

Parrot Chatter

NEWSLETTER

4 FEBRUARY 2026 | TERM 1 WEEK 2

Welcome back!

And in the blink of an eye, the 2025 year came to a close and 2026 came around before we knew it... I hope everyone had a lovely break and got exactly what they needed out of it. To those that were impacted or knew of anyone impacted by the fires, we are here and available should you need any support with anything. We are thinking of those near and far that are having to rebuild or were relocated and our hearts go out to all.



Our students have started the year off so positively. The smile on their faces at the end of the first day last week, was something special. We look forward to working with students and families this year, on what will be a wonderful year of learning and growth.

Meet the Teacher

Our 'Meet the Teacher conferences' have gone live on Compass for you to book in to see your child's teacher. These will be held from 3-4pm on Monday Feb 9. We will have a sausage sizzle so all parents and students who have attended their interview can grab something to eat. If you need any assistance with making a booking, please contact the general office or let your child's teacher know and they will be able to assist you in making the booking. We look forward to seeing you all on Monday.



FLOWERDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

A small school, doing BIG things

Excursions - Consent & Payment

With regards to excursions and events, these must be paid and consented to by the final date listed on Compass or the event note. From now on Cherie and Erin will not be chasing up payments or consent from families, and payment or consent to excursions will not be accepted on the day of the event. This does not leave the school with an adequate amount of time to arrange appropriate transport and staffing for events. If you require a payment plan for anything to be organised, please ensure you contact the general office to arrange this at your earliest convenience.

SSG Meetings

Our SSG Meetings will be taking place throughout the day on Monday the 9th and 16th of Feb. Amanda will call you to arrange a time. If you miss the call, please ensure you contact the school back to arrange the meeting time. This SSG will be a time to go through your child's Term 1 IEP and is imperative you attend.

COMING UP THIS FORTNIGHT:

9
FEB

Meet the Teacher Conferences & BBQ
- Bookings via Compass

11
FEB

Prep Rest Day - every Wednesday in
Term 1



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



REMINDERS

Staffing update

The weekend prior to returning to school for the year, we received a letter of resignation from Kylie. She informed us that she really wanted to return to casual relief teaching instead of ES work in the classroom and we wish her all the very best. We are currently advertising for another ES position, for someone to join the incredible team we have here at FPS.

Water Tanks

Unfortunately, over the last 2 weeks, the water from our tanks has been stolen. Not only has this impacted our school students and staff as we have come in both weeks to a school with no water, but it meant that on the staff's first day back where it was 46 degrees and the chance of a fire, there was no water on site. This week the water was again stolen over the weekend, so Monday morning when students have come to school there has been no access to water.

Of course, as a school, we have worked promptly and done what is required to ensure water is available, but this is not something that can continue to happen. We are in the process of ensuring other arrangements and security measures are put into place, but in the meantime if you hear or know of anything regarding our missing water, please let us know at the school. If you do not wish to disclose any information, I do ask that you reiterate the importance of a school and children having access to water amongst your friends in the community.

OSHC

A reminder that FPS offers an Out of Hours School Care Program for before and after school care. If you would like to use this service or learn more about the service, please contact Erin in the office who will be able to explain the amazing program that we have running, as well as any questions about rebates, as these are available.

STUDENT PICK UP

Please be reminded, that parents must pick students up from the top of the stairs or outside the classroom at the end of the day. We have multiple trades and trade vehicles on site and do not want students running onto the road during end of day pick up.

3-6 CAMP

The consent and payment for 3-6 Camp is due this Friday. Please ensure this has been returned and paperwork filled out by either following the link on compass or filling out the paper work you received.

FRUIT & VEG

At 9:50am each day in every class, students are able to have a piece of fruit or vegetable as a brain snack. This is not a time that students are allowed to eat any other snack - ONLY fruit and Veg.



ATTENDANCE

WEEK	F/1 CLASS	2/3/4 CLASS	4/5/6 CLASS
1	97%	93%	93%



WELLBEING

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable holiday break. It has been wonderful to see our students return with smiling faces and lots of stories to share.

I would also like to acknowledge that the recent fires in our area may have been a challenging and unsettling time for some families. If your child or family has been impacted in any way, please know that support is available. I encourage you to reach out to me or the school if you feel your child may benefit from some extra care, check-ins, or support as we settle back into routines.

A very warm welcome to our Prep students and their families, we are so excited to have you join our school community. Starting school is a big step, and we look forward to working closely with you to support a positive and confident beginning to your child's learning journey.

Finally, I'd like to highlight the importance of regular attendance. Being at school every day helps children feel connected, build strong relationships, and make the most of their learning opportunities. If there are any concerns impacting your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to get in touch, we're here to work together and help.

Wishing everyone a positive and settled start to the year.

Kind regards,

Amanda

Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead



DENTAL VAN VISIT



Australian Dental Health will be visiting Flowerdale Primary School from the week beginning on 02/03/2026 to provide on-site dental check-ups for eligible students. Dental check-ups help maintain good oral health and are a simple way to have this taken care of during the school day. Parents and guardians are required to complete a consent form prior to the visit.



Register and provide consent here:

<https://adh.jotform.com/253428036184861>

Annual Privacy Reminder FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' privacy policy](#) and the [Schools' privacy collection notice](#).

Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students policy, describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [Microsoft 365](#) safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using Microsoft 365, please contact the school.

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' privacy policy: information for parents](#). This information is also available in eleven community languages:



- Amharic
- Arabic
- Chinese
- Dari
- Gujarati
- Mandarin
- Somali
- Sudanese
- Turkish
- Urdu
- Vietnamese

TEAM BUILDING

in PE class





PERCEPTUAL MOTOR PROGRAM

This year our F/1 students will be participating in a weekly PMP session. During these sessions students will take part in a range of rotational activities, aimed at developing gross/fine motor skills, spatial awareness, balance and coordination. Our foundation students have been paired with a Year 5/6 'buddy,' who will be supporting them with the activities. The program provides a great opportunity for our 'buddies' to connect and grow together.



PARENTS & FRIENDS GROUP (PFG)



OUR PROGRAM

Flowerdale Primary School's Parents and Friends Group plays an active part in fundraising, engaging with the students, and supporting school activities. Whether you can contribute ideas, help plan, drop off shopping (you'll be reimbursed), be an extra set of hands at school, or help with housekeeping afterwards, the saying "many hands makes light work" certainly rings true here! Examples of what we have done in the past are:

-  Serving lunchtime ice poles (term 1 & 4) / warm milos (term 2 & 3)
-  Hot lunch days
-  Celebrating Mothers / Fathers / Teachers days
-  Ride to School day
-  Support on athletics / swimming / cross country / excursion days
-  Weekly tea towel cleaning roster
-  Partnering with the kinder for Disco & Dinner / Trivia nights
-  School Fair, and much more!

We are always welcoming parents and friends to join in. Please see Jess Caminiti (Ryda, Ava, Max's mum) School Council President, or Sarah Hopkins (Elliott, Marley's mum) PFG coordinator, if you've got any questions, ideas, or would like to catch up over a walk, talk, or drink :)

Are you on FB messenger? Join our 'Flowerdale PS parents/carers' chat group for an easy way to ask a quick question.

FLOWERDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL FAIR

The PFG has been successful in getting a \$2,500 grant from Murrindindi Shire Council, to support our school fair this year!



Save the Date
SATURDAY 28 MARCH 2026

We only run this once every 2 years, and really rely on each family to contribute to the success of the day.

Do you have something from this list you can loan us on the day? Comment in the FB messenger group chat or let Sarah, Jess, or the office know ASAP so we don't arrange hiring it:

- Marquees
- Spit rotisseries
- Slow cookers
- BBQs
- Spiral potato slicer & deep fryer
- Large Eskies/ mini drinks fridges

We will need volunteers to help setup (pre-10am), during the fair (10am -12pm/ 12pm-2pm) and packing up afterwards (2pm+). A sign up sheet will be circulated in the coming weeks with specific areas we need volunteers on the day. The shifts are deliberately split so everyone is guaranteed time to enjoy the fair with their family.

If you would like to get on board and help in the lead up, we'd love to hear from you!

From the PFG



FIRST DAY FUN!



SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2026



AHOY!

**SEA YOU AT THE CREEK FOR A
SAIL & A SAUSAGE.**

LET'S ROCK THE BOAT AT FPS

FRIDAY, March 13 2026

12:30 PM

**Moore Rd, Researve
King Parrot Creek**

**RSVP ON COMPASS OR TO THE GENERAL
OFFICE FOR CATERING PURPOSES**

AWARDS AND FLOWERSHOP POINTS FOR

**THE BOATIEST BOAT - 500 POINTS
MOST CREATIVE BOAT - 500 POINTS
YEAR LEVEL WINNER - 500 POINTS
FPS OVERALL WINNER - 1000 POINTS**



Never Leave Children Alone in a Car

Leaving children alone in a car is very dangerous, especially on warm or hot days. It can cause serious harm or even death. In Victoria, it's illegal, with penalties including fines or up to six months in jail.

Why is it dangerous?

CARS HEAT UP QUICKLY:

On mild days, the temperature inside a parked car can rise 20 to 30 degrees higher than outside in just minutes. For example, if it's 30°C outside, the inside of a car can reach 60°C very quickly.

CHILDREN OVERHEAT FASTER:

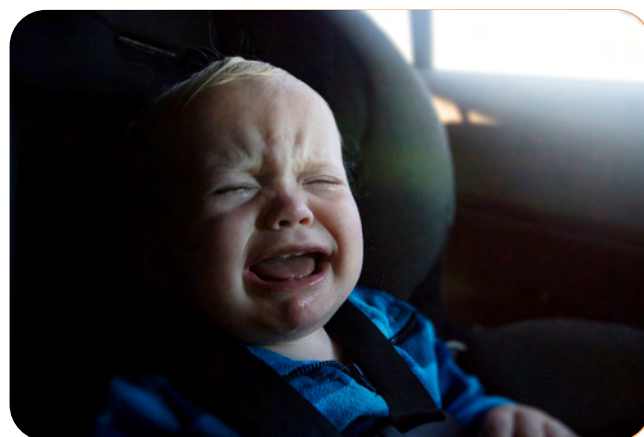
A child's body heats up three to five times faster than an adult's. This can lead to heat stroke, brain damage, organ failure, or severe dehydration in a very short time.

SIZE DOESN'T MATTER:

Big cars heat up just as fast as small ones.

LEAVING WINDOWS OPEN DOES NOT HELP MUCH:

Leaving windows open slightly lowers the temperature by only about 5°C, which isn't enough to make it safe.



Keep children safe:
Never leave them alone in a car, not even for a short time.
The risks are serious and happen quickly—don't take the chance.

For more information > childroadsafety.org.au

Keeping children safe when they arrive and leave your service



Educators must ensure that “every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury”¹. Furthermore, educators are responsible for children while they are in care from the time that children are signed into the service or the Family Day Care (FDC) premises until the time they are signed out.

Do educators have any responsibilities to protect children before they are signed in and after they are signed out?

The times when children are delivered to and collected from services or FDC premises can be challenging for all staff members, particularly where there could be a large number of children coming and going at the same time. On some occasions, parents may be talking to each other or they may be on their mobile phone and not supervising their children. Children have been observed running to the car whilst parents are distracted. Educators have a duty of care to monitor the arrival and departure of children and ensure their safety while they are on the premises. This includes the car park, driveway and surrounds.

Children left in cars during collection and delivery of children

Occasionally children are left in the car whilst parents or the authorised nominee is picking up or dropping off other children at the service. In Victoria it can be an offence for a child to be left unattended in a car. The penalties for leaving a child unattended in a car in Victoria include a fine (currently \$4,030) and/or a maximum of 6 months imprisonment (Children, Youth and Families Act (2005)).



In Victoria it can be an offence for a child to be left unattended in a car.

Is your Road Safety Education and Safe Transport Policy up to date? Remember to review it annually. If you need help with your policy contact ELAA rse@elaa.org.au

What should educators do if they are worried about the person collecting a child?

Educators must also be aware that a duty of care exists when a child is released into the care of another person who may pose a risk to their safety, health or wellbeing. This person may be an authorised nominee on the enrolment form, however their behaviour may be cause for concern. Examples include a person who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol².

Educators must never put themselves in danger and cannot prevent the parent or authorised nominee from taking the child, however, they should encourage the person to use an alternate form of transport or contact another authorised person to collect the child. However, they should encourage the person to use an alternate form of transport or contact another authorised person to collect the child. If educators are concerned that the child may not be safe in the care of the parent or authorised nominee, notifying the police may be required after the child has left the service.

Policies and procedures required:

- Services must have policies and procedures for delivery and collection of children to the service/premises³.
- Children may only leave the service/premise if the child is given into the care of their parent or an authorised nominee named in the child's enrolment record⁴.
- An approved provider can restrict a nominated person from collecting a child, for example if the service's policy does not allow children to be collected by a person under the age of 16⁵.
- Child enrolment details must include any person who is an authorised nominee (a person who has been given permission by a parent or family member to collect the child from the education and care service or the family day care educator).⁶



Ensure services have policies and procedures on collection and delivery of children.



Educator's role in embedding Road Safety Education in the curriculum

Embedding Road Safety Education into the curriculum may include taking the children to the entrance and carpark of the service or the driveway of the FDC home and talking about safe ways to walk to the car. (Remember to fill in a risk assessment).

It is important to talk with children about safety issues and where appropriate, involving children in setting safety rules⁷.

When educators discuss safety issues with children, this information is often transferred to the parent. This could include talking with children about:

- holding the parent's hand,
- reminding the parent not to be on the mobile phone,
- walking the safe route to the car,
- getting into the car via the safe side (the curb side),
- bike helmets when cycling to and from the service.

TOP TEN TIPS

1. Ensure services have policies and procedures on collection and delivery of children.
2. Include authorised nominees in the child's enrolment form.
3. Ensure there is active supervision during pick up and drop off times.
4. Conduct a risk assessment of the car park and FDC driveway surrounding the service.
5. Take the children out to the car park and demonstrate the safe way to walk to the car or bike.
6. Remind children to hold their parents' hand whilst walking to the car or bike.
7. Remind parents to never leave their child in the car.
8. Display signs in the foyer about points 6 and 7.
9. Include in the orientation process and newsletters the importance of safe arrivals and departures of children.
10. Contact ELAA to book a free Road Safety Education PD Session. Email: rse@elaa.org.au

REFERENCES

1. (Nat Law Sec 167, 2012, NQS, 2.3.2, 2018).
2. (Nat Law, Sec.171).
3. (Regulation 168 f, 2012)
4. (Regulation 99, 2012)
5. (NQS 2.1.2, 2018)
6. (Nat Law 170(5), Reg 160 3b, 2012).
7. (NQS 2.2.1, 2018).

Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) (2018) Guide to the National Quality Framework.

Department of Education, Employment, and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) (2009). The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia. Canberra, ACT; DEEWR.

Early Learning Association Australia (ELAA) (2018) Early Childhood Services Safe Transport and Road Safety Education Policy.

Article written by Louise Dorrat, Consultant and presenter of the Starting Out Safely professional development.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

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 financial circumstances and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS and 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 excursions, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or support an out of home care student you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid directly 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 \$400 for all school students.

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.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>





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TERM 1 2026 Calendar

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
W1 JANUARY	26 Australia Day PUBLIC HOLIDAY	27 Start of Term 1 (Staff only) NO STUDENTS	28 Curriculum Day NO STUDENTS	29 Day 1 WITH STUDENTS PMP/Sport	30 Kitchen Garden
W2 FEBRUARY	2 Auslan	3 Art Van Library	4 PREP REST DAY PE	5 PMP/Sport	6 Kitchen Garden
W3 FEBRUARY	9 MEET THE TEACHER CONFERENCES Auslan	10 Library	11 PREP REST DAY PE	12 PMP/Sport Library Van	13 Kitchen Garden
W4 FEBRUARY	16 Auslan	17 Art Van Library	18 PREP REST DAY PE	19 PMP/Sport	20 Kitchen Garden
W5 FEBRUARY	23 3-6 CAMP Auslan	24 3-6 CAMP Library	25 3-6 CAMP PREP REST DAY PE	26 3-6 CAMP PMP/Sport Library Van	27 Kitchen Garden
W6 MARCH	2 DENTAL VAN Auslan	3 Art Van Library	4 SMALL SCHOOLS SWIMMING CARNIVAL PREP REST DAY	5 PMP/Sport	6 Kitchen Garden
W7 MARCH	9 Labour Day PUBLIC HOLIDAY	10 Library	11 PREP REST DAY PE	12 PMP/Sport Library Van	13 BOAT RACES & BBQ Kitchen Garden
W8 MARCH	16 Auslan	17 Art Van Library	18 PREP REST DAY PE	19 PMP/Sport	20 Kitchen Garden
W9 MARCH	23 Auslan	24 DISTRICT ATHLETICS GRADE 4-6 Library	25 PREP REST DAY PE	26 PMP/Sport Library Van	27 Kitchen Garden
W10 MARCH / APRIL	30 Auslan	31 Art Van Library	1 PREP REST DAY PE	2 Last day of Term 1 1:30PM FINISH EASTER HAT PARADE	3 Good Friday PUBLIC HOLIDAY

