

Ferny Creek PS Connections



Together we make a difference

Friday 5th September 2025

Hi everyone,

Sun Smart

As we head into the warmer months, it's time to remind everyone that our SunSmart policy is now back in action. All students are required to wear their school hat when outside during playtimes, PE lessons, and outdoor activities. Please make sure your child's hat is clearly named so it can be easily returned if misplaced.



This is also a good time to check that all items of uniform are clearly labelled. With jackets and hats often being taken on and off during the day, names make it much easier for lost items to find their way back to their owner.

We also want to celebrate the joy our students have been finding in nature play. Mud, puddles, and imaginative outdoor adventures have become a wonderful part of learning and play at school. If your child loves to dive into this type of play, please pop an extra change of clothes into their bag so they can enjoy the experience fully and stay comfortable for the rest of the day.

Our First-Ever Mud Day Celebration!

We are thrilled to announce our very first Mud Day celebration — a brand-new tradition for our school and one we know will become a highlight of the year! This inaugural Mud Day will feature the longest mud slide we've ever seen, alongside plenty of muddy fun including digging, making mud pies, and maybe even a friendly mud fight.



Mud Day is more than just a chance to get messy. It highlights the benefits of outdoor, hands-on play, which encourages creativity, resilience, teamwork, and a strong connection to nature. Messy play also supports sensory development and gives students the freedom to explore in ways they can't always do in a classroom. Most importantly, it's about fun and celebrating the importance of play.

To help everyone enjoy the day to the fullest, please make sure your child comes prepared:

- Wear old clothes (that can get very muddy!)
- Bring a towel for drying off afterwards
- Pack a garbage bag for the trip home with wet and muddy clothes

Please come and join us next Friday afternoon for a day of messy fun.

Student-Led Lunchtime Clubs

We are proud to celebrate the success of our student-initiated and led lunchtime clubs, which are giving students more choice and variety in how they spend their break times.

In our new library, students have created **Chill Club**, a calm space with quiet activities such as reading, drawing, board games, and puzzles. This has quickly become a popular option for those who enjoy a more relaxed lunchtime environment.

In the Multi-Purpose Room, our student leaders are running a **Sport Club**, where students can join in active games and activities. This provides a fun and energetic space for those who love being on the move.

Both clubs are wonderful examples of student voice and agency in action, with students taking the lead to design, organise, and manage activities that reflect their interests. Importantly, the clubs are ensuring that every student has the opportunity to find something they enjoy at break times, whether that's quiet play, active play, or time outdoors with friends.

These initiatives highlight the creativity and leadership of our students, and we are proud of the way they are working together to make our school a place where everyone feels supported to have fun and belong.

Thank you to Rose, Iris, Maverick, Niamh, Celeste, Tilly and Jess for demonstrating our value of Responsibility and providing these opportunities for our students!

Updated SWPBS Matrix of Behaviour Expectations

As part of our commitment to School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS), our school has a Matrix of Behaviour Expectations that sets out what our values of Respect, Responsibility, and Resilience look like in action across all areas of school life. The matrix provides a clear and consistent guide for students, staff, and families to follow, helping to build a safe, supportive, and positive learning environment for everyone.

This term, we have updated our matrix following consultation with staff, students, and parent groups. Their feedback has helped us to refine and strengthen our expectations, making sure they are clear, fair, and practical for all members of our school community.

A copy of the updated matrix is included in this newsletter. We encourage families to take some time to read through it together and to use the same language at home. By working in partnership, we can support students in developing positive habits and behaviours both at school and beyond.

Emergency Management Drills

At our school, we regularly carry out emergency drills as part of our comprehensive Emergency Management Plans. These drills include evacuation, lockdown, and other safety practices, and are an important part of keeping everyone safe.

The purpose of these drills is to make emergency procedures familiar and routine for students and staff. By practicing regularly, we help reduce stress and uncertainty in the event of a real emergency, ensuring that everyone knows exactly what to do.

While drills are only practice, they play a vital role in maintaining a safe and prepared school environment. We appreciate your support and encourage you to discuss safety plans as a family.

Department of Education Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey

Our school is conducting a survey to find out what parents think of our school. The Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education that is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour and student engagement. The survey is optional, but we encourage all families who were randomly selected to participate. Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

Families have been invited to participate in the survey via a unique link in your email and only takes 20 minutes to complete online.

The Survey will be open until Friday 19 September.

Have a great week,

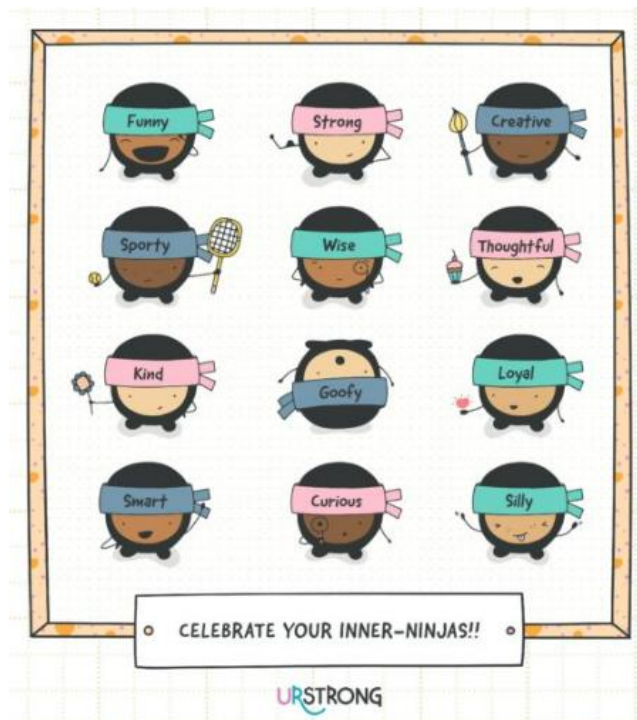
Susan

Susan Vissenjoux – A/Principal



When it comes to neurodivergent learners, friendships can sometimes feel challenging. They might feel misunderstood or find it hard to connect with their peers. In some cases, they might misread social cues and body language or struggle with their own non-verbal communication. Conflict can feel particularly difficult, especially when big emotions (like anger) are involved. For kids who find it tricky to navigate the ups and downs of friendship, school can feel very frustrating, overwhelming, and exhausting. The good news is: Friendship is a skill that can be taught.

Our URSTRONG Schools see positive outcomes for neurodivergent students who learn our Friendology friendship skills curriculum and whole-school friendship strategy.



FCPS Expected Behaviours Matrix

	In all settings	In Learning Spaces	In outside spaces	Moving between spaces
We are Respectful <i>We treat people, places, and things with kindness, care, and fairness</i>	- 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 <i>We make good choices, take care of our things, and do what needs to be done without being reminded.</i>	- 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 <i>We have a go, keep going when it's hard, and bounce back from challenges.</i>	- 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 





On Friday in investigations I was working at the collage table. Rory



Today in investigations I was a focus student. I was allowed to choose my activity first, so I chose magnet tiles. My idea was to make a mansion. Charlie

Today in investigations me and Lucien were the reporter and photographer. Kallan



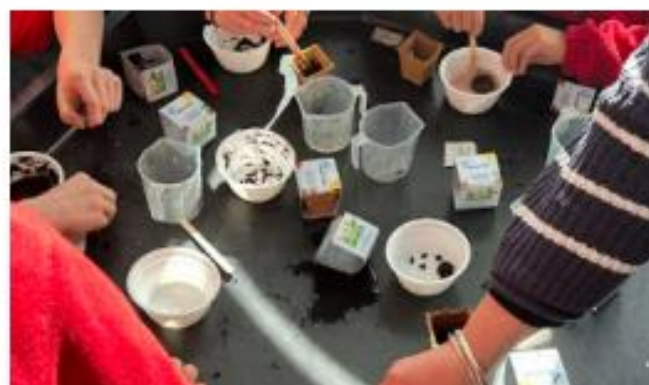
In investigations I played with Kallan on the collage table. We made a habitat for animals on Monday. James



On Tuesday it was science week and we had a bonus investigations and I planted a flower. I think 1 is a pink flower because Carla read it to me. Eleanor



I did the collage table with Rory. We made an octopus with armour. First I cut the tentacles and coloured the octopus red. Sascha



Today I did cups like Monday but today I did a lyrebird it was brown and blue. I could make it move with string. It was fun! Luciana



In investigations I did the boxes. Lucas



Today in investigations I made a habitat. It was for a snake. I added lots of different snakes. I added a desert snake, I added a mud snake, I added a sand snake. Ben



Today in investigations I played bug catching with Billy and Xavier. Anthony



In investigations I got a worm. I named him Wormy. It was very fun. I let him go. I did do lots of fun things. Arlo



Today in investigations I did robot bees and I did planting and I did sand. Eloise



Today in investigations I loved the planting. Tess



**CALLING ALL
U8 AND U10 GIRLS**

**COME AND PLAY BASKETBALL WITH THE
MOUNTAIN TIGERS**



SHERBROOKE LITTLE ATHLETICS

Saturday mornings
October to March



Registration opens in September
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Sassafras Ferny Creek Netball Club

Fun, Friendly Supportive

First Two new players in U11s comp—free fees for Spring
season

Woolworths Net Set Go 5-9 years:
Mondays 4:20-5:00

Junior teams 7 years to 18 years
Training various nights, games Saturdays

And for the mums:

Open team 15+ social competition
Monday nights (15+) and Saturdays

Walking netball no running or jumping
Tuesday nights (15+)



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playnetball@sfcnc.org.au
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KEEN TO PLAY IN 2026?

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO PLAY
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NEXT SEASON ARE NOW OPEN!**

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FOR MORE INFO



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Foundation/Grade 1

Hugo D: For the confidence you are showing each morning when you step inside by yourself. You should be so proud, Hugo.

Max G: For working well in investigations, taking turns and helping pack up. Great effort, Max!

Grade 2S

Kallan N: For his detailed reporting during our veggie patch session. Well done!

Pip J-B: For his use of persuasive language when writing about why we should protect our environment.

Grade 3/4E

Kasper J: For completing an awesome snowboard design that included geometric patterns and lines of symmetry in our maths investigation this week.

Everett H: For completing a detailed and informative report about dragons. Keep up the great work!

Grade 3/4K

Lacey S: For always completing her work with a smile on her face and coming to class with a positive 'ready to learn' attitude!

Hamish M: For his detailed answers when working on comprehension cards and completed with fabulous handwriting.

Grade 5/6A

Neko S: For always helping her classmates and supporting her friends. You are a kind and caring person Neko with an infectious smile! (As Voted by her Peers)

Ana C: For being a great friend who is always there for her peers, especially in times of need. Keep being the kind and caring person that you are Ana. (As Voted by her Peers)

Grade 5/6B

Tilly T-M: For being willing to try new things and asking for help when she needs it or is unsure.

Celeste M: I loved the way you used your newly learned vocabulary in your writing, for example when you used the word 'vivacious' in your book club reflection.

TheirCare

The place to be these holidays!

Secret Garden

SPRING 2025 HOLIDAY PROGRAM



Pass the popcorn!



Find hidden gems



Enjoy animal incursions



Visit Luna Park!

Book now at [TheirCare.com.au](https://www.TheirCare.com.au)

Save up to 90% with the Child Care Subsidy

Scan to find your nearest holiday program location



IMPORTANT DETAILS

CURRICULUM DAYS

The last day of Term 3 is
19th September with an early
finish time of 2.30pm



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 3 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
July	21 STUDENT FREE DAY	22 First Day of Term 3 Kids ROAR Program	23 School Nurse - Foundation	24	25 Schools Tree Day 
	28 Kids ROAR Online Parent Information Session	29 School Council	30 International Day of Friendship 	31	01 Assembly 100 DAYS CLOSER TO MY DREAMS GRADE F!
August	04	05 130 years since FCPS opened	06 Learning Conversations	07	08
	11	12 	13	14	15 Assembly
	18 Book Week Opening of our new library 	19 PJ and Story Night 	20 Athletics Day 	21 Book Week Parade and Raffle 	22
	25	26	27	28	29 Assembly
September	01	02	03	04	05 Father's Day Celebration 
	08	09	10	11 	12  Working Bee Sunday 14 th 
	15	16	17 Division Athletics 	18	19 Grade 3/4 Post-box Walk Whole School Football Day  LAST DAY OF TERM



9755 1522

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