

Wednesday October 13th 2021



Strathewen Primary School

Dates:

Return to school dates as they currently stand*-

Monday 11th October- Remote Learning Packs available for pick up from 8.30am

Monday 11- 15th October- Remote Learning for all students

Monday 18, Tuesday 19, Wednesday 20- Prep students attend for onsite learning

Thursday 21, Friday 22- Grade 1 and 2 students attend for onsite learning

Monday 25, Tuesday 26, Wednesday 27- Prep students attend for onsite learning

Tuesday 26, Wednesday 27- Grade 3 and 4 students attend for onsite learning

Thursday 28, Friday 29- Grade 1 and 2 and Grade 5 and 6 attend for onsite learning

****Please note- we are waiting to hear if our amendments to the return to school plan have been approved for SPS. Parents will be notified as soon as any change is confirmed. If we are not successful in our application, the staggered return to onsite learning outlined above will be in place.***



As I have said to many students, parents, grandparents and carers this week, the end of Remote Learning is in sight. All going to plan, the staggered return of students to the classroom will commence next week, and we can't wait! We're hoping to have confirmation regarding our request to change the return schedule for our school received by tomorrow to allow for family arrangements to be made. Our preferred request is to have P-3 return for their days and 4-6 to return as a class group for theirs.

As we move toward the reopening of our school, we will be working to ensure that a range of safety measures are in place. You may have seen the recent updates in the media confirming the compulsory wearing of masks for students from grades 3 to 6. This will be in place from Monday. For students in grades P-2 mask wearing is strongly recommended. This will apply to all time spent indoors. Masks will not be required during outdoor play and breaks. All staff are also required to wear masks whilst indoors. This week all school employees were required to submit proof of vaccination to the Department and we've been advised that anyone entering the school is required to provide evidence of double vaccination. This includes visiting specialist personnel, cleaning staff etc. At this stage, parents and carers are not permitted to enter school buildings and families are not able to gather in groups at school entrances etc. When we have students back on site, at the end of the day, staff will bring students out to parents at pick up time to avoid any gathering at the front of the school. It will be strange, it will be challenging, but if we can get things right, we improve our chance of reducing exposure risk.

Tomorrow morning I'll be taking part in an online Departmental Q and A session detailing the response measures in place and what's required if there is a confirmed COVID case within our school making us an exposure site. Our managers are now quite experienced in responding to this situation in schools and have established a plan for what the next steps are. This information is important, but here's hoping that we're able to avoid this scenario in our little school. Maree will be leading my class Webex tomorrow morning while I'm in the meeting.

Just a reminder to all families that we are required to check in with students for attendance and engagement purposes daily. Students joining the class webex sessions are considered present and we're not required to make follow up contact unless they'd like to, but for any students not online and not making contact with the

school on any given day, we'll continue sending an email, a text or giving you a call to touch base, as is required by the Education Department. The class roll is marked daily and attendance is entered centrally, even though we're operating in very different circumstances. All student absences are recorded. It will be wonderful to have some of our students back on site next week.

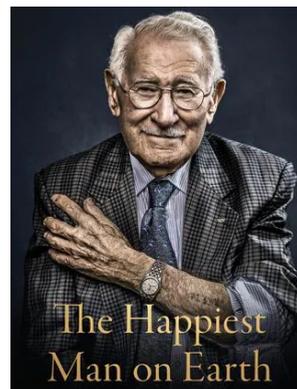
Take care
Jane



Our six hens are laying happily!
We have packs of fresh eggs for sale. All incoming funds will go towards purchasing chicken food, nesting straw and JSC.
\$2.00 half dozen pack
For sale here at the school entrance



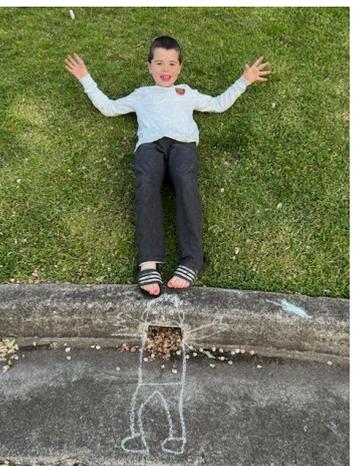
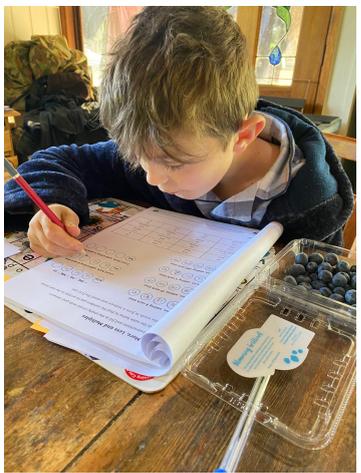
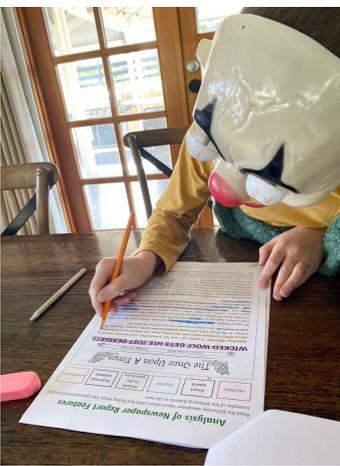
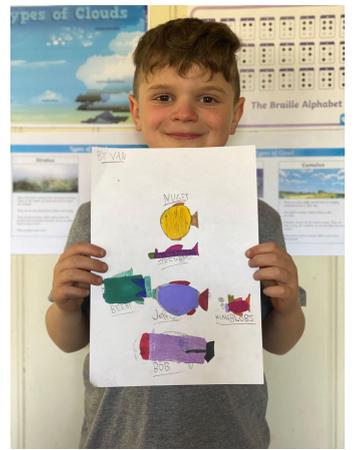
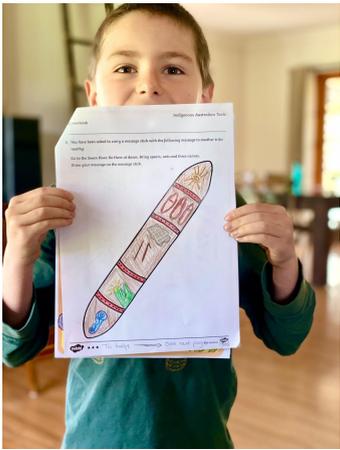
Our six hens are loving the chance to be foraging out and about. Over the weekend, Renate made their run safer, pruning back any undergrowth that made the area accessible to visiting foxes and cats. Diane and our students onsite for supervision have become the 'chicken trainers', managing the adventures and the round up each day.

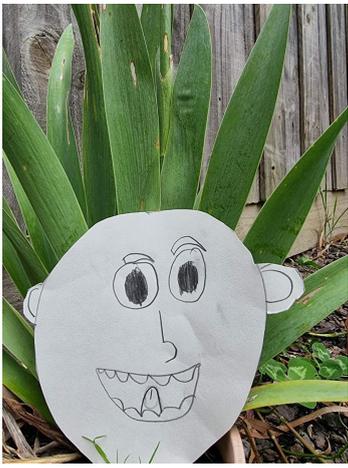


"Happiness does not fall from the sky; it is in your hands. Happiness comes from inside yourself and from the people you love. And if you are happy and healthy, you are a millionaire."

Australian holocaust survivor and peace campaigner Eddie Jaku, who described himself as 'the happiest man on earth', died this week at the age of 101.

Remote Learning in action





behind the scenes...

- Just a reminder that our next learning packs, for those students not onsite, will be ready for pick up on Monday from 8.30am. Please return this week's pack when you pick up your next one.
- This week our Fairy Garden log seats have been removed as they had passed their use by date, and our new concrete stools are ready for pick up once lockdown restrictions have been lifted. The Fairy Garden will look great with some terrific new seating.
- Our gardener, Renate, has been here at school mowing the lush spring lawns and giving the chook yard and embankment a good cut back.
- Thanks to Phil Byrne who has been working away behind the scenes to organise the servicing of our school defibrillator and investigating its relocation to an easily accessible position at the front entrance to the school, enabling easy access to all in an emergency.
- Thanks to the super handy Doug McKinnon (Deb Bradshaw's Dad) who repaired and reinforced our piano stool this week.



The Superb Fairy Wren might have been crowned Australia's 'Bird of the Year', but we just love our visiting King Parrots here at SPS.

What do you know about our R.A.P working group?

A [Reconciliation Action Plan \(RAP\)](#) is a formal statement of commitment to reconciliation. Our school has formed a Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group. We plan to work together to develop a plan for SPS. Through this work we aim to promote reconciliation in education, while focussing on strengthening relationships, respect and opportunities in the classroom, around the school and with the local community. We'll keep the community updated as we move forward. If you have any questions about our working group, please contact Kate Fawcett.



Aussie of the Month

Purpose

Recognising and celebrating active citizenship that demonstrates inclusive Australian values in our primary schools

Values

Fair go- not just in how we apply ourselves but also providing opportunity for all

Matship- generosity of spirit and compassion for those in need

Respect- of self, others, of our community and the environment

Inclusion- celebrating difference and the rights and freedoms we are all entitled to

At SPS we have registered to participate in the Aussie of the Month program, a primary civics and citizenship recognition program, which is delivered under the auspices of the Australia Day Council's National Network. The focus is to encourage and recognise students for their contribution to their community through a demonstration of Australian values as outlined in the Values for Australian Schooling and Curriculum framework. These are values outside of academic application, instead they're about active contribution to school, community and peer groups.

Each month, students will be nominated and one student will be selected for recognition with an award certificate and badge. We're hoping to invite special visitors along to present the award each month.

Strathewen Primary School

Community Pantry

*Take what you need ... Share what you can
Do you know anyone needing a little help at the moment?*

We have an abundance of stock in our pantry and we need to see it being used. If you know someone who might be running short or experiencing financial hardship at the moment, please call in, put a bag together for them and do a drop off if you can. Our pantry will only continue to operate if there is need, so it's a case of use it or lose it and we know we have people within our community who could do with some support.

A community pantry is a service that provides food directly to locals experiencing food insecurity.

Having a tight week?

Know of anyone who might need some assistance?

That's what our pantry is here for.

Some community pantries rely purely on local donations, ours is restocked thanks to the support of local agencies.

Our pantry was restocked yesterday and there's plenty there.

Community pantries operate on a trust system and encourage donors to give what they can, and recipients to take only as much as they need.

Be sure to spread the word.





S.P.S. Supporting the Diamond Valley Gift Appeal 2021

Over the years, we have received great support for many of our school families through the Diamond Valley Community Support Group. They are the team responsible for our Community Pantry and they provide amazing support across the shire. Previously we have collected food items for their Christmas hampers and this year we have the opportunity to contribute gifts to their annual Christmas Appeal. If you have a little extra this year and would like to pick up an item and add it to our collection box, that would be great. The spirit of Christmas provides us with a great time to share what we have with others and to talk with our young people about those facing difficulties.

Bring some joy to those in need by donating to the Diamond Valley Gift Appeal this year

This Christmas period, Diamond Valley Community support in partnership with the Nillumbik Lions and Vine Baptist church are working together to deliver gift parcels to local families experiencing financial hardship through the Diamond Valley Gift Appeal. For the last two years, people in our community have provided new gifts, toys and vouchers to local children and families experiencing financial hardship through this initiative. Last year, 105 children who live and go to school in Nillumbik received gift parcels thanks to community donations.

Disadvantage and financial hardship affects families in our wider community through aspects like being a single parent family, having a disability or having a significant change in circumstances, such as loss of employment and income due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Christmas and the summer holiday periods are particularly stressful for families who cannot adequately provide for their children.

The Diamond Valley Gift Appeal is a wonderful example of the whole community working together to support the less fortunate families and children among us.

Community donation drives make up a significant and invaluable contribution to the Diamond Valley Gift Appeal. Last year groups got involved by donation things like, books, craft kits, Lego, sporting toys, Christmas food items and more.

**The more that you read,
The more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
The more places you'll go.
-Dr. Seuss**