



# STRATHMERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ph: 58745295 Fax: 58745537

Email: [Strathmerton.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Strathmerton.ps@education.vic.gov.au)



**SUPPORT EACH  
OTHER**



**TRY YOUR  
BEST**



**ACT  
SAFELY**



**RESPECT**

**Newsletter No.1  
January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

## 2025 Dates to Remember

- **Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Feb**  
No Foundation Students.
- **Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Feb**  
No Foundation Students.
- **Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Feb**  
No Foundation Students.
- **Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Feb**  
No Foundation Students.
- **Thu 6<sup>th</sup> Mar**  
Parent Teacher Interviews pm.
- **Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Mar**  
Pupil free Day. Parent Teacher Interviews am.
- **Mon 10<sup>th</sup> Mar**  
Labour Day Public Holiday.
- **Mon 31<sup>st</sup> Mar**  
Pupil free Day.

## HATS!

Reminder that hats need to be worn in Terms 1 and 4

School Bucket Hat  
**\$8**



### Confidentiality Forms

Please fill out the confidentiality forms so we can update our records with any changes. The forms were sent home today. Please return them to school as soon as possible. Thank you!

## Annual Privacy Reminder For 2025

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 our school's collection notice, found on our website [www.strathmertonps.vic.edu.au](http://www.strathmertonps.vic.edu.au)

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

## Uniting



**Strathmerton  
Outside School Hours  
Program**

2025 After School Care  
Get in Touch  
[earlylearning@vt.uniting.org](mailto:earlylearning@vt.uniting.org)  
1800 183 103



Now taking new families  
2025 enrolments



# OSHC

## LUNCH ORDERS

Lunch orders will be on Tuesday and Fridays..



### BUS REMINDER

It is important that parents let the school know when their child is not travelling home by bus. Please phone the office so we can take them off the bus list.



## From the Principal's Desk

Welcome back to the 2025 school year! I hope this newsletter finds you well-rested and ready for the exciting year that lies ahead. It is with great enthusiasm that I extend a warm welcome to both returning families and those joining our school community for the first time.

We have had a fantastic start to the year with all our students getting back into the swing of things quickly and a very calm vibe around the school. The focus at the beginning of every school year is establishing strong routines and expectations. Please note that our school newsletter will be published fortnightly on Thursdays and can be accessed through Compass, Facebook and our school website. I encourage you to read our newsletters, as they are an important communication tool between school and home.

Our new Foundation students got off to a wonderful start to their primary schooling. The Foundation students will have each Wednesday off for the month of February as they acclimatise to school life. They will commence their full-time schooling in week 6.

All families were sent home several forms this week. These forms are required to be updated annually. Please take the time to read these documents carefully with your child before signing. These documents include:

- Updating family details
- Wellbeing Permissions (psychologist, OT and Speech)
- Digital Technologies Policy and Code of Conduct (students will only be allocated a laptop once they have returned this form).
- Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund application forms (if eligible).

## Contact Details

There are times when we will need to contact you, including a medical reason or if your child is absent. Please complete and return the Confidentiality Forms so we can update our records. Please include all parent/carers' name, address, phone numbers, email address and emergency contact details. Please return the forms as soon as possible.

## Uniform Reminders

A friendly reminder to ensure that students are in full school uniform each day. Uniforms contribute to a sense of pride and belonging in our school community. T-shirts, jumpers and hats are available to be purchased at the school office.

## Student Absences

Protecting the safety and well-being of children through the reporting and monitoring of absenteeism is the responsibility of both parents/carers and schools.

It is important that your child attends school daily to ensure the continuity of his/her learning. Time away from school cannot be made up by catching up on tasks that are missed. The explicit (specific) teaching skills along with interactions and discussions with peers/teachers, provide students with a rich learning experience that occurs at that set point in time.



Please remember to call the school on 5874 5295 or email [Strathmerton.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Strathmerton.ps@education.vic.gov.au) or log your child's absence using our school's IT platform Compass early in the morning if your child is going to be

away or late for school so your child's absence can be recorded correctly. It is your responsibility to contact us to provide an explanation for your child's absence from school, and where possible, please inform us in advance of upcoming absences.

Students who arrive at school after 9.05am must sign in at the front office by the adult dropping them off.

For further information on the processes and procedures our school uses to record, monitor and follow-up student attendance and absence please read our Attendance Policy on our school website

<https://strathmertonps.vic.edu.au/>

## **Child safety and wellbeing at Strathmerton Primary School: information for families and the school community**

Strathmerton Primary School is committed to providing an environment where students are safe and feel safe.

Our child safety framework includes policies, codes and procedures that explain how we support and maintain the safety and wellbeing of our students and protect them from harm. These documents are available on our website: [Strathmerton Primary School | Documents \(strathmertonps.vic.edu.au\)](https://strathmertonps.vic.edu.au/).

We are also committed to continuous improvement of our child safety framework. We are currently reviewing our child safety policies and practices to ensure they are up-to-date and effective.

Our students and families are important partners in this process. We welcome your feedback or ideas on ways we can improve our approach to child safety and wellbeing.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact Joanne Paton principal on 5874 5295 or at [joanne.paton@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:joanne.paton@education.vic.gov.au)

### **Before and after school supervision**

Student safety at Strathmerton Primary School is our highest priority and the safe and appropriate supervision of students is an important element of our duty of care to students. Part of this duty is ensuring parents and students are aware of our student supervision arrangements before and after school.

**Before school:** School grounds are supervised at 8.45am.

**After school:** School grounds are supervised until 3.40pm

Students on school grounds outside these times will not be supervised.

Parents/carers are requested to ensure that students do not attend school outside of these supervised times unless they are attending a pre-arranged supervised activity (i.e. sports practice/tutoring).

For a copy of our school's Yard Duty and Supervision Policy please contact the school office. This policy includes Strathmerton Primary School's student supervision arrangements across the school day, including before and after school.

### **Mobile Phone Policy**

A reminder that the Department of Education has in place a mobile phone ban that requires students who bring mobile phones to school to have them switched off and securely put away during school hours. This includes smartwatches and similar personal devices. The Department of Education is requiring all schools to ensure this ban is in place and enforced. The ban applies equally to all government schools right across the state. This ensures that school is a learning environment free from unnecessary distractions and disruptions. By ensuring mobile phones, smart watches and similar devices are kept away during school

hours, students can interact with each other face-to-face, without the distractions and social pressures that mobile phones can cause. I ask for the support of all our families, staff and students in continuing to support the implementation of this policy in our school. It is required that students check in their phone upon arrival to school and collect it upon departing school at the end of their school day.

Further information:

**Emergencies:** In the event of an emergency or if you need to immediately contact your child, I ask that families contact the school office who will pass on a message as required.

**Parent Support:** The [Mobile phones in schools webpage](#) provides links to resources for families to help them balance their children's time using mobile phones.

If you have further questions, please contact the administration office.



## School Saving Bonus reminder and support

The Victorian Government is delivering the School Saving Bonus (SSB) – a one-off support of \$400 for eligible government school students from Prep to Year 12 in 2025. The SSB helps families cover the cost of uniforms, textbooks, excursions, activities and more. Most families have now received their SSB code(s). I encourage you to take advantage of this government support.

To learn more about the SSB online system, download the step-by-step [System guide for parents and carers \(DOCX, 945KB\)](#) or watch this [School Saving Bonus video](#). [System guide translations](#) are also available in 14 languages. If you would like to use your bonus for school activities, you can allocate some or all of the bonus using the [School Saving Bonus online system](#). If you have only recently completed your enrolment into the Victorian government school system you can expect to receive your SSB code(s) in the coming weeks. If you have transferred to our school from another Victorian government school, any remaining funds on your SSB code(s) will soon be available to use at our approved school suppliers. We request your patience as this change is processed.

The Department of Education has established a dedicated contact centre to support the SSB. The contact centre can be reached by:

completing the [School Saving Bonus enquiry form](#)

calling 1800 338 663, between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm on weekdays.

**Jo Paton**