

Principal Report

Dear parents and carers,

WELCOME BACK TO TERM 4!

Welcome back for Term 4 everyone. Can you believe it? Where has the year gone? I trust you all had a relaxing and wonderful holiday break. We have had a great start to the term with students and staff getting settled into learning and off to a great start.

Hats

I am noticing that most students are wearing hats but there are still a few without. I would like to ask for the support of families to make sure that every student brings a sun smart hat to school every day. Hats are required for all outdoor activities during Term 4. Students who do not have a hat may be required to remain inside or to stay undercover during playtime or outdoor activities.

School Upgrades

Over the past term we have been working with the Victorian School Building Authority to upgrade our school facilities. As part of this work, we are currently going through the process to rectify the insulation and roofing that have been damaged by the storms. I will keep everyone up to date with the progress as things occur.



2025 Class Structures

We keep asking ourselves where did 2024 go? Already into October and the planning for 2025 is well underway. We will be working with the following school structure for 2025:

CLASSROOM STRUCTURE

Prep

Year 1/2

Year 2/3

Year 3/4

Year 5

Year 6

SPECIALIST CLASSES

Physical Education

Art

Music

Science

Parent Requests and Class Placements for 2025

The leadership team and teachers are commencing to develop our plans for 2025 to ensure that we have a smooth and successful beginning to the school year. We ask that if you are moving or changing schools, it is important that we know of these intentions as soon as possible - could you please email the office on poowong.cs@education.vic.gov.au

To ensure that we cater for all our students, we will use a range of assessments and information to base our decisions for grade blends (social/emotional, academic spread and class cohesion). Teachers spend many hours developing and organising these groupings. Children will not necessarily be placed in friendship groups, as we believe that all children need to learn the skill of developing new friendships. We believe that there are many opportunities to connect with friends. We have well developed social skill programs to encourage positive relationships with all students, ones that foster the development of a wide group of friendships. We all know that we do not necessarily work well with our best friends. Of course, this does not mean that your child will not be with any of their friends.

I am happy to receive in writing from families any special learning needs (physical, social, or emotional) which may have an impact on their grade placement. **I must have these by Friday 25th October 2024.** (Correspondence beyond this date will not be considered) These requests will be considered but are not guaranteed. Please email any and all class placement requests to michael.smethurst@education.vic.gov.au

Requests based purely on friendships or staffing are not appropriate. Staffing has not been finalised for 2025 and staff are still being allocated to year levels. Once grades are finalised, there will be no changes as we will be resourcing classes.

Curriculum Days (Student Free Days) in Term 4

As part of the Victorian Government School's Agreement, all teachers in Victoria will participate in a Professional Practice Day each year.

The following are the student free days for the remainder of 2024:

- Monday 4 November - Professional Practice Day
- Monday 9th December - Curriculum Day

These Professional Practice and Curriculum Days are designed to allow teachers adequate time for planning and professional development. There will be no students at school on these days.

Regards

Michael Smethurst

Principal

michael.smethurst@education.vic.gov.au



STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARD



TERM 4—WEEK 1 AWARDS

Left to Right: Eevee-May, Paige, Levi, Bella, Baylen, Caleb and Lachlan.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

OCTOBER

7th Oct

Term 4 Starts

15th Oct

Regional Athletics

16th Oct

Lions Club—Eye Health

17th Oct

Whole School Incursion
(Billy Tea Bush Band)

25th Oct

1st Prep Transition

25th Oct

Teacher's Day

Crazy Hair Day (TBC)

28th Oct

Grandparents Day

30th Oct

Grade 6 Night of Notables

NOVEMBER

1st November

2nd Prep Transition

4th November

Student Free Day

5th November

Melbourne Cup
(Public Holiday)

6th November

State Athletics

7th November

Grade 1 Dinner

Grade 2 Sleepover

8th November

3rd Prep Transition

15th November

4th Prep Transition

17th November

Poowong Little Market

22nd November

5th Prep Transition

DECEMBER

9th December

Curriculum Day

10th December

State-Wide Transition Day

12th December

Grade 6 Graduation Night

13th December

Grade 6 Big Day Out

16th December

Swimming Program

17th December

Swimming Program

18th December

Swimming Program

19th December

Swimming Program

20th December

Bush Dance

Final Assembly

Last Day of Term 4
(1.30pm Finish)



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SCIENCE?

Science and Sustainability Bulletin

Week 2 Term 4 2024

Lots of work in the garden the last few weeks, we have been enjoying this transition from just building to actually growing and maintaining.



Help Needed Please!

Have a spare 5 minutes before Monday 28th October?

We are getting our path ready for its brick edges.

If you could spare a few minutes after school or on a weekend we would appreciate it if you could help by digging up some of these edges with us.

Everything is marked out with spray paint, excess dirt can just be piled in the middle of the pathway area and we will move it at a later date. As little or as much as you can do will be a huge help. We have some shovels here if doing it after school or I suggest bringing your own if you have a nice sharp shovel.

Thank you!

Upcoming event:

Poowong Little Market
17th November 2024

PCS is having a stall at the market where we will have a small interactive activity and sell items grown, designed and created in Science and Art.

Please reach out to me if you are able to help or would like more information.
lauren.dobie@education.vic.gov.au

Still looking for:

Bricks



Thank you for the donations so far! We almost have enough to line both edges of the pathway through the garden area.

Remember:

Garden Club is on every Wednesday
lunchtime
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Sustainability Action Team is always welcoming new members, generally meeting once a month during the school term please reach out if you would like more information.