

Spotswood Primary School

Newsletter

Term 1 Week 2 • Friday 7th February 2025



"Where everybody is somebody"



Dear families,

Welcome to the 2025 school year!

Only one week into the term, it feels very calm and productive in our classrooms as students have settled back into the routines of school and reconnected with their peers. I would like to say a very warm welcome to all the new families who have joined the Spotswood Primary School community this year, if you see some new faces around the yard, please say hello and help them feel welcome.

Staff had a busy few days last week before students returned getting set up for the arrival of their classes and we are all excited about this year and looking forward to learning and growing together.

This year our Newsletter will be a fortnightly edition, coming out on even weeks. Any news that we need to share between editions will be made available as Compass news items. This week the newsletter has a lot of information that you may find helpful to refer back to.

Welcome Preps 2025

Our 2 prep classes have had a wonderful start to the school year this week! It has been a busy week as they have met their buddies, joined the rest of the school at play breaks and even attended some of their first specialist classes. This morning I was in the music room and our preps were singing and clapping along as they explored rhythm and beat. They sounded great!



'Get To Know You' meetings – Thursday 13th February

The learning partnership with home is important to us and we invite families to participate in our 'Get To Know You' meetings next week. This is an opportunity for you to get to know your child's teacher and share any information that may be important for teachers to know. These meetings are 10 minutes in duration and will be held in the classrooms. (If you are unable to attend and prefer a phone call from your child's class teacher, please email Sharon at spotswood.ps@education.vic.gov.au or call us on 9391 1323 to arrange this).

The 'Get To Know You' evening is on Thursday 13th February between 2:30pm – 7:00pm. Bookings will open on the Compass portal today after 5:00pm.

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Welcome BBQ / Picnic



Families are invited to come to a Welcome Picnic on Thursday 13th February between 4:30pm – 6:30pm here at school. We will be providing a sausage sizzle for everyone with meat, vegetarian and gluten free options. You are also welcome to bring along your own picnic if you prefer. Please RSVP using the following link to assist us with catering [2025 Parents Welcome BBQ RSVP - Google Forms](#)

Yes, this is the same night as our 'Get To Know You' meetings, we hope you can come along!

SunSmart

We have had a variety of weather conditions already at school this week with some very hot days, some cloudy overcast days and a wild storm only last weekend! At this time of year, it is important to be aware of the actions to be SunSmart when at school. Until the end of April, students are required to wear hats outside and any student without a hat will be directed to play in the shaded courtyard area. Classrooms have all been provided with a bottle of sunscreen for students to top up during the day.



Please ensure your child has a hat and that it is clearly named.

Yard Supervision

Families are reminded that school hours are 9:00am – 3:30pm. Mr Canny or I will be on duty in the yard for 15 minutes before and after school. If students are here outside of that time they are under family supervision. A bell will ring at 8:45am to indicate the buildings are open for students and families to enter. We ask families to understand that even though teachers are here earlier, they are often engaged in planning meetings or will be busy setting up for the day ahead. It is not appropriate to ask teachers to look after your children before 8:45am.

As you will be aware we are fortunate to have Kelly Club here running a wonderful before and after school program for those days you may need care for your children.

If your children travel to school independently, please discuss as a family the appropriate time to leave home in the morning to arrive at school at the right time.

Late Arrivals & Early Pick ups

LATE: Teachers mark their rolls straight after the 9:00am bell and then immediately begin the days lessons. Any student not in class at 9:00am will be marked as an 'unexplained absence'. Compass will send an SMS notification at 10:00am to parents for any unexplained absences. If your child is arriving after the 9:00am bell, it is important to **collect a late pass from the office** so we can add their arrival to the roll and avoid you receiving a message.



LEAVING EARLY: If you need to pick your child up before the end of the day, please come to the office and sign them out on our Compass system. This will ensure our roll is accurate and records all student movements.

Absences

If your child is away or you know of an upcoming absence, you can record this through the Compass portal, or phone the office to let us know. Unexplained absences will result in an SMS message to families.

Anaphylaxis & Allergies

We have a number of students at Spotswood Primary School who have allergies, some who are anaphylactic. These students can be allergic to various things such as nuts and nut products, (especially peanuts and peanut butter) eggs, fish, sesame and shell fish.

Students are reminded at school not to share food, we also ask families to assist making our school safe by avoiding including these items in your child's lunch box.

If there is a student in your child's class with anaphylaxis, you will receive an email notifying you about this and how you can assist supporting this to be a safe environment.

Staff undertake regular training on how to treat an anaphylaxis incident should it occur here at school.

Working With Children Card

At times throughout the year we will ask for volunteers to assist with excursions and classroom activities. All parents/carers who assist at school, including volunteering in the library or other school activities, are required to hold a Working with Children Card (WWCC). A photocopy of your card is kept on our WWCC register here at school. We encourage families to consider applying for your WWCC soon, so that you are prepared to volunteer when the time comes.



Lunch orders

Our lunch order service through KingWill Catering has recommenced for the new year and is available for families to order through the 'MySchool Connect app' on Mondays and Fridays each week.

The app enables families to order for future dates in the weeks ahead so please take a minute to check your orders before you submit. Sometimes families can inadvertently order for the wrong date and not realise!

Information on how to set up the app were emailed to families on 29th January. Families are reminded to log into the app and update your child's classes for 2025.

Camp 5/6

Our Year 5/6 camp will be held this term and we are excited to return to 'The Summit' with our current group of children. The Summit program offers a great opportunity for leadership growth and outdoor challenge experiences, all set in a beautiful bush location. We ask families of 5/6 students to please log into Compass to let us know if your child will be attending this year. This will help us with planning staffing ratios and transport requirements.

If you wish to use your \$400 School Savings Bonus towards the cost of camp, please email or call us to arrange this.



Medication at school

Some of our students need to take regular daily medication and from time to time students may need to take a short course of medication over a few days. We follow the guidelines in our Administration of Medication Policy to ensure that medication is provided safely at school. To assist us with this, families are required to complete a Medication Authority Form which details the timing and dosage requirements. Individual student medication is stored safely at school and can be refrigerated if required. We do not maintain a general supply of medication such as Panadol, Nurofen, Zyrtec etc.

Mobile phone (and other devices) policy

If your child has a mobile phone or device that has similar functionality (e.g. Smart Watch) we ask that you familiarise yourself with our Mobile Phone Policy which is available on our website.

We understand that students may need to bring a personal device to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.



Phones must be dropped at the office in the morning and collected after the 3:30pm bell. Smart watch settings must prohibit the sending or receiving of calls and notifications during the school day.

If you need to communicate with your child during the day, you can call the office to pass a message on. We appreciate your support with this important policy to ensure the safety of all students during the school day.

Term 1 - Dates coming up

An overview of the Term 1 calendar is provided in the newsletter this week. Some of the dates are events still in the planning stage and more information will be provided later, however we know it can be helpful to have a snapshot view of the term ahead.

School Term dates 2025

Term	Start date	Finish date
Term 1	Thursday 30 January	Friday 4 April 2:30pm finish
Term 2	Tuesday 22 April	Friday 4 July 2:30pm finish
Term 3	Monday 21 July	Friday 19 September 2:30pm finish
Term 4	Monday 6 October	Friday 19 December 1:30pm finish

Family contact details



Are your details up to date with our system? Sometimes your work circumstances may change, you may get a new phone number or email address. Maybe you would like to change your emergency contact details? Please remember to let us know of any changes in circumstances that may affect how we can reach you during the school day and be sure that emails we send are reaching you.

Please also let us know if you change your address.

Kelly Club

Our Kelly Club program has been growing steadily over the past 12 months and I enjoy popping in to visit occasionally to see what fun activities are underway for the students here before and after school. There have been some occasions recently when the program has reached capacity for the staff on duty. On behalf of Kelly Club, I'd like to remind families to book in to the program as early as possible to enable them to roster enough staff on to ensure the program meets the required ratio and supports our students effectively.



Swimming Trials

This week Mr Lamb held our annual swimming trials for students in the age groups 9yrs and above, who were interested in trying out for our school team. We had a great turnout over the two mornings and today students who made the District Swimming Team will receive information about the District event which will be held next Friday 14th February at Victoria University Aquatic and Fitness Centre.

Well done to everyone who came along to try out this week. Go team Spotty!

Chinese New Year

This is an exciting time of significance for some of our Spotty families as the Chinese New Year period from January 29th – February 12th is celebrated. Some of our students reflect on this being a time when extended family come together and the celebrations are held over 15 days. One of the highlights for children at this time is the gifting of 'red pockets' which contain money.

The Chinese New Year celebrations culminate with a Lantern Festival which can symbolise letting go of past selves and good fortune in the coming year. Often celebrations also include a Dragon Dance which is believed to bring good luck to people. It is thought that the longer the dragon the more luck it will bring to the community. I have a memory of being in Melbourne's Chinatown when I was younger and watching a Dragon Dance through the street. I recall the dragon being very long!

Happy Chinese New Year to our families celebrating over the coming days.



Thank you

If you have made it this far, thank you for reading! I hope this information is helpful as we start a new year together in the Spotswood Primary School community. I look forward to all the learning and events planned ahead.

Jackie Green
Principal

Curriculum Update – Term 1 Week 2

What a start to the school year!

This week, my curriculum update looks a little bit different. Because this year we have started the year a little bit differently.

At the end of 2024, the 2025 teaching teams spent a day together to plan for an effective start to 2025. As a team, they spent additional time working together to plan how to set up for a successful and effective start to the year.

Grades have spent the first 2 weeks establishing their classroom rules and routines, all very important to create a safe and inclusive classroom environment, allowing every student to be ready to learn.

Grades have spent time establishing learning routines, that will support them as they progress through the curriculum over the year ahead. Students have worked in activities as part of groups, developing their cooperative learning skills, which they use in all subject areas.

Establishing these routines before jumping deep into the curriculum is vital for students at the beginning of a year (the break was long and classrooms are dynamic places!) to set them up for the success.

Over the coming weeks, classrooms will continue establishing their ways of working, and continuing to look and learn about their 'ready to learn' behaviours, what this looks like for them, and how these can be different for different individuals.

I look forward to all the amazing teaching and learning that is planned for 2025 in our classrooms and cannot wait for this to be shared within our community.

Next newsletter I will share with you in a more 'traditional' way about what is happening in our classrooms.



Justin Canny
Assistant Principal

What's Happening In Our Classrooms

Prep – Welcome to School!

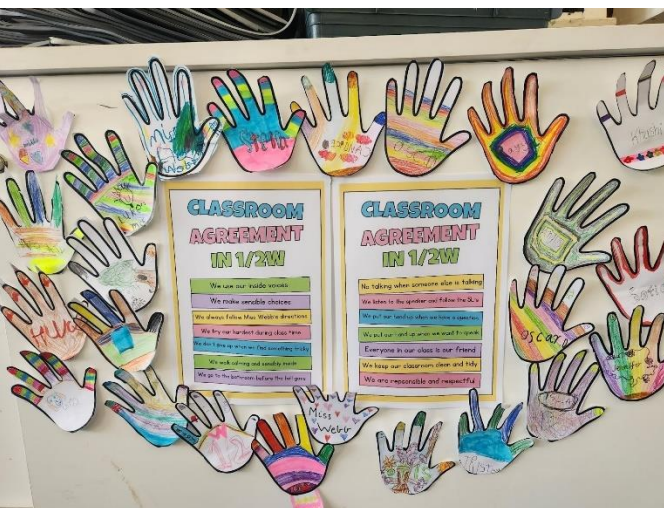
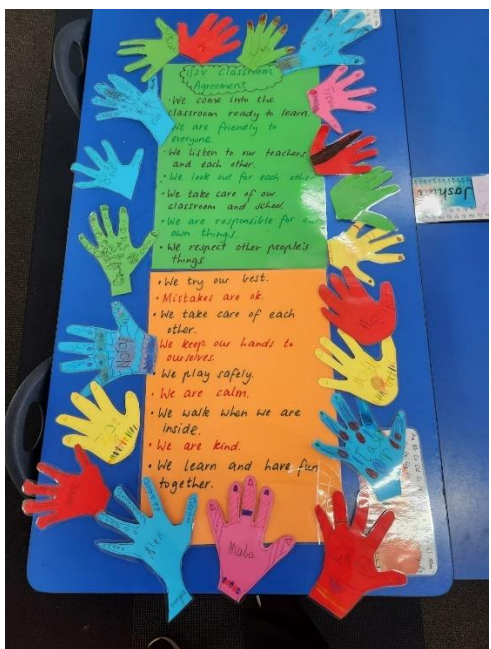
Our Preps have had an exciting first week as they settle into school life! They've been busy exploring different areas of the school, including the office and the library, and learning important routines—like where to find their books! One of the highlights of the week was meeting their Grade 6 buddies, who joined them for lunch and playtime outside, this was VERY exciting! They are still figuring out why the bell rings so often and where Ms. Sharon's voice comes from when she makes an announcement in the classroom—but they are taking it all in their stride! It has been a fantastic start to the year, and they should be so proud of themselves. We can't wait to see what 2025 brings!



Tianne Ball
Prep B Classroom Teacher

Year 1/2 – Classroom Agreements

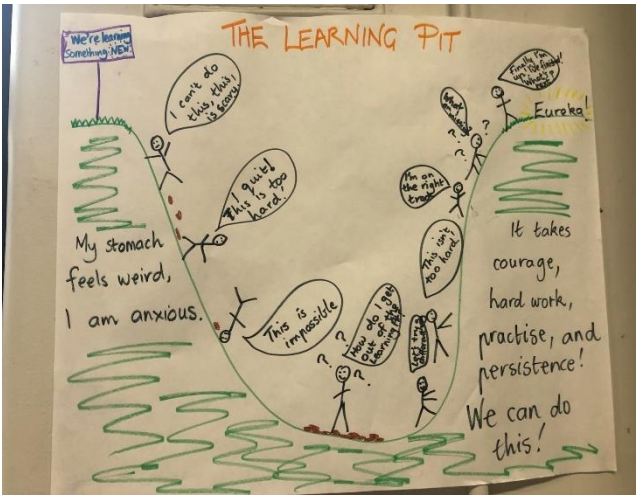
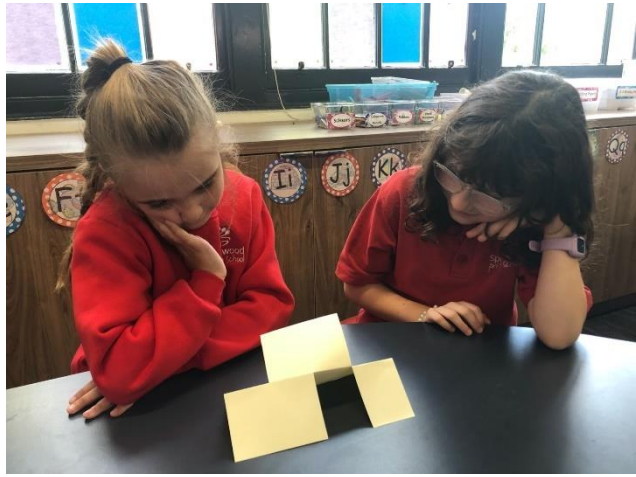
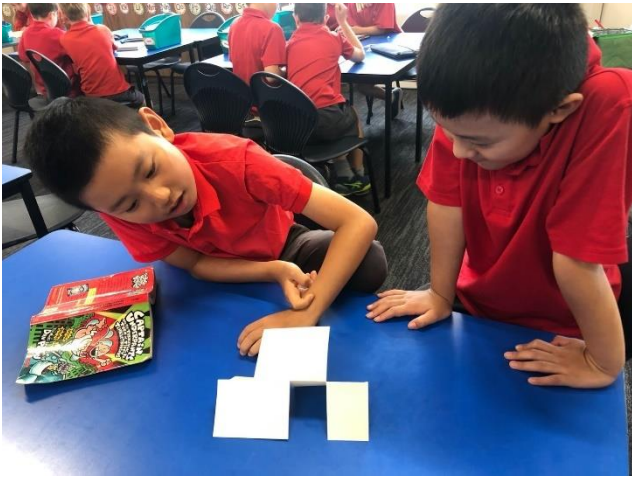
As part of the start up program the Grade 1's and 2's have been collaborating with their classmates to create our classroom agreements. We have explored the Spotswood Primary School Positive Behaviours Matrix and participated in open and honest discussions about what it is we need to create a safe and supportive learning environment together. These ideas have then been collected to form our classroom agreements. We have shown our dedication to these agreements with our handprints. We are really proud of the wonderful start our Grade 1's and 2's have had to the year. Well done!



Melanie Voigt
1/2V Classroom Teacher

Year 3/4 – Start-Up Program

As part of the Grade 3/4 Start Up Program we asked the students to replicate a tricky paper structure without touching it, to demonstrate that we may fail the first, second or third attempt when learning something new. The students found the activity extremely challenging, but even through this challenge many of them still said, 'If I try again, I think I will get it.' It is wonderful to watch their persistence and enthusiasm for a challenge growing. We also created Learning Pit diagrams in our classrooms and the students showed their understanding that learning is not easy and requires hard work and a positive Growth Mindset.



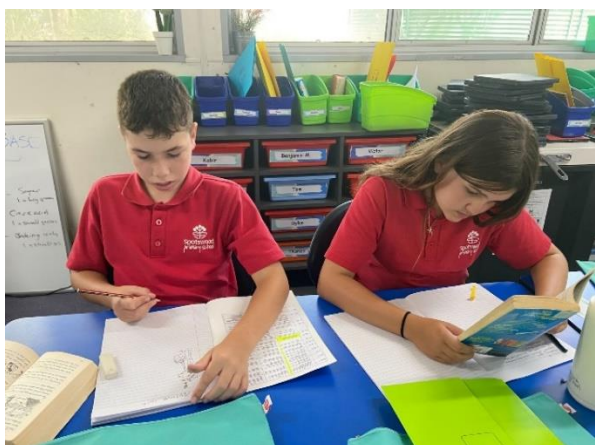
Clockwise from top left: Dante and Juin Khye, Lily and Lucy, 'The Learning Pit' and Grade 3/4K

Tracey Kelly
3/4K Classroom Teacher

Year 5/6 – Goal Setting

During our start-up program for the 2025 Year 5/6s, students have had a heavy focus on beginning the year in a positive and successful manner. This has included collaborating on the structure and expectations of all lessons and learning disciplines. This week, students formed book clubs with a small group of peers. They spent time agreeing on a novel, and they will meet regularly with their teacher to settle on a shared reading goal to focus on whilst reading. Further to this, students established an *individual* reading goal that they will work on during independent-reading and homework. We are all very excited for the prospect of a fun and learning-filled year where we work towards meeting our goals.





Aaron Turner
5/6T Classroom Teacher

Specialist - PE

We have had a fantastic start to the year in PE. Students have all returned from the break with bundles of enthusiasm and energy for our sessions. We have a busy start to Term 1 for our Grade 3-6 students with many upcoming events. For the next 2 Thursdays our Grade 5 students will be taking part in the 'Little Tackers' Sailing program at the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria in Williamstown, next Friday the Altona District Swimming championships will be held at the Vic Uni pool and then on the 21st of February our 5/6 students commence 5 weeks of Inter-School Sport. A busy start to the year ahead!

Chris Lamb
PE Co-ordinator



Student Awards:

Congratulations to the following students who received a Student Award at assembly today:

Prep B..... Bobi Tasic – for an amazing start to Prep! You have shown great listening skills on the carpet and have put in your best effort when completing activities at your table. Well done Bobi!

Prep S..... Evie Finlay - for having an exceptional start to school and always trying her best. Well done, Evie!

1/2K..... Lottie Harvey - for having a fantastic attitude towards school. You've stepped up to Grade Two with such confidence! Well done!

1/2M..... Remy Dodson - by bringing a great Can-do attitude to the start of school and supporting grade 1 students in transitioning to our grade 1/2 class.

1/2V Kruze Miller - by having a wonderful start to school and a great 'I can do it' attitude in the classroom. Amazing start Kruze!

1/2W Isla Gillies - for setting a great example for the class by following our classroom agreement and coming to school ready to learn. Great start to the year!

3/4H..... Ozzie Hogan - for actively participating in all learning tasks this week and trying his best with challenging activities. Well done Ozzie!

3/4K..... Angus Bedford - for being a kind and active participant in our class, contributing to class discussions and working cooperatively with everyone! Awesome attitude Angus.

3/4O..... Georgia Willis - for transitioning into grade 3 with an outstanding dedication to your work. You should be so proud. Well done, Georgia!

3/4V Annabel Hesketh - for showing your peers how to build a positive classroom community at the start of the school year by following the classroom agreement.

5/6M..... Mia Abu Bakar - for positively contributing to our class community by adding to discussions and keeping our space tidy!

5/6P Sid Ilett - for taking a lead role in class discussions, and supporting and encouraging others.

5/6T Rose Elmore - for returning to school with a wonderful attitude, actively volunteering to contribute to all class discussions.

PE..... Freya Waller - for starting her Spotty PE journey with a great attitude and lots of positive energy.



To:

Hendrix, Remi M, Amara, Jory, Olive, Madeleine U, Hallie S,
Lorelei, William T, Nate C

Term 1 2025	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 January	27	28	29	30 Students in Years 1 to 6 return	31 Preps start (9am-12.30pm)
	2 February	3	4	5 Swimming Trials (Girls)	6	7 Swimming Trials (Boys) Assembly (3.15pm)
	3	10	11	12	13 Year 5 Sailing Get To Know You Parent/Teacher Meetings Parents Welcome BBQ (4.30pm-6.30pm)	14 District Swimming Carnival Meerkat Productions performance – Prep & Year 5 Assembly (3.15pm)
	4	17	18	19	20 Year 5 Sailing	21 Year 5/6 Interschool Sport (vs Altona North PS) Assembly (3.15pm) Slow Food Market tomorrow 9am – 1pm
	5	24	25 Finance meeting (5.30pm) School Council meeting (6.15pm)	26	27	28 Year 5/6 Interschool Sport Round 2 (vs St Martin de Porres PS) Assembly (3.15pm)
	6 March	3 Preps start full time	4 Prep 2025 Information Night (7pm)	5	6 School Photo Day	7 Summer Sport Round 3 (vs Altona College) Assembly (3.15pm)
	7	10 Labour Day Public Holiday	11	12	13	14 Summer Sport Round 4 (vs Bayside College) Assembly (3.15pm)
	8	17	18 School Council meeting (6.15pm)	19	20	21 Summer Sport Round 5 (vs St Mary's Altona) Assembly (3.15pm) Slow Food Market tomorrow 9am – 1pm
	9	24	25	26 Year 5/6 Camp (The Summit)	27 Year 5/6 Camp (The Summit)	28 Year 5/6 Camp (The Summit)
10	31	1	2	3	4 Last Day of Term 1 (2.30pm dismissal)	