

Ferny Creek PS Connections



Together we make a difference

Friday 10th October 2025

Hi everyone,

Welcome Back to Term 4!

Welcome back, everyone! It's hard to believe we're already in Term 4 — and what a beautiful, sunny start we've had. With the warmer weather upon us, this is a great time to remind everyone that **hats** are a must for outdoor activities as part of our SunSmart policy. This term promises to be an exciting one, with many highlights including our whole school swimming program, Grade 6 Graduation, and of course, our much-anticipated school production this month. As always, I ask that you continue to check the Compass calendar regularly to stay informed about all of our upcoming school activities.

We know that changes to routine can be tricky for some students. Our staff will continue to ensure that all students have access to sensory supports and strategies as we move through this busy term.

School Production – *The Time Travellers*

Rehearsals are in full swing, and the excitement is building across the school as we get ready for our big night. Costumes, sets and dances are all coming together beautifully, and we can't wait to see it all on stage.

We have a few key dates coming up:

- **Monday 20th October:** Full school rehearsal at school– *no costumes required*
- **Thursday 23rd October:** Full school **dress rehearsal** at school – students wear their school uniform and change at school for the rehearsal.
- **Tuesday 28th October: PERFORMANCE DAY!!!**
 - All students will travel by bus from school to the Rowville Secondary College theatre for a daytime full dress rehearsal. Please ensure that all students arrive at school by 9am in school uniform. (Consent will be required for this so look out for the event notification on Compass)
 - The evening performance begins at **6:30pm**, with students to be dropped off at the Rowville Secondary College theatre by 5.30pm— more details to come soon regarding the procedure for this.

A few extra snippets of information:

- **Most of our costumes will now remain at school and teachers (with our wonderful parent helpers) will organise the transportation to and from rehearsals and the theatre.**

- **Tickets** go on sale **Monday at 10:00am** via **Try Booking**, with an initial limit of four tickets per family. The link will be available via Compass.
- Ticket prices are \$25.00 for adults and \$15.00 for children.
- **Artwork** created by students for the performance backdrops will be available for sale on the night (gold coin donation).
- **Programs** and **snacks/drinks** will also be available for purchase before the show and during intermission.

We're so proud of all the hard work and enthusiasm from students, staff and our team of parent helpers and we know that this will be a truly memorable performance!

Bushfire Season Preparedness

As we move into the warmer months, we also enter the beginning of the **bushfire season**. As a designated **Community Fire Refuge School**, we take preparedness and communication very seriously to ensure the safety of all students, staff, and families.

Now is the perfect time to **check that we have your most up-to-date contact details** — including phone numbers, email addresses, and emergency contacts. It's also important that **Compass notifications** are active on your phone, as this will continue to be our **main form of communication** in the event of a fire danger alert, change to routine, or other important updates.

Lookout for our new Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1CX1PEFXfC/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

We appreciate everyone's cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and well-prepared school environment. Staying informed and connected ensures that, if needed, we can act quickly and confidently to keep our whole school community safe. Please see below for more information.

Have a great week,

Susan

Susan Vissenjoux – A/Principal



Loud Shirt Day – Friday 17th October

'Wear it LOUD for kids with hearing loss'



Please bring a **gold coin** and wear your boldest, brightest shirts to raise awareness and support for kids with hearing loss access the early intervention and support they need to thrive.

We can support kids like Emily, who is flourishing in the classroom and beyond. She supported by her NextSense audiologist and speech pathologist who are helping her learn to interpret new sounds through her cochlear implants. Emily's journey with NextSense shows how your support can truly change lives.

Every shirt worn to school (and dollar raised) helps children like Emily.

Production Rehearsals!





Le Mans
ENTERTAINMENT

Grade 5/6 Excursion



Ferny Creek Primary School- preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, we undertake a range of activities to ensure the safety of our school and to prepare for bushfires and grassfires.

An important part of this process is communicating to parents what will happen when certain fire danger ratings are issued to help ensure the safety of students and staff.



Our school has been identified as being in one of the highest fire risk categories – BARR 2.

On elevated fire danger days, schools in the highest levels of risk take pre-emptive actions to minimise the risk of being caught in a fire in these conditions.

Our school will action its pre-emptive plan for **relocation** on a day forecasted as **Extreme fire danger rating** in our **local government area (LGA), Yarra Ranges**.

Our school will also **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in **Central fire district**.

We will let you know when we are enacting our pre-emptive action plan by a **Compass** message. Please be aware that no one will be on site on days where the school has enacted this plan.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire including clearing our school grounds and gutters.

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- **Ensure we have your current contact details**, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by **reading our newsletters, checking our website and Compass regularly**, by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements if our school is **relocated** due to elevated fire danger or closed due to a **Catastrophic fire danger rating**. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are enacting your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to [them about bushfires](#) and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can find more information on emergencies, and preparedness actions here:

- 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

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the department's policy?

The Department of Education annually assesses the fire risk of all schools and early childhood services with the support of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 6). Schools and services that are categories 0-3 are published on the [Bushfire At-Risk Register \(BARR\)](#). Schools at some risk of bushfire and grassfire are published on the [Category 4 List](#).

The department's [Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy](#) requires schools at high risk of bushfire to enact pre-emptive action plans based on LGA-level fire danger forecasts. Conditions can vary significantly across the wider weather district, so using local forecasts helps us to respond appropriately to risks in our local area and maintain stability and educational continuity for our students and school community. This policy is consistent for all schools at high levels of risk and this approach is supported by emergency services.

The policy also requires that all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 list close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

Why do we use the LGA forecast?

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) provides public fire danger rating forecasts, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which include numerous Local Government Areas.

As conditions can vary significantly across a wider weather district, the department uses BoM LGA forecasts for some pre-emptive actions to respond appropriately to risks in the local area and maintain safe educational continuity for students and the school community. LGA forecasts are a subset of the weather district ratings and while not issued publicly, are provided to emergency services and government departments to support planning and operational activities.

This policy is consistent for all schools at high levels of risk and this approach is supported by emergency services, including the Country Fire Authority (CFA).

What do we do when our LGA has a different fire danger rating to the wider fire weather district?

As we respond to local conditions, there may be days during the fire season when our fire weather district, Central is forecast as an Extreme fire danger rating, but our LGA is at a lower level of fire danger. On these days our school operations will continue as normal; however, we will be taking action in line with fire services' advice by:

- checking our Emergency Management Plan and taking any necessary preparedness actions
- actively monitoring our local conditions and warnings
- having plans and procedures in place for if a fire starts to support us to take immediate action.

While our school will continue to operate, we encourage our school community to consider their own [bushfire survival plan](#) and reassess any travel through bushfire risk areas. We encourage you to follow your family bushfire survival plan and the advice of emergency services.

There may also be days where our LGA is forecast as Extreme fire danger, but Central is not. On these days we **will** enact our pre-emptive action plan.

When will our school be closed due to Catastrophic fire danger?

Our school will also **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating in Central fire district**.

Closure of the school due to a Catastrophic fire danger rating will be enacted when the BOM forecast and related public safety messaging is confirmed. Due to uncertainties in the forecast, the timing of this confirmation may vary. Information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you Compass.

It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

Families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. **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 Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.



FOUNDATION 2026

Welcome to Ferny Creek Primary School.

A place where every child is known, valued and nurtured.



Transition

Tuesdays 9.15-10.45am

18th November

25th November

2nd December

9th December

Parent information sessions will be run
concurrently with transition sessions on:
25th November
9th December



Ferny Creek Primary School
34 School Road, Ferny Creek



**FERNY
CREEK**
primaryschool



9755 1522

fernycreek.ps@education.vic.gov.au

FCPS Expected Behaviours Matrix

	In all settings	In Learning Spaces	In outside spaces	Moving between spaces
We are Respectful We treat people, places, and things with kindness, care, and fairness	- I will use kind and positive language - I will keep my hands and feet to myself - I will follow the directions of all adults - I will always display excellent manners - I will be kind and helpful - I will respect others privacy in the toilets	- I will display whole body listening - I will respect everyone's right to learn - I will wait for my turn to speak - I will ask permission to leave the learning space - I will be kind and respectful in online environments	- I will look after the school environment - I will include others - I will share equipment	- I will walk with quiet voices and quiet feet - I will stay on the paths and avoid walking on the gardens
We are Responsible We make good choices, take care of our things, and do what needs to be done without being reminded.	- I will look after all of my own belongings - I will look after all school equipment - I will put all my rubbish into the bin - I will always tell the truth - I will keep the school clean and tidy - I will report any problems to an adult - I will hand in my personal devices to the office	- I will be prepared, organised and ready to learn - I will be on time - I will use all learning resources appropriately to help me learn - I will follow all class routines - I will keep all learning spaces tidy - I will reset learning spaces at the end of a session - I will sit on the floor or chairs safely	- I will move to class when the music plays - I will remain outside unless I have permission to be inside - I will follow the direction of any adult on play support - I will return any borrowed equipment - I will play in the designated areas	- I will line up quickly and quietly - I will walk safely in and around spaces - I will go straight to the office or toilet and straight back again
We are Resilient We have a go, keep going when it's hard, and bounce back from challenges.	- I will choose the best strategy to help me be 'ready to learn' or 'ready to play'. - I will always put in my best effort - I will try even when it is hard - I will be happy for other people's successes - I will accept my mistakes and the mistakes of others - I will acknowledge a genuine apology when it is offered	- I will try my best with all my learning tasks - I will 'have a go' before asking for help - I will ask for help if I need it	- I will agree to and play by the rules of games - I will accept the rules of the game even if it doesn't go my way - I will be flexible when playing with others	I will accept that I cannot always be the line leader or choose my spot in the line 





Foundation/Grade 1

Aiden N, Max G, Xavier W, Ben M, Billy D: For their incredible teamwork in sorting and packing away the block trolley after Investigations. Fantastic effort!

Grade 2S

Rory G: For showing resilience and taking on feedback to improve his writing! Wonderful work!

Raffy C: For showing resilience by asking for help to improve his work. Keep up the great job!

Grade 3/4E

Asher F: For completing a fantastic poem for our Writer's Notebook. Keep up the great work!

Remy O: For your enthusiasm and commitment while practicing our production dance. Keep up the great moves!

Grade 3/4K

Freddie L: For always following our FCPS behaviour matrix. Freddie, you always listen and act with respectful behaviours. Well done!

Blade J: For always following our FCPS behaviour matrix. Freddie, you always listen and act with respectful behaviours. Well done!

Grade 5/6A

Autumn-Rose M: For her impressive cornering skills on the mini karts.

Grade 5/6B

Penny A: For being a great friend and standing up for others – well done Penny!

Andre C: You did a great job of organising everyone to get their photographs taken in their costumes.

Jarrah L: You did a great job of organising everyone to get their photographs taken in their costumes.

IMPORTANT DETAILS

CURRICULUM DAYS

The last day of Term 4 is
19th December with an early
finish time of 1.30pm



COMMUNICATION

Ferny Creek Primary School recognises the importance of the partnership between schools and families to support student learning, engagement and wellbeing.

Your child's teacher will offer you a range of opportunities to communicate with them including:

- ✓ Compass
- ✓ Email
- ✓ Formal meetings
- ✓ Before/After school chats

If you do not have Compass, please contact our school Office and find out how you can obtain the app. Compass will be used several times each week, so we want everyone to have access.

FACEBOOK

Please like our Facebook page. This will be used by the school to inform families and the public of events and updates at the school. Feedback and discussion with parents/carers are welcome, but the school will not use Facebook for this purpose.

Please contact the school directly if you wish to discuss matters, as per our communication process. Only this Facebook page is endorsed by the Principal. Any other Facebook pages are not officially authorised representatives of the school.

CONTACT DETAILS

It is very important the school has your most current emergency contact telephone details, home and e-mail address.

If you change telephone details or home e-mail address at any point, we ask that you update the school with your accurate contact details as soon as possible.

STUDENT SUPERVISION

Please note that our school grounds are supervised by school staff at the following times:

- ✓ Before school from 8.45am
- ✓ Throughout recess and lunch
- ✓ After school from 3.30pm to 3.45pm

The school grounds are not supervised outside the above times.

While some families use the front playground as a meeting place, please know children must be supervised by an adult outside of these times.



MORE IMPORTANT DETAILS

OUT OF HOURS CARE



TheirCare provides adventurous and stimulating Before & After School Care Programs in a safe environment for all children. During sessions children develop life skills, friendships, confidence and creativity through play.

Ferny Creek Primary School has partnered with TheirCare to provide this service to our school which includes quality care, booking flexibility, amazing programming for your children and commitment to deliver on our promise to our school community.

Operation Times:

Before School	7am-8.45am
After School	3.30pm-6.00pm

Service Phone Number:
0419 958 268

How to Enrol:
Visit TheirCare website
www.theircare.com.au

And click 'Book Now' in the top right-hand corner to register your child's details.

All families are strongly encouraged to register their child/ren for TheirCare as it is free to enrol, and while you are under no obligation to use this service, it does provide support for you in the event of an emergency. Plus, our students love attending this service! For further information about this program please contact TheirCare directly.

LUNCH ORDERS

Lunch orders are available each Wednesday. There is an ordering system via the QKR app and orders must be placed by 8pm each Tuesday for Wednesdays lunch.

Late orders cannot be accepted.



STUDENT SUPERVISION

All bike and scooter riders are required to wear a bike helmet in Victoria.

Approved helmets have the Australian Standards Mark TM (AS/NZS) 2063) and will be marked as suitable for cycling.

Children under the age of 12 may ride on footpaths as can a supervising adult. They are required to give way to pedestrians and to wheel their bicycles over pedestrian and children's crossings.

Bikes/scooters can be stored in our bike shed during school hours.

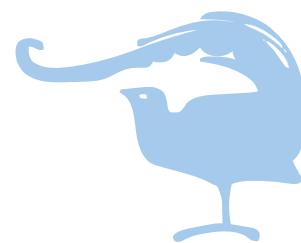
Also, by law everyone must wear a seat belt when travelling in a car in Australia.

SUNSMART

For Term 1 and Term 4 we wear our named broadbrimmed hat at all times when outside.



Term 4 2025



Keep this handy calendar on your fridge for upcoming events at school.
Check Compass, visit our website <http://www.fernycreekps.vic.edu.au/> or follow our Facebook page as this calendar is subject to changes.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
October	06 First Day of Term 4	07	08	09	10 Grade 5/6 Excursion 
	13	14 School Council meeting	15	16 Parents Club meeting	17 Assembly Loud Shirt Day
	20	21	22	23	24
	27	28 School Production	29	30	31 Assembly
November	03	04  Melbourne Cup Public Holiday	05	06	07  CERES Whole School Excursion
	10	11 School Council Meeting	12	13	14
	17	18 Foundation 2026 Transition	19 Food Bank Fundraiser - Food Fight	20	21
	24	25 Whole School & Foundation 2026 Transition	26	27	28
December	01 Swimming 	02 Swimming Foundation 2026 Transition	03 Swimming	04 Swimming Parents Club AGM	05 Swimming
	08	09 School Council meeting Whole School & Foundation 2026 Transition	10	11 Grade 6 Graduation	12 Grade 6 Big Day Out
	15	16 Christmas Concert 	17	18	19 Last Day of Term 1.30pm finish



9755 1522

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