

Term 1  
Week 1

# NEWSLETTER

Lightning Reef

PRIMARY SCHOOL



**RESPECT**  
**RESPONSIBILITY**  
**KINDNESS**  
**PERSISTENCE**

## UPCOMING DATES

### Monday Feb 5th

Yr 5/6 Tennis Academy Lessons commence

(First break)

### Wednesday Feb 7th

Prep Rest Day

### Friday Feb 9th

2.15 Whole School Assembly

### Monday Feb 12th

Yr 5/6 Tennis Academy Lessons

### Tuesday Feb 13th

2.30 pm Carlton Football Club  
Q&A in Gym

### Wednesday Feb 14th

Prep Rest Day

### Friday Feb 16th

2.15 Whole School Assembly

### Monday Feb 19th

Yr 5/6 Tennis Academy Lessons

### Tuesday Feb 20th

Getting To Know You Interviews—  
no school except interview time

### Wednesday Feb 21st

Prep Rest Day

### Friday Feb 23rd

11.45 3-6 Hockey Road Show  
2.15 Whole School Assembly

## From the Principal :

### **2023 WELCOME!**

A very warm welcome to all new and existing families to the LRPS community for the 2024 school year. I hope everyone has had a restful break. It was fantastic to see our Foundation students attend for the first time on Tuesday! Our Year 1 -6 students have been very settled, both in classrooms and the playground, ensuring all students are feeling connected and engaged.

I would like to especially welcome new students and families to our school and I hope that your partnership with us at Lightning Reef will be an enjoyable and positive experience.

### **COMMUNICATION WITH STAFF AT LRPS**

We take great pride in providing many options for communication between parents and staff. We will continue to use staff work mobile phones, emails and Class Dojo for communication between home and school. A letter will be sent home with all students next week that has your child's teacher's mobile phone number and email address, as well as all other teachers and Leadership Team, along with their timetable. We have policies to support our communication processes and they can be found on the school's website.

We strongly encourage all families to read these documents so that everyone understands how we expect these communication options to be used. The key message that we want all families to understand is that both Class Dojo and staff mobile/email addresses are not Instant messaging options. Teachers and the Leadership team will respond when they can during work hours.

# From the Principal cont....

## CHILDREN'S MEDICATION

If your child requires medication administered during school hours, please bring it to the main office. This includes Epipens and Ventolin which have been taken home over the holidays. All medication must be in-date and clearly labelled in their correct box. All medication will be kept at the office. New up-to-date Asthma Management Plans should also be completed and returned to the school office.

I have attached the Administration of Medication Policy and the Medication Authority Form in case you need an electronic copy to email your GP/Specialist to fill out.

## ANNUAL CONSENT FOR PHOTOGRAPHY, FILMING & RECORDING

Also attached to today's newsletter is the notice to sign if you DO NOT wish for your child's photo to be published. If you are happy for your child's image to be published in the newsletter, local paper etc you will need to return the signed note.

## DROP OFF AND PICK-UP - IMPORTANT REMINDER

It is a busy time each morning for staff as they prepare for the day. We ask that you respect the request to not drop children off prior to 8.30am. From 8.30am children can enter via the back gate off the carpark or via the gate next to the blue shade sails at the front of the school.

## CROSSING THE ROAD/CAR PARK SAFETY

For your child's safety we ask that all children use the crossing and wait for Doug, he is there to assist them across the road. Similarly, we ask that parents are vigilant in the car park. We know that young children are not yet aware of traffic and may put themselves at risk in their eagerness to reunite with their family each day! We ask that adults get out of their car and come to collect their children from the gate- this ensures that all drivers can see those walking across the car park.

## SUNSMART POLICY

Hats On All students are required to wear their broad brimmed hats, even when playing or participating in activities under our outside shelters. Our SunSmart Policy is based upon the Cancer Council guidelines that hats should be worn when UV levels are above 3 on the index (usually around mid-August to the end of April). We source this information from the following website: [www.bom.gov.au/products/UV/Bendigo\\_VIC.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/products/UV/Bendigo_VIC.shtml) Hats off occurs when UV levels fall below 3 on the index (usually around the beginning of May in each year). Please remember that only bucket or broad brimmed hats may be worn. Our SunSmart mantra is "No hat, no playing in the sun." (you may either play under the shade sails in the Court Yard or inside the Library during Second break).

## NAMING CLOTHING

Each year we have a large amount of lost property at school. Please clearly name all clothing (including hats) so that it can be quickly returned to its owner. We have white material markers in the Office and we will happily record student's names on hats and clothing if needed. Just send your child to ask for help.

Stay cool over the weekend if you can.

Jo Ryan

Principal

# Getting to Know You Interviews– Student Free Day

Getting To Know You Interviews will be held **between 10am and 6pm on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023.**

Students are required to attend in full school uniform with their parents/carers during the selected interview time. This process will include Koorie, Out of Home Care and Students with Disabilities Student Support Group Meetings for Term 1.

These interviews are designed to allow teachers, students, and parents/carers to meet and discuss the needs of students for the year ahead. They are important in creating a positive school/home partnership. If you do not make a time a time will be allocated to you.

An interview time request form was sent home today. Please check your child's bag and return to school by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023. You will be notified of your interview time by Thursday February 16<sup>th</sup> 2023.

Kind Regards,

*Katrina Johnstone– Teaching & Learning Leader*

## Additional Services working with students

We have many students accessing supports through NDIS. We would appreciate knowing if your child accesses NDIS, as it helps us to ensure we are using strategies to support them at school that are consistent, or complement outside services.

If you have a child accessing supports through NDIS and they would like to observe your child at school, please direct them to Paul Keller ([paul.keller@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:paul.keller@education.vic.gov.au) or 0482018136 between 9 and 11 a.m.)

As outlined in the DET Child Safety Policy, any student receiving support from external agencies requires the school to ensure that a teacher is able to see the student at all times. As we do not have the resources or staff to meet these requirements we are unable to have these sessions run at school, however we are able to organise observations of students in the classroom once a term.

*Paul Keller– Disability & Inclusion Leading Teacher*

A reminder that the Department of Education has in place a mobile phone ban that requires students who bring mobile phones to school to have them switched off and securely put away during school hours.

The department is requiring all schools to ensure this ban is in place and enforced from the start of the 2024 school year.

The ban applies equally to all government schools right across the state.

This helps ensure that school is a learning environment free from unnecessary distractions and disruptions.

By ensuring mobile phones are kept away at recess and lunch times, students can interact with each other face-to-face, without the distractions and social pressures that mobile phones can cause.

I ask for the support of all our families, staff and students in continuing to support the implementation of this policy in our school.

### Further information

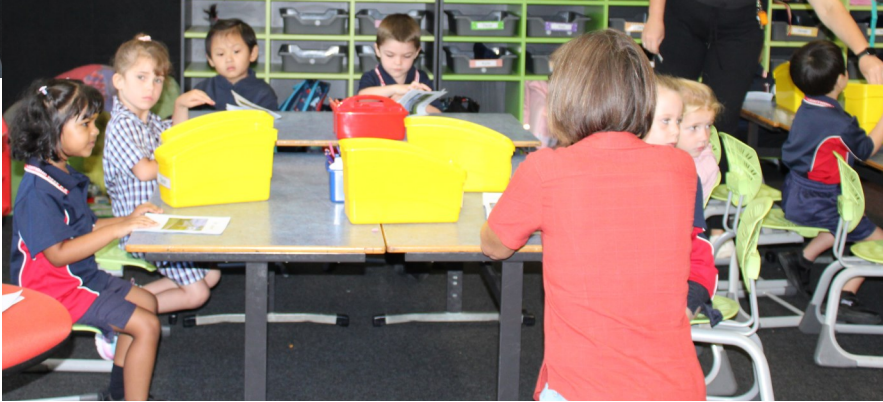
**Exceptions:** For a small number of students with particular health needs, an exception to the policy may be granted. Please contact <insert appropriate staff member> if you would like to discuss this.



# Welcome back!













## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

### CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$150 for primary school students
- \$250 for secondary school students

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

### HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



A reminder that our policies are on our School Website. [Lightning Reef Primary School – Learners today Leaders tomorrow \(lightningreefps.vic.edu.au\)](https://www.lightningreefprimaryschool.vic.edu.au) .

Also, if you need assistance getting on COMPASS or Class Dojo, Tim is available to help every Friday afternoon.

Call Tim directly during these hours on [0482 021 342](tel:0482021342) for help, or contact Ro Dy for translation.

## School preparations for the bushfire season



Each year, to prepare for bushfires and grassfires, schools and early childhood services complete a range of activities.

The Department of Education runs an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 4) and are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR).

All schools and early childhood services listed on the BARR and Category 4 list will also close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district.

When the Bureau of Meteorology provides public fire danger rating forecasts or fire weather warnings, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries. Our school is in the Northern Country fire weather district.

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

### ***What does this mean for our school?***

**Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a Category 3 school.**

Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in the **Northern Country** fire district.

### ***What is the department's policy?***

The department's Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy requires all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 list to close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

### ***When will our school be closed due to Catastrophic fire danger?***

**Our school will close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in Northern Country fire district.**

Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>

Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)

Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)



Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by SMS, Compass notification and DoJo.

**Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, even if the weather forecast changes.** This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to be aware that:

No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.

Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.

All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.

School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

Families are encouraged to action their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days.

**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 Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

### ***What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?***

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.

Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, checking our website [Lightning Reef Primary School – Learners today Leaders tomorrow \(lightningreefprimaryschool.vic.edu.au\)](http://lightningreefprimaryschool.vic.edu.au), by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.

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 due to elevated fire danger or closed due to a Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](http://cfa.vic.gov.au).

- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.

If your child is old enough, talk to [them about bushfires](#) and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices

VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to Tyreece W-M, Euphemia T, Ricky P, Benjamin G, Kay Nay Kaw, Jessica H-V, Zahlea H-K, Lan Pong Sue, Zedakiah J, Dee Sai H, Izzy P and Drazic S.



## REMINDER

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



## Lost property

Please remember to check lost property regularly. It is located just inside our foyer entrance.



Learners today Leaders tomorrow