

Parrot Chatter

NEWSLETTER

4 MARCH 2026 | TERM 1 WEEK 6

Welcome to Week 6!

3-6 Camp

The 3-6 camp this year was fabulous. To see the students push themselves out of their comfort zone, show resilience, kindness and leadership was incredible. The feedback from students was so very positive, with all the students saying they wanted to come back again next year. The staff at the camp spoke to us and said that it wasn't often that they had a group of students who were so keen, well behaved and respectful. It was so nice to hear and be able to see that our students were able to show our school values and represent FPS so positively.



NAPLAN

Our grade 3 and 5 students will be taking part in NAPLAN next week. There will be 4 assessments as per previous years. If anyone has any questions regarding the testing period or want to withdraw their child from participating, please contact the office ASAP.

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.



FLOWERDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

A small school, doing BIG things

Boat Race

Our FPS Annual Boat Race and BBQ will be taking place next Friday at King Parrot Creek. Please spend time over this long weekend ensuring your student/s have made their boat for the race. They will not have time in class to make their boat. If you have not sent your RSVP to the general office, please do so ASAP so we can ensure we have catered for enough people.

COMING UP THIS FORTNIGHT:

2
MAR

Labour Day Public Holiday - No School

11
MAR

Prep Rest Day - every Wednesday in Term 1

11
MAR

NAPLAN begins - Grade 3 and 5 students only

13
MAR

Boat Races & BBQ - 12:30pm at Moore's Road Reserve

18
MAR

Prep Rest Day - every Wednesday in Term 1



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

SCHOOL COUNCIL

It gives me great pleasure to announce our FPS 2026 School Council team. We were initially going to a vote due to the number of nominations received from parents to join the council, but due to the timing of meetings, a nomination had to be retracted. I want to thank each and every nominee for wanting to be part of the team that has such an impact on the decisions made at FPS and take the opportunity to thank our 2025 School Council team for their hard work and dedication over their last 1 or 2 years on council.

STAFF REPRESENTATIVES

Brooke McDonald
Scott Sparrow

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Jess Caminiti (President)
Clinton Kay
Jasmine Mills
Georgia Pittorino
Hayley Ragona

ATTENDANCE



WEEK	F/1 CLASS	2/3/4 CLASS	4/5/6 CLASS
1	97%	93%	93%
2	95%	93%	96%
3	94%	94%	97%
4	88%	76%	91%
5	82%	79%	88%

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

MORNING ROUTINES AT FPS

Morning routines for students are one of the most important learning routines of a student's whole day. Ensuring our students are ready to learn and following instructions as soon as they arrive at school is imperative, as well as teachers being able to teach from 9am is imperative.

Beginning on Monday (02/03/26), all students from Prep to 6 will be required to line up outside their classroom with their bags while the music is playing. Students will enter the classroom once the bell rings at 9am and learning should begin, no later than 9:05am.

I pay particular attention to the F1 classroom which will no longer be open before 9am for students to have creative play, and parents to chat with Scott before the day begins. All students will begin with learning once they have been invited into the classroom after the bell has rung.

Teachers will be available to chat after school from 3pm - 3:10pm on a Monday and Tuesday and 3pm - 3:30pm Wednesday - Friday. Alternatively, you can send an email to your child's classroom teacher to arrange a longer meeting time or another meeting time to suit both your needs.

If you have any questions, please contact the general office. A reminder that if your student arrives to school after the bell has rung, they are to go straight to the main office to sign in and collect a late pass, then go to their class and provide their teacher with their late pass.

Our main goal is to ensure our students are getting the most out of their learning and our teachers are getting the most out of their teaching.

Stephanie Marciano

Principal

REMINDERS

STUDENT AWARDS



MONDAY MARCH 9

A reminder that this Monday is the Labour Day public Holiday, therefore there will be no school. School returns to normal schedule from Tuesday. I hope everyone enjoys their long weekend.

PARKING

Please be reminded not to stop or park on the side of the Service Road as this is a No Parking Zone. There have been a couple of near misses recently with both children and vehicles. We cherish the safety of our school community and do not wish to see any avoidable incidents.



AUSLAN SPELLING BEE

This term during Auslan classes students will be taking part in the Auslan Spelling Bee! This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to practise and celebrate their fingerspelling abilities.

What is the Auslan Spelling Bee?

It is a little different from a traditional spelling bee! It focuses on the visual and manual skills required for signed language. Students will be tested on:

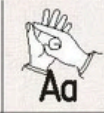














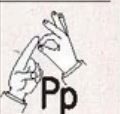












- **Fingerspelling:** Students will need to use the Auslan alphabet to clearly and correctly spell words with their hands.
- **Visual Reception:** Students will be shown pictures of everyday objects. They then fingerspell the word for that picture.
- It's a fun and challenging way to strengthen their memory and finger spelling abilities.

How Families Can Help at Home






Help your child review the Auslan fingerspelling alphabet at home. You can take turns fingerspelling simple, everyday words. Perhaps pick a word to fingerspell each week. Visit the Deaf Children Australia Auslan Spelling Bee web page to access the free resources. Encourage Effort: The most important thing is that they have fun and try their very best!

Thank you for your support of our language program!

auslan fingerspelling alphabet


	 Aa	 Bb	 Cc	 Dd	
 Ee	 Ff	 Gg	 Hh	 Ii	 Jj
 Kk	 Ll	 Mm	 Nn	 Oo	 Pp
 Qq	 Rr	 Ss	 Tt	 Uu	 Vv
 Ww	 Xx	 Yy	 Zz	 Auslan left hand	 Auslan right hand


Vowels


 Aa	 Ee	 .Ii	 Oo	 Uu
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TWO KEY TIPS
When communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, ask them how they prefer to communicate because not all lip read or use Auslan, and some are oral-communicators. You can ask by writing it down or using notes on your smart phone.

Whichever hand you write with is your dominant hand when signing. In the poster the person is right handed.











proud

To be an Auslan spelling bee school









3-6 CAMP

COTTAGE BY THE SEA





CRICKET VICTORIA SESSIONS

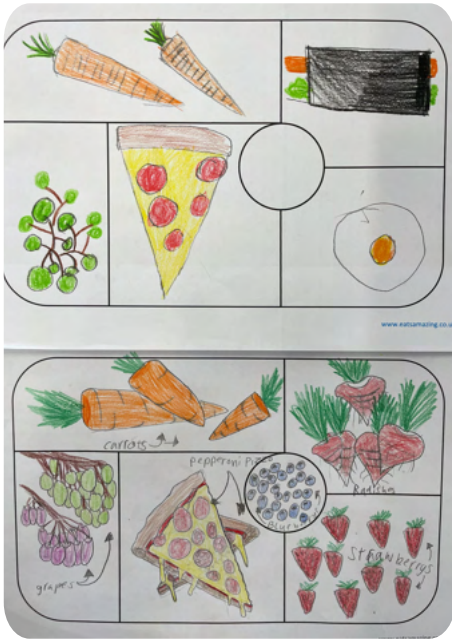
Our students have been participating in weekly cricket coaching sessions, where they have been developing their throwing, catching, batting, and bowling skills.



It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they practise these fundamental skills and begin to understand the rules and teamwork involved in the game.



KITCHEN GARDEN



HEALTHY EATING

It has been wonderful to see such a variety of healthy foods being packed into student lunchboxes this year!

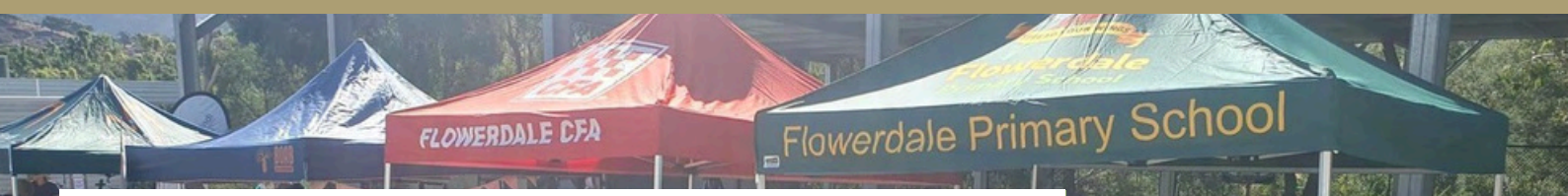
In Kitchen Garden classes, we have been learning all about the food groups and the macronutrients that fuel our bodies. Students have been exploring how carbohydrates, proteins, and fats provide energy.

It has been fantastic to see students making connections between what they are eating and how it nourishes their bodies for learning, playing, and growing.

Continuing these conversations at home will help build lifelong healthy habits and support our students in making positive food choices.



PARENTS & FRIENDS GROUP (PFG)



FLOWERDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL FAIR



Save the Date
SATURDAY 28 MARCH 2026

Less than 4 weeks to go until our biggest fundraising event of the year! It's time to get excited and get your name down to help. The success of the day relies entirely on everyone chipping in to help. We encourage every family to join us at the fair - most importantly to have fun with their family and friends, and secondly to help at some point at one of our school stalls.

Next week, permission forms (for the older students) will come home, along with a sign up sheet for adults. It's always hard asking for volunteers to give up their precious time, so we have some small tokens of appreciation on offer. People helping during setup and pack down, and students on a 1 hour shift during the fair, can choose a free sausage, smoothie, fairy floss, or can of soft drink. Adults helping for a 2 hour shift during the fair, receive free entry.

DATE	JOB	TIME
Mon 23 / Tue 24 March	Hang bunting around school	Anytime
	Collect borrowed items from Flowerdale Pub	Anytime
Thu 26 March	Hang signs for accessibility parking, entry, staff parking & animals on the move on fencing and gates	Anytime
	Collect tables and chairs from Flowerdale Hall and Flowerdale Community House	Anytime
Fri 27 March	Pick up grocery orders	Anytime
	Plug in mobile fridges and stock with drinks	Anytime
Sat 28 March FAIR SET UP	Set up marquees, tables & chairs	8:00am - 10:00am
	Get coffee van in place	
	Blower the basketball court, sweep if needed.	
	Set up 3 x BBQ's, test they work	
	Set up deep fryer & bain marie, turn on	
	Set up blender bikes	
	Set up mobile fridges and freezer	

PFG - FLOWERDALE FAIR

DATE	JOB	TIME	
Sat 28 March FAIR SET UP	Prepare food	8:00am - 10:00am	
	Set up 3 x bin stations in obvious places		
	Start cooking small quantities of everything	9:45am	
Sat 28 March FAIR BEGINS	Work at entry marquee, selling entry wristbands, First Aid (x2 helpers)	10am- 12pm	12pm- 2pm
	Coffee van barista / assistant		
	Roller skate size sorter		
	Taking payments for food and drinks, giving out tokens		
	Cooking the BBQ / putting food orders together (x2 helpers)		
	Putting food orders together / bringing out more ingredients (x2 helpers)		
	Smoothie station (x2 helpers)		
Adult helper at the SRC stall (x2 helpers)	10am-11am 11am-12pm	12pm-1pm 1-2pm	
Student helper at the SRC stall (x4 student helpers)			
Sat 28 March FAIR PACK UP	Turn off deep fryer, bain marie, fridges etc.	2:00pm-3:30pm	
	Pick up rubbish		
	Wash dirty dishes		
	Pack up table cloths, tables, chairs & marquees		
	Pack up bollards & bunting		
	Return borrowed pub items		

Talk with your friends and register together. Any questions, please see Erin in the Office or Sarah (Elliott and Marley's mum).



RESOURCES WE STILL NEED:

- Orange t-top bollards x 12
- Sand bags / weights to secure marquees x 16
- FOGO bin (120L) x 2

FOOD STALLS | MARKET STALLS



RAFFLE PRIZES & MUCH MORE!

COME & JOIN US FOR OUR
FLOWERDALE PRIMARY

SCHOOL FAIR

SATURDAY
MARCH 28

10AM - 2PM

CASH ONLY EVENT

ENTRY PASS

\$15 EACH OR 4 FOR \$50

FREE ENTRY:
0-3 YEARS & 65+

ENTRY INCLUDES

4 HOURS OF UNLIMITED ACCESS TO

INFLATABLE OBSTACLE COURSE & GIANT SLIDE
ROLLER SKATING | PETTING ZOO | FACE PAINTING
GIANT BUBBLES | AFRICAN DRUMMING

FUN FOR
THE WHOLE
FAMILY!

With thanks to



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



FPS

Lunchtime Clubs

TERM 1

Lunchtime clubs at FPS are another option for students to choose from during their break time. A staff member will run a club for students, should they wish to attend.

Monday	Tuesday	Friday
SRC Meeting Wk 4, 6, 8, 10	Robotics Club with Mr Stocker Come along and learn about the world of robotics and coding. We'll use the Sphero robots to create programs that use their features. For those that just want to chill, we'll have tubs of Lego to play with.	Gardening with Alex
Arts & Crafts with Ms Mac		

- ✓ Attend with a positive mindset
- ✓ Hang out with new friends
- ✓ Learn something new

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>





Your home can change a life

Become a foster carer with Berry Street

What does a safe place look like to you? Maybe it's a cozy bedroom, a lively kitchen, or just the feeling of belonging. For a child who has experienced trauma, a safe place is more than a location—it's a chance to recover from their trauma and thrive.

At Berry Street, we believe every child deserves a chance to heal and thrive. That's why we're looking for people like you to **become foster carers for local children in need.**

You might be single, in a partnership, have a family of your own, or rent your home. You could be a young professional or enjoying retirement. There is no "typical" Berry Street foster carer—only a person with an open heart and a spare room.

Our carers are a diverse community from all walks of life. They do wonderful work to give children the support they need to grow, develop, and feel safe.

[Learn more](#)

Ph. 03 5822 8100

berrystreet.org.au/fostercare





FLOWERDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

A small school, doing BIG things

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 Auslan	10 Library	11 PREP REST DAY PE	12 PMP/Sport Library Van	13 Kitchen Garden
W4 FEBRUARY	16 MEET THE TEACHER CONFERENCES 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 NAPLAN PREP REST DAY PE	12 NAPLAN PMP/Sport Library Van	13 NAPLAN BOAT RACES & BBQ Kitchen Garden
W8 MARCH	16 NAPLAN 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