



PRIMARY SCHOOL

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

'Quality Education in a Friendly, Caring and Supportive Environment'

Email: [bridgewater.ps@educationvic.gov.au](mailto:bridgewater.ps@educationvic.gov.au)

Website: [www.bwaterps.vic.edu.au](http://www.bwaterps.vic.edu.au)



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/>

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Phone: 5437 3081

**BPS Newsletter – Number 1**  
**Friday 29th January, 2021**

**Respect**

**Excellence**

**Relationships**

**SCHOOL COUNCIL**

**Acting Principal**

Julie Ladd

**President**

Leah Bailey

**Treasurer**

Heidi Ferguson

**Finance Committee**

Leah Bailey

Heidi Ferguson

Julie Ladd

**Minute Secretary**

Janine Andrews

**Members**

Leah Bailey

Heidi Ferguson

Rae O'Toole

Joelene Simsen

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the beginning of what will hopefully be, a much more settled year.

I hope you have had a restful break and managed to get in lots of precious family time over the holiday period.

It was lovely to see the smiling faces walk through the door this morning as we welcomed our new prep families and students to Bridgewater Primary School. I have no doubt that the grade 5/6 buddies will help to ensure a smooth transition into school life.

**Staff**

As mentioned previously, I will continue in the Principal role until the end of 2021 while Gordon Tonkin is on leave.

Interviews are currently underway for the employment of a new classroom teacher. This will be announced to the school community once the process has been finalised. Thank you to Lex Johnstone and Jayne Lawson from Inglewood Primary for their willingness to participate on the selection panel.

**Sue Gentry** will continue in her role this year as MARC van teacher and will be conducting library lessons every second Thursday.

**Yimin Chen** will also continue in her role as Chinese language teacher. Chinese will be undertaken every Friday.

**Graeme Tennent** will continue in his role in Maintenance and I think all will agree that the grounds are really starting to look well-manicured and tidy.

We were so lucky to receive a grant at the end of last year to ensure that we could keep **Ali Gillet** in her chaplaincy role. This grant will ensure that we can retain Ali's services until the end of 2022.

**Inglewood Primary School**

In the alternate week to the MARC Van – Bridgewater Primary School will continue our leaning partnership with Inglewood Primary School. Each alternate Thursday students will attend Inglewood Primary School to participate in subjects such as Art and PE. It is important that students experience a range of learning situations and are provided with opportunities to extend their social networks.

The decision to visit Inglewood Primary on a Thursday each fortnight was based on the goal of maintaining consistency in learning for the first three days each week.

**School lunch orders**

From Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of February, students will again be able to order their lunches from the Bridgewater Bakery. All order forms will need to be returned to the school on Thursday mornings. Please see the order forms attached with this newsletter for handy access.

## CODE Red Days

### 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 and SMS message. 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.
- 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.
- 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 are currently clearing 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, Parent Facebook page 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

### **Updated Family Information and CSEF forms**

Please see the following forms attached to this newsletter:

Update of student and family information

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) – this is paid directly to the school and is allocated towards camps, sports and or excursion costs for your child. To determine whether you are eligible for this fund please check the criteria in the information provided.

### **School Fees**

As a school we try to provide quality programs for your child. Last year, the school covered 100% of the cost of camp as well as numerous stationary supplies. We make a concerted effort to keep our school charges to a minimum. It is imperative that fees are paid to ensure that rich learning programs can go ahead and that school supplies can be purchased when required. Of course, we are here to support you if you need assistance – let us know and we can come up with an arrangement. Please see the information attached that pertains to your child's new grade level.

### **Assembly and Newsletters**

Bridgewater Primary School's assembly will take place each Friday afternoon at 3:10 pm. The purpose of this event is to share information, promote student leadership and recognise achievement. Assemblies will take place at the front of the school under the shade sails or if raining, in the undercover area. It is important that all parents maintain distancing requirements during the current restrictions.

### **Attendance**

It is important that students attend school wherever possible. It is completely understandable that there will be occasions where this is not possible and we certainly need any children who are sick to stay home.

If your child is absent for any reason, please put this in writing so that the absence can be coded correctly. This communication will also be stored on file.

### **Annual Privacy Reminder**

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy.

Please take time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement, found on our website add link to your school's collection statement.

For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents.

If you ever have any concerns, please remember that my door is always open and that we welcome your involvement as learning partners in our school.

Here's to a fabulous year.

Kind regards,  
Julie Ladd  
Principal

# Important Dates

2021 Term Dates	TERM 1, Week 2 2021	Week 3	Week 4
<b>Term 1</b> 27 January 1 April Good Friday 2nd April  <b>Term 2</b> 19 April 25 June  <b>Term 3</b> 12 July 17 September  <b>Term 4</b> 4 October 17 December	<b>February</b> <b>Monday 1st</b>  <b>Wednesday 3rd</b> <b>Grade Prep rest day</b>  <b>Thursday 4th</b> <b>Lunch orders &amp; money to school</b>  <b>Friday</b> <b>Lunch order day</b>	<b>Monday 8th</b>  <b>Wednesday 10th</b> <b>Grade Prep rest day</b>  <b>Thursday 11th</b> <b>Lunch orders &amp; money to school</b>  <b>Friday</b> <b>Lunch order day</b>	Monday 15th Breakfast Club  Wednesday 3rd Grade Prep rest day  Thursday 4th Lunch orders & money to school  Friday Lunch order day

*Birthdays...*

*No Birthdays this week*



EFT DETAILS BSB 633-000 YOU MUST MAKE SURE  
 A/C 132448242 YOUR FAMILY SURNAME  
 IS INCLUDED AS THE  
 REFERENCE!