

Altona Primary School Newsletter



10th FEBRUARY 2025: TERM 1 WEEK 3



Principal's Report

We have had a great start to our 2025 school year. This year, we currently have 518 students enrolled, with 85 new preps commencing with us.

Thanks to our community for your support as we have commenced our new learning partnerships with our students, teachers and parents. It was great to see so many parents take the opportunity to meet with teachers at our 'partnership' meetings last week, and our preps continue to have this opportunity through their assessments. The connection between home and school is one we highly value, so please don't hesitate to reach out at any stage if you would like an opportunity to meet with your teachers or a member of our leadership team.

2025 CURRICULUM DAYS

This year, curriculum days are scheduled for the following dates. On these days, students do not attend school:

- Friday 6th of June
- Monday 21st of July
- Monday 3rd of November

As we determine our school goals through our school review later this term, there may be a need for staff professional development, which could result in an additional Professional Practice Day for our staff in the second semester. If needed, this date will be decided by our school council.

DATES TO REMEMBER

To keep up to date with what is coming up, please refer to our whole school calendar which is on our school website www.altonaps.vic.edu.au Compass updates will provide further information.

Dates to Remember

10th February
Grade 2 swimming commences

11-12th February
Grade 3/4 swimming commences

13th February
Western Bulldogs Football Clinic

17-19 February
Grade 6 Camp

10th March
Public Holiday

11th March
SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

12th-21st March
NAPLAN testing

26th March
P-2 Cross Country Event

27th March
Grade 3-6 Cross Country Event

4th April
Last Day Term 1: 2.30 Dismissal

See our whole school calendar
on our website for all dates

We acknowledge the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of the land.

We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.

We are grateful for the land that we live, learn and play on every day.

www.altonaps.vic.edu.au





UNIFORM

Our uniform fosters a sense of community and belonging, and promotes pride in our school. There are an increasing number of students attending school in pants/bottoms that are not the correct colour. Please be aware that any pants or shorts that are worn as uniform should be either grey or purple. There are many options that can be purchased from DCS Uniforms such as pants, tracksuit pants, shorts and skorts. I appreciate our community taking steps to ensure all children are in correct uniform as advised in our [student dress code](#).

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Nominations have been called for 4 parent vacancies on our council. Nominations close this Wednesday, with information posted to Compass.

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

All Victorian Government Schools have a [mobile phone policy](#) in place that bans the use of mobile phones by students on school grounds. This also applies to smart watches that have connectivity to a phone service, as referenced in our [school's policy](#). Classrooms have a lockable box that children should be placing their phones/watches in each day. If a student is found to be using their phone or smart watch during the day, this will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day. We will make provisions at dismissal when students are contacting parents for pick up arrangements. If your child does have a phone, please do not message or call them during the school day. If you have a message that is urgent, contact our school office.

ATTENDANCE

Daily school attendance is important for all children and young people to succeed in education and to ensure they don't fall behind both socially and developmentally.

Regular attendance at school is essential to support the learning, wellbeing and safety of students. Our school works hard to support student attendance, and we encourage you to maintain a focus on ensuring that your child is at school, on time, every day.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

If you are new to the school, and have a Centrelink pensioner concession or Health Care card number CRN, you may be eligible for CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund).

Please ask the office for a CSEF application form.

Recipients of 2024 CSEF, who were at this school last year, do not need to apply again, you will be automatically rolled over and eligibility will be checked online.

If at any time you would like to have a chat or meet with any of the Principal team, Tim, Nicole and I are on yard duty before and after school, so please don't hesitate to catch us then. Alternatively, contact the office to book in a time to come and see us.

Sarah

VALUES AWARDS



WEEK 2 TERM 1

Congratulations to these students who displayed our school values inside and outside this week



2025 SCHOOL AND HOUSE CAPTAINS

SCHOOL CAPTAINS: Sophie Van Den Brand and Fergus Graham

GREEN HOUSE – BORRACK: Georgia Gilloway and Jake Haley

BLUE HOUSE – BLYTH: Amelie Simoes and Aaron Bright

YELLOW HOUSE – FLEMING: Eden Hendrick and Syed Sibte Muhammad

PURPLE HOUSE – BROMLEY: Asta Drendel and Freddy Syddall

RED HOUSE – ENRIGHT: Bella Chase-Tukapua and Owen Iskra



Our school and house captains have commenced 2025 with some great ideas to enhance the experience for our students this year. For Term 1, they have committed to running 'Icy Pole Thursdays' for everyone to enjoy, while also fundraising for school resources. They also successfully supported our first whole assembly and will begin to lead these each week.



COMMUNICATION AT APS

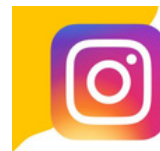
COMPASS: Ongoing communication. Newsfeed items contain reminders and timely information. All payments and consent for events and activities are made through Compass.

NEWSLETTER: Reports what is happening and coming up at APS. Published 3-4 times per term via Compass and the school website.

YEAR LEVEL NEWSLETTERS: Outlines the learning program of each year level. Published twice per term.

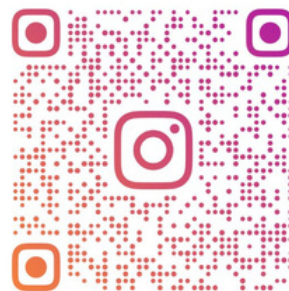
SCHOOL WEBSITE: Information about the school, parent info and whole school calendar.

INSTAGRAM: Visual reminders and photographic updates. Posts updated weekly.



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM

@altonaPrimaryschool



ALTONAPRIMARYSCHOOL



Summer Break 2024/2025 Highlights

We entered summer break with enthusiasm for Christmas, New Years, and of course, the end of another amazing school year! Welcoming children back in January to a plethora of fun and crazy Holiday Program activities and adventures. From our movie excursions with Moana 2, and Sonic the Hedgehog 2. To our in-house incursions of Ocean Odyssey, and Colour Me Active. And of course, the ultimate of excursions of Tag & Arcade, Playtopia Indoor Playground, and the Ninja Warrior Quest Obstacle Course. With many more games and activities enjoyed in between at the service. Summer break might be over, but we have lots of fun in store coming up this term.

Parent Guardian Information

TheirCare Program

Phone: 041 912 6837

Program Email: altona@theircare.com.au

TheirCare HQ: 1 300 072 410

Program Coordinator

Dominic Frate

2IC

Emma Z.

Program Assistants

Amanda Robinson

Bibiana Guzman

What's on Term 1 2025

During the first few weeks back, we want to welcome back familiar faces and introduce ourselves to some new faces. We acknowledge this introductory period of back to school is experienced differently across the children. So, we have set up a routine of group games, planned activities with crafts and sport, and free play stations set up throughout the room. With a table game station, refreshed Lego station, a restocked art table, and many more games and toys to enjoy. This time is for slowly getting back in the groove of attending before & after school care. And what better way, than bringing back the Free Play Fridays. With planned activities, a homemade goodie with a Movie.

POLICY REMINDERS

If you need to book/cancel, please do so via fully booked 24 hours prior to avoid a \$4 fee. Send us an email, text, or pop in to let staff know if you are collecting, cancelling, or booking your child. There is a \$1/minute fee for each child that is picked up after 6:15pm. Parents/guardians must be present with child on arrival to before and after school care.

For information regarding upcoming Holiday Programs

<https://theircare.com.au/holiday-programs/altona-ps-theircare/>



Past Week Menu	BSC	ASC
MONDAY	Croissants, Cereal, Toast with Jam or Vegemite. Variety of milk and alternatives.	Pizza and Garlic Bread
TUESDAY	Banana Bread	Pasta
WEDNESDAY	Croissants	Ham and Jam Sandwiches
THURSDAY	Cereal	Cracker Ham and Cheese DIY
FRIDAY	Toast with Jam or Vegemite. Variety of milk and alternatives.	Nachos with Popcorn and Homemade Cookies

In primary school, some students **miss** on average **3 weeks** of school per year. That's **half a year** of school by the end of **year 6.**



EVERY DAY COUNTS

Primary school attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

"Day off" – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:

www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$154 for primary school students
- \$256 for secondary school students

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments:** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances:** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>

