

# Goornong Primary School Newsletter

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Friday 4th February, 2022

Issue 01



Our school values—**teamwork**, **respect**, **honesty** and **care**.

## Dates to Remember

A reminder that Prep students have a rest day and do not attend school on Wednesdays during February.

### Term 1

Sun 13th Feb	Welcome Back to School Pool Party
Fri 18th Feb	MARC Library
Mon 21st Feb	School Council Meeting
Wed 2nd Mar	Breakfast Club begins Preps first Wednesday at school.
Fri 4th Mar	Campaspe Cluster Swimming Carnival Grades 3-6 @ Rochester
Fri 11th Mar	MARC Library
Mon 14th Mar	Public Holiday
Fri 18th Mar	MARC Library
Mon 21st Mar	School Council AGM & Meeting
Fri 1st April	MARC Library
Wed 6th April	Cluster Cross Country, P-6 @ Elmore
Fri 8th April	Last day of Term 1, 2.15 dismissal

### 2022 Term Dates

Term One	Mon 31st Jan—Fri 8th Apr
Term Two	Tues 26th Apr—Fri 24th June
Term Three	Mon 11th July—Fri 16th Sept
Term Four	Mon 3rd Oct—Tues 20th Dec

We remind parents that our school uses the UEducateUs management system as the primary means of communication. We strongly encourage all parents to download the UEducateUs App onto their smart phone and to enable notifications. For our new families, a letter is attached to today's newsletter with your username and password. If you need any help in getting this setup, please feel free to come and see Jacinta on a Tuesday or Wednesday and she will be happy to assist.



## Weekly Awards

Award	This Week	Last Week
P-2 Literacy 	Mason D-F	—
P-2 Maths 	Oliver S	—
P-2 Values 	Emilie J	—
3-6 Literacy 	Mary K	—
3-6 Maths 	Ted C	—
3-6 Values 	Harry M	—
Principal Award 	Chase R	—

## Welcome Back to School BBQ & Fun Day

We invite all of our families and members of our school community to our **'Welcome Back to School BBQ'** at the Goornong Swimming Pool.

**Sunday 13th February, 12noon—2pm.**

Free Sausage Sizzle provided by OSHClub.

Drinks available for purchase from the pool kiosk.

Opportunity to meeting new teachers, new families and our after school care team!

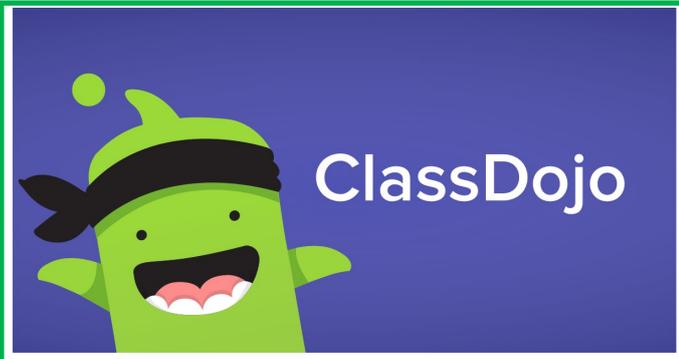
Please join us for a fun afternoon.

In accordance with current government guidelines, all attendees over the age of 18yo are required to check-in upon entry and show proof of vaccination to pool staff.

There will be no entry cost for this event—thank you to the Goornong Pool Committee for this!

\*To assist with catering, we ask that families please RSVP by returning the form attached to today's newsletter.

# Learning, laughing and playing at school!



This year we are looking at extending our use of Class Dojo to include parents. This is a safe platform that can be used as a school communication tool. It allows teachers, students and families to stay connected and build a close-knit community. We are excited to be able to share what's being learned in the classroom with parents through photos, videos and messages.

Parents will shortly receive a sheet containing easy to follow steps on how to connect to Class Dojo.

If you have any further questions in regards to Class Dojo feel free to contact us.

**Miss Mac and Miss Mirabito**



Our After School Care program is up and running and it was a pleasure to welcome our After School Care coordinators, Trudi and Ella, into our school community this week.

The students who have attended this week have had a ball participating a range of fun activities, including building Lego, playing with dinosaurs & bugs, solving jigsaw puzzles and playing board games.

We would love to have more students coming along so please feel free to enrol your child and book them in so they can see what all the fuss is about.

To enrol your child go to:  
<https://www.oshclub.com.au/vic/goornong-primary-school/>  
and click on the **Join OSHClub** button.

# Principal's Report

Welcome to the 2022 school year! I trust that all students, parents, staff and members of our school community enjoyed a safe and relaxing summer holidays with family and friends.

As we begin the school year, please feel free to come and see me if you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's schooling, or have any questions or concerns.

## **WELCOME NEW STUDENTS**

This year we have a total of eight new students beginning at Goornong PS. Welcome to our 2022 Preps—Riley, Jackson, Harper, Ted and Archie. Welcome also to Oliver (Gr 1), Chase (Gr 1) and Ruby (Gr 3) who are also beginning this year. We hope you all make lots of friends and enjoy learning and playing at Goornong PS!

## **WELCOME NEW FAMILIES**

This year we welcome three new families into our school community. We look forward to a building a strong partnership with you all and supporting your children to achieve their best. We understand that starting at a new school may be daunting so please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

It has been wonderful to see all students proudly wearing the Goornong PS uniform over the first week of the new school year. Thank you to all parents and students who have supported our uniform policy.

A copy of our Uniform Policy is available on our website.

## **HATS AT SCHOOL**

Well done to those students who have been organised with their hat! A reminder that hats need to be worn from mid-August until the end of April as part of our school's SunSmart Policy. Please ensure that your child has a navy blue wide-brimmed hat to wear at school. Students who do not have a hat are asked to play in the shade on the veranda during playtime and lunchtime.

Please note that on days of extreme heat we tend to stay indoors during playtime and lunchtime.

## **FRESH FRUIT AT SCHOOL**

The school day can be very long for some students and as such, our school offers a short break during class time where the students may eat some fresh fruit. This break is usually at about 10am and runs for about seven minutes. In this time students are able to eat fresh fruit such as apples, bananas, grapes or carrots.

We do ask that parents send only fresh fruit which their child is able to eat promptly during the fruit break. Other foods such as chips and processed fruits can be eaten at

playtime.

In the past we have found that some students have used the fruit break as an opportunity to delay returning to their schoolwork. As such, once the fruit break is finished we ask students to place any unfinished fruit in their lunchbox, which can then be finished at playtime.

## **ASSEMBLY**

There are two assemblies each week at Goornong PS. The first is a short assembly at 9.00am on Monday mornings where the students and teachers sing the National Anthem and are filled in on upcoming events for the week.

The second is on Friday afternoons at 3pm and is where student awards are presented.

Please see page 5 of today's newsletter for information regarding parents attending assembly.

## **SCHOOL DROP-OFF**

We remind parents that students are not to arrive at school prior to 8.30am, as we are not able to meet our duty of care with regards to supervision prior to this time. We thank parents for respecting our school's operating hours.

## **SCHOOL PICK-UP**

3.15pm can be very busy as the students head home after a day at school. To meet our duty of care we allocate a staff member to be on duty at the 'bus gate' on Langdon Street, another staff member to be on duty at the main entrance on Grant Street and a third staff member to be on duty at the 'bike' gate near the large green tank on Grant Street.

To ensure that students are safe at this busy time, we ask that parents please meet their child on the school side of Grant Street at the main entrance when collecting their child from school and then walk with them if needing to cross the road. Grant Street is very busy with lots of cars taking off and this will help to ensure that everyone gets home safely after school.

## **LUNCH ORDERS**

Unfortunately, The Pub have informed us that they are unable to do our Lunch Orders. As such, we are currently in the process of investigating alternative options for our Lunch Orders this year. We are hoping to have a new arrangement in place very soon. In the meantime, there will be no lunch orders on a Friday. We will notify parents once a new arrangement for lunch orders is in place. See attached to today's newsletter if you can help.

*(Principal's Report continued over page).*

# Principal's Report Continued

## 2022 STAFF

I am excited to introduce our staff team for 2022. This year we welcome Miss Mirabito and Mrs Grieves to our school and I wish them every success in their roles.

### **Team Goornong PS 2022**

- ◆ Jason Cox—Principal and Teacher.
- ◆ Jane McAdam—Grade P-2 Teacher & Art Teacher.
- ◆ Rebeckah Mirabito—Grade 3-6 Teacher.
- ◆ Naomi Grieves—Part-time Teacher and Tutor.
- ◆ Karren Jackman—Education Support (Gr 3-6)
- ◆ Tearnal Filbey—Education Support (Gr P-2).
- ◆ Jacinta Deane—Business Manager.
- ◆ Felicity Johnson—Garden Science Program.
- ◆ Sue Gentry—MARC Library Teacher.
- ◆ Anna Kemp—Performing Arts Teacher.
- ◆ Jenny Fu—Chinese Teacher (Semester 2 only).
- ◆ Trudi Smith & Ella Fletcher—After School Care.
- ◆ Fiona Ryan—Cleaner.
- ◆ Les Varker—Groundskeeper.
- ◆ Jason Carty—Bus Driver.

## SCHOOL TIMETABLE

To give parents some insight into what a typical day at Goornong PS looks like for the students, below is our usual timetable:

9.00am—11.00am:	Literacy Block.
11.00am—11.30am:	Recess.
11.30am-12.30pm:	Mathematics.
12.30pm-1.30pm:	Other Curriculum Subjects.
1.30pm—1.40pm:	Eat Lunch.
1.40pm—2.15pm:	Lunch Play.
2.15pm—3.15pm	Other Curriculum Subjects.

We also ask that parents please note the Specialist Subject days for each class:

Subject	Grade P-2	Grade 3-6
PE	Thursdays	
Art	Mondays	Tuesdays
Performing Arts	Thursdays	Thursdays
MARC Library	Every 2nd Friday	
Cooking	Fridays in Term 1	

## COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

From time to time parents may have a question or concern regarding their child's time at school. We find that effective communication between home and school and vice versa ensures that we are all on the same page with regards to any issues relating to your child.

Whilst our school staff aim to be approachable, we do ask that parents be aware that in the morning prior to school is a busy time with teachers getting organised for the day ahead and listening to students read. As such, this is not always the best time for an effective conversation to take place. Similarly, immediately after school the teachers are on duty to ensure the safety of the students as they exit the school.

As such, we encourage parents to make an appointment to see their child's teacher or the school principal if they have a concern or have received a report from their child. This ensures our staff are able to allocate the time necessary for an effective conversation and we can work together to clarify the issue and work out a resolution.

## SCHOOL FEES AND COLLECTION OF SUPPLIES

A big thank you to those parents and students who came into the school last Friday to collect the school supplies and pay a portion of the student contributions—your support with this is greatly appreciated!

## BUSINESS MANAGER DAYS

Please note that our Business Manager, Jacinta, will be working every Tuesday and Wednesday this year. We encourage parents to contact the school on Jacinta's work days with any financial or administration queries as the reception desk is unattended on the other days.

## SCHOOL PRIVACY POLICY

At the beginning of each school year we remind our school community of our privacy policy. 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:

[Privacy Collection Statement](#)

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents.](#)

*(Principal's Report continued over page).*

# Principal's Report Continued

## COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

I wish to sincerely thank parents and students for their understanding and cooperation with regards to adherence to the Covid-19 requirements in place at the school. Whilst I am aware that many schools are beginning to have positive Covid-19 cases emerge amongst their staff and students, fortunately we have avoided this to date. In the event that a positive case does occur for any of our students or staff, this would be communicated to our school community (whilst maintaining the privacy of the individual concerned) so that everyone is aware and able to monitor for symptoms amongst their family members. With this in mind, I ask that parents please contact me directly should their child test positive.

## PARENTS ATTENDING ON-SITE

I have had some parents ask about the current rules regarding parents attending the school. Parents are welcome to enter the school grounds at pick-up and drop-off time and if necessary, are able to come into the school buildings at this time. We remind parents that if they are needing to enter the school buildings that they must check in using the QR code, wear a face mask and have received two doses of Covid-19 vaccine.

Unfortunately, we are not in a position to invite parent volunteers back into classrooms at present. We will certainly notify our community once we are again able to welcome parents to assist with activities such as morning reading.

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON ASSEMBLY

From next Friday (11th February) the Friday afternoon assembly will be held outside under the shade of the 'talking tree' near the football oval. The assembly will begin at 3pm. We are excited to be able to invite parents to come along. However, in line with government guidelines we ask for parent cooperation with the following:

- Parents will need to check-in using the QR code that will be situated near the 'talking tree'.
- Parents will need to have received two doses of a Covid-19 vaccine (unless a valid medical exemption applies) in order to attend and the school staff will need to sight the vaccination information of attendees.

I thank parents for the cooperation with the above as this helps to ensure that our school is operating within the guidelines set by the Education Department.

**Jason Cox**  
**Principal**

## Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund applications

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you have a valid means-tested concession card, such as a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. There is also a special consideration category for asylum seeker and refugee families.

Payment amounts this year are \$125 for eligible primary school. Payments are made direct to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions and sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

It is important that funding made available in 2022 supports students to participate in school trips, camps and sporting activities this year rather than being held for future years. This funding can also be used in conjunction with any funding accrued from previous years. Please note these activities will only take place if they meet COVIDSafe requirements.

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

If you would like to apply for the first time, please contact the school office on 03 5432 2236 and ask for an application form.

Check with the school office if you are unsure, and please return completed forms to the school office as soon as possible. **Jacinta Deane, Business Manager**



## BUSHFIRE AT RISK REGISTER

We wish to inform our school community that our school is included on the Bushfire At Risk Register, as set by the Education Department, for the 2021-2022 Summer. This means that our school is required to close on days declared as Code Red in the Northern Country Bureau of Meteorology district.

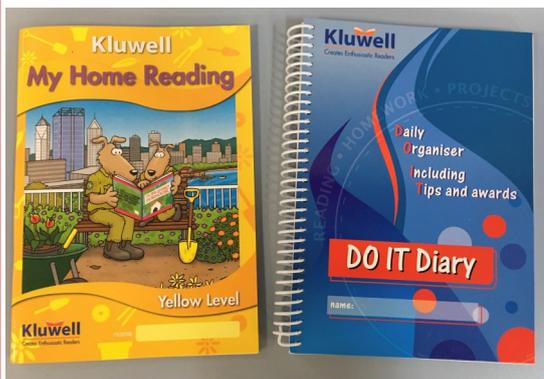
Code Red days are announced by the Emergency Management Commissioner of Victoria, usually no later than 1.00pm on the day preceding the Code Red day. Once a Code Red day is announced, our school will notify all families that the school will be closed.

We again remind families to setup the UEducateUs App on their phone to ensure that they are receiving important information that may be communicated by the school.

# READING AT HOME EXPECTATIONS



From next week, Gr 1-6 students will begin to bring home books (home readers). Grade Prep students will begin to bring home sight words and beginner readers over the coming weeks. Research shows that children who are regular readers achieve higher Literacy outcomes than those who are not. To support your child's reading development, we ask that all students (including those in Grade 5-6) read aloud to an adult at home at least 4-5 times per week.



Each student has been given a Home Reading Diary and we ask that parents please fill this in and sign it each time their child reads at home. The diary should be filled in with the title of the text, the page numbers that were read and the signature of the parent or adult who listened to the child read.

This year we will be recognising those students who regularly read at home through awards presented at our Friday afternoon assembly.

## ***Below are some tips for home reading with your child:***

- ◆ Establish a routine for home reading—perhaps for 10-15 minutes before bedtime each night.
- ◆ Share the reading with your child. It helps a child's reading to hear a fluent adult read aloud. Perhaps take it in turns to read a page.
- ◆ Understanding what you've read is the goal of reading. Support your child to understand by;
  - \* Looking at the cover and asking what they think the book is about.
  - \* Discussing what is happening in the story.
  - \* Asking questions about the story, such as "Why did the character act in that way?" or "What do you think will happen next?"
- ◆ Give children time to sound out a difficult word before giving them assistance.

## ***For younger students who are just beginning to read:***

- ◆ Get them to point to each word as they/you read it.
- ◆ Say the beginning sound to help prompt letter recognition.
- ◆ Talk about what is happening in the picture, use the pictures to figure out those tricky words.
- ◆ Children are very good at orally memorising stories or rhymes, so to encourage and build word knowledge randomly point to sight words on each page such as /l/ a/ in/ is/ to get students used to recognising words.

Most of all, have fun! Enjoy sharing books with your child and feel proud that you may just be creating a love of text for your child that will last their lifetime!

# Can you help us with the Lunch Orders?

With The Pub no longer able to do our lunch orders, we have contacted the Elmore Bakery who are available to take over. Unfortunately, they are not able to deliver the lunch orders to our school. As such, we are seeking expressions of interest from parents to volunteer to pick the lunch orders up from Elmore and deliver them to our school on Fridays. We are hoping that enough parents are able help out that we can develop a roster system. The job would entail collecting the lunch orders from the Elmore Bakery at approximately 1.10pm and delivering them to the school at 1.30pm.

***Please return this form to the school if you are able to help out.***

Yes, I am available to collect the lunch orders on a Friday.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_.

I would be available on the following dates in Term 1.

	Friday 11th Feb
	Friday 18th Feb
	Friday 25th Feb
	Friday 4th Mar
	Friday 11th March
	Friday 18th March
	Friday 25th March
	Friday 1st April
	Friday 8th April



## RSVP

### Welcome Back to School BBQ & Fun Day

We invite all of our families and members of our school community to our '**Welcome Back to School BBQ**' at the Goornong Swimming Pool.

**Sunday 13th February, 12noon—2pm.**

Free Sausage Sizzle provided by OSHClub.

Drinks available for purchase from the pool kiosk.

Opportunity to meeting new teachers, new families and our after school care team!

Please join us for a fun afternoon.

In accordance with current government guidelines, all attendees over the age of 18yo are required to check-in upon entry and show proof of vaccination to pool staff.

There will be no entry cost for this event—thank you to the Goornong Pool Committee for this!

Yes, the \_\_\_\_\_ family will be attending the 'Welcome Back to School BBQ'.

Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_.