and remind children to stay vigilant when walking to and from school, and avoid walking in any longer grass areas.

Joanne Ryan

Acting Principal

Lightning Reef Primary School

Ph: 54432501



Attendance Matters

What do I miss out on when I am not at school?

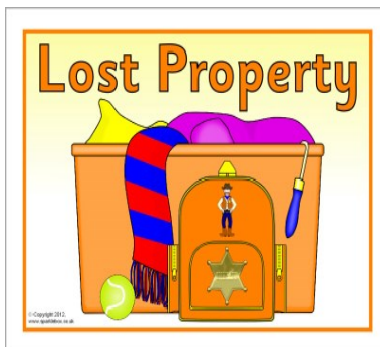
Lots!

Class discussions with friends and teachers.

Information and work that you will have to catch up on.

You will also miss out on seeing your friends

Don't forget to check lost property if you are missing any items. It is located in the foyer of the gym and it is filling up fast.



Happy Birthday to Izac N

We hope you have an amazing day.



Calendar of events:

Friday November 19th - Second
Chance School Photos - for any-
one that was absent on the day.

Wednesday December 1st–
Student free day - NO SCHOOL

Tuesday December 14th -
Student led conferences

Friday December 17th - Last
day of Term 4

CONTACT US:

5443 2501

Acting Principal:

Jo Ryan

Business Manager:

Kristie Coates

Leading Teacher:

Paul Keller

Learning Specialist:

Katrina Johnstone

Specialist Coordinator:

Georgia King

Social Worker:

Gai Maddams

School Council President

Sonia Valli

Parents and Friends President:

Daria Turnbull

Please
remember
smoking is
banned
within four
metres of an
entrance to
all Victorian
Schools and
within the
school
grounds, this
includes our
shared
entrance and
the bus stop



**Just a reminder hats need to be worn
outside from September 1st. Hats are
available from Lowes Marketplace.
Please make sure your child's name is on**



BE YOUR BEST



BE RESPECTFUL



BE CO-OPERATIVE



BE RESPONSIBLE



One of the most important things we can do to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in our community is to stay at home when we are unwell, even when we have the mildest of symptoms.

What you need to know

1. If a child is unwell, even with the mildest of symptoms, they must stay at home

If a child becomes unwell during the day, they must be collected from school/early childhood education and care (ECEC) as soon as possible.

2. If a child has any of the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) outlined below, however mild, they should get tested and they must remain at home until they receive their results:

- fever
- chills or sweats
- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath
- runny nose
- loss of sense of smell or taste.

In certain circumstances headache, muscle soreness, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea may also be considered symptoms.

For further advice:

- call the 24-hour coronavirus (COVID-19) hotline 1800 675 398
- call a general practitioner
- use the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) [online self-assessment tool](#).

Visit: [Where to get tested](#).

3. A child must stay at home until they are symptom free, even if their coronavirus (COVID-19) test is negative

If a person has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or been identified as a close contact they must isolate/quarantine until they receive clearance from DHHS.

Children with persistent symptoms due to underlying conditions such as hay fever or asthma whose symptoms are clearly typical of their condition can continue to attend ECEC/school. They should be tested for COVID-19 if they develop symptoms that are different to or worse than their usual symptoms. They should consider getting a medical certificate from their GP to attend ECEC/school if they have persistent symptoms that may overlap with symptoms of COVID-19 such as cough or runny nose.

Younger children (pre-school up to Grade 2) may have prolonged post viral symptoms such as a runny nose or cough and may return to school/ECEC following a negative COVID-19 test even if they are not completely free of symptoms. They will need a medical certificate from their GP to confirm they are otherwise well or have recovered from their acute illness.

For information on the minimum periods students and children need to stay at home for other conditions, refer to the [DHHS school exclusion table](#).

4. Children do NOT need a medical certificate before returning to school/ECEC

Once symptoms have cleared, there is no requirement from the Department of Education and Training or DHHS for children/students to have a medical certificate before they return to school/ECEC.

Thank you for your support in following these steps, together we can all stay safe.



This advice has been prepared by the Department of Education and Training, Safer Care Victoria and the Department of Health and Human Services

We're developing a strategy for local kindergartens and the buildings they operate from and want your thoughts!

The City of Greater Bendigo is keen to get your thoughts on what is important to the Greater Bendigo community now, and in the future for pre-school facilities. We also want to know how families currently access kindergarten programs, what the barriers are to participation and what would make it easier for children to participate? This information is important because it will assist the City to develop an Early Years Infrastructure Strategy for the next 10 years.

In 2022, funded kindergarten services are being expanded to include three-year-old and four-year-old children across Greater Bendigo with local children set to benefit from this additional education.

Greater Bendigo has a growing population and the number of children in our community, aged three and four-years-old, is expected to grow from 3594 in 2021 to 3877 in 2029.

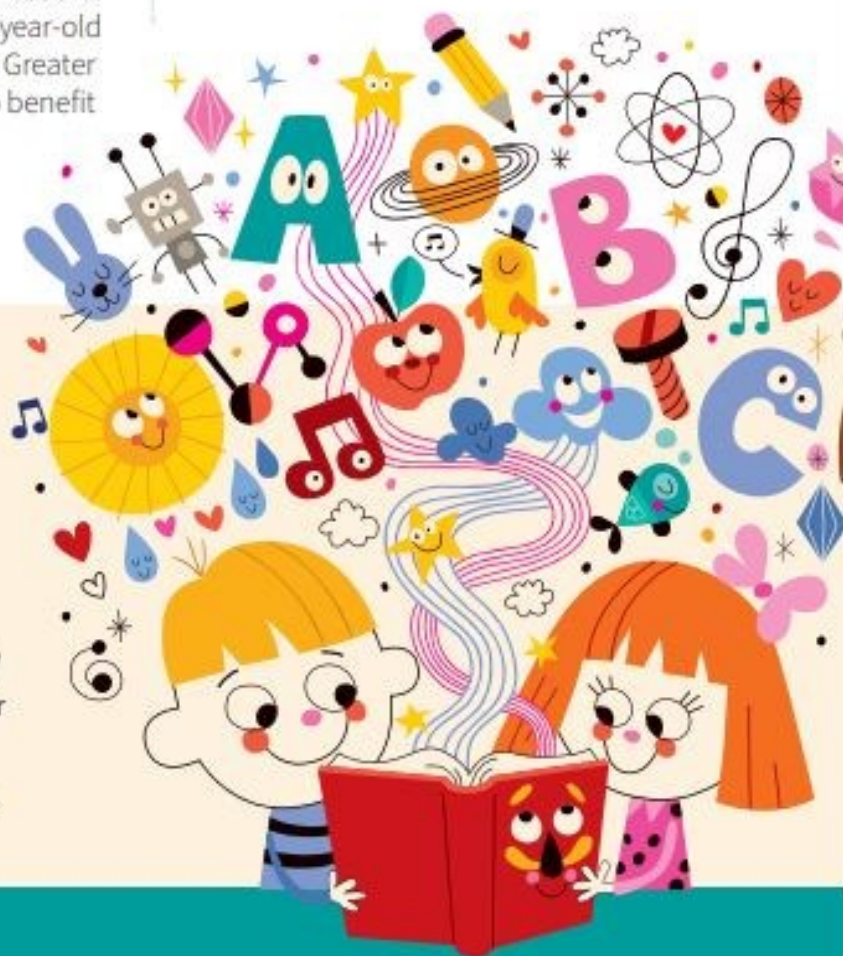
In partnership with the Victorian Department of Education and Training the City's goal is to ensure all three and four-year-old children have easy access to contemporary kindergarten programs.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can help by completing a short survey at <https://letstalkgreaterbendigo.com.au/kindergarten-services-survey> or via the above QR code.

By Wednesday December 1, 2021.



Schools on the Bushfire At-Risk Register and Schools at Risk of Grassfire (Category 4)

School procedures for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children's services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and those at risk of grassfire (Category 4) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district. **Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire or grassfire risk.**



Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter/email/SMS. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days
- School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.
- Depending on which Bureau of Meteorology district is impacted bus route cancellations may affect our school.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan, reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

What can parents do?

- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking Sentral/Class Dojo and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you're planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.
- You can access more information about children's services closures on the Department of Education and Training website – see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

Multiple sources that offer information on emergencies are listed below:

- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters





connecting & communicating with your young person: parent / carer webinar

headspace National in conjunction with headspace Bendigo are presenting a webinar for parents and carers of young people.

Information presented will cover:

- Understanding your young person, and recognising mental health difficulties.
- Managing the challenges of parenting young people today.
- Having better conversations with your young person.
- Connecting your young person with the right help and support.

The webinar will consist of a presentation on mental health, with a focus on noticing mental health difficulties in young people and supporting them to open up and communicate with you about their challenges, in order to seek help if needed.

When: Monday 29th

November at 7:00pm

Where: online via zoom

How do I register?

[Click here](#) to register via Eventbrite, or copy the following URL into your web browser:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/bendigo-parent-carer-webinar-communicating-with-youth-registration-169914339363>

After you have registered, you will receive an email confirmation from Eventbrite which will include the Zoom meeting link to access the webinar. Please note this webinar will not be recorded.

All those who register will receive a digital information pack, after the webinar, that includes key messages as well as links to resources & support services.

Contact

For more information email:
programsupport@headspace.org.au

headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health



Accessing help for my young person: parent / carer webinar

headspace National in conjunction with headspace Bendigo are presenting a webinar for parents and carers of young people to investigate mental health support services.

Information presented will cover:

- Strengthening your understanding of mental health and wellbeing.
- The conversational approach to mental health and well-being.
- Practical strategies and resources to support mental health.
- Building an awareness of local, state, and national support services available to young people.

This session is intended to increase your knowledge of the mental health sector and different levels of support.

When: Monday 6th

December at 7:00pm AEDT

Where: online via zoom

How do I register?

[Click here](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/bendigo-parentcarer-webinar-accessing-help-for-my-young-person-registration-169914509873) to register via Eventbrite, or copy the following URL into your web browser:
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/bendigo-parentcarer-webinar-accessing-help-for-my-young-person-registration-169914509873>

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