

RIPPLEBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue: 9 Date: 27th November 2025



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

SSG Meeting and Parent-Teacher Interview

As we come towards the end of term, Student Support Group (SSG) meetings for certain students will be conducted alongside parent-teacher interviews. Families will be contacted in the next few weeks to organise times. Parent-Teacher interviews will be held Monday 8th and Wednesday 10th December in the afternoon/early evening. SSG meetings may be held within these times also or on different days/times due to the length of these conversations.

Bike Ed

Our new basketball court has been busy with road signs, traffic signals and roundabouts as students practise their road safety and cycling skills in preparation for our Bike Hike on December 12th. Students have been reminded about riding/scooting on the left side of the road, giving way to their right, looking both ways before crossing the road and being aware of other riders around them. Wearing helmets while riding has been mandatory and students have ensured their bikes are road-worthy before riding by checking their tyres, brakes and seat height..



Sporting Schools

We have been fortunate to have visiting cricket and tee-ball coaches providing a number of sessions to students this term, taking advantage of our Sporting Schools Grants and utilising our new court space. This year the students have had exposure to eight different sports and we hope to add to these in 2026 as regular physical activity is essential for growing bodies and learning new skills and techniques allows students to consider participating in local sporting teams or organisations.

School Sleepover

Students and staff will be sleeping overnight at school on Thursday to experience activities, meals and social interactions in preparation for school camp next year. This will assist students in packing their bags, organising their sleeping gear and ensuring they have appropriate clothing for the difference in temperatures. Allambee Camp is booked in for Term 3, 2026.

Nigel Kilpatrick
Principal

KEY DATES

November

Thursday 27th Whole School Sleepover

Friday 28th Bike PickUp

December

Friday 5th Grade 6 Big Day Out

Last Day of Flying Start

Monday 8th Parent Teacher Interviews

School Council

Tuesday 9th Statewide Transition Day

Wednesday 10th Parent Teacher Interviews

Thursday 11th Whole School Assembly

Friday 12th Whole School Bike Hike

Tuesday 16th Christmas Luncheon

Whole School Christmas Concert

Wednesday 17th Whole School Water Fight

Friday 19th Last Day of Term 4 - 1:30pm finish

THUMBS UP



To all the families that helped at the Farmers Market



To the Dunne family for donating trees to sell at the market



To Mashall Vivian for making all the lamingtons and chocolate truffles to sell at the market



To Mr Baker for coordinating the whole day at the Farmers Market

ENROLMENTS

At this stage we are expecting 43 students for 2026 across three classrooms (Prep-1, 2&3, 4,5&6). If any families are NOT going to be returning next year, please inform the office as soon as possible so we can make arrangements for classroom furniture, resources and student files. Our school budget will be based on our enrolments at Census Day (28th February).

FUNDRAISING

Thankyou to the staff, parents and students who assisted at the Drouin Rotary Market recently. We raised over \$1000 with the sale of lamingtons, chocolate balls and small trees thanks to the Beath and Dunne families. The funds will go towards upgrading our kitchen which is used weekly for Breakfast Club, Hot Lunches, Cooking Club and Breakfast Club.

STAFFING

Tuesday 9th December is statewide orientation day for all students, including 2026 Preps coming into school for their last Flying Start transition session. We hope to have staffing confirmed by this day so that students can become familiar with their 2026 teacher, Education Support staff and classroom environment.

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our Junior School Council would like to remind everyone about Waste-Free Wednesdays! Each Wednesday, we encourage students to bring lunches that create as little rubbish as possible. Reusable containers, drink bottles and wrappers that can be taken home help keep our school cleaner and reduce waste going to landfill. Thank you for supporting this simple but important initiative—every small change makes a big difference, and you will be rewarded with 100 house points.

We'd also like to say a huge thank you to all the students and families who supported our Movember fundraiser on Sleepover day. Your donations will help raise awareness for men's health, and we loved seeing everyone getting involved (especially those fun stick-on moustaches!). Your generosity truly helps make a positive impact.

Mrs Smith and our Junior School Council representatives (Harry, Brody, Taj, Arjay and Kayla)



Thank you for continuing to support our school community!

RIPPLEBROOK SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next School Council meetings will be on the following dates.

Term 4

Monday 8th December School Council

These meetings take place in the school library from 6:00 pm.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Ripplebrook Primary School Assemblies happen several times a term. Our two School Captains usually lead these Assemblies.

This is a chance to come together as a school community to celebrate our students' achievements.

Our Assemblies for Term 4 are listed below.

Thursday 27th November (Due to Sleepover)

Thursday 11th December (Due to Bike Ride)

Assembly usually takes place on the school basketball court from 2:45 pm

BEFORE SCHOOL SUPERVISION

Breakfast Club is a combination of early school arrival supervision and an opportunity to begin the day with a wholesome and nutritious breakfast. Ripplebrook Primary School offers this opportunity at no cost to families.

Breakfast Club doors open at 8:00 am.

A parent or carer MUST sign students in every day they attend.

Breakfast Club doors close at 8:30 am.

Students are not permitted to enter Breakfast Club after 8:30 am. Students are welcome to arrive at school from this time but there must be an understanding that the schoolyard is not supervised until 8:45 am and students are still the responsibility of parents.



COMPASS PARENT PORTAL

If you are having concerns logging on to the portal for the first time or if you have misplaced your login details, please contact Amanda or Mr Baker in the office for assistance.

The Compass Parent Portal can be accessed by the following link:

<https://ripplebrookps-vic.compass.education/login.aspx>

ATTENDANCE & ABSENCE

As a School we use Compass, to monitor student attendance. In the case of a child/ren being absent from school, it is most important that the school is notified.

Parents/Carers need to contact the school office (5627 6278) on or before the first day of your child/ren's absence by 9.45 am or log on to Compass to record the absence and continue this process until they return to school.

When students have not arrived at school and the school's administration staff have not received written or verbal notification, an SMS notification will be sent out at 10:00 am to parents/carers seeking explanations of their child's absence. We kindly request that you contact the school ASAP in response to this message.

UNEXPLAINED ABSENCE LETTERS

Unexplained absence letters are sent home to families regularly. Please sign and return these for accurate records.

OFFICE NEWS

Note for our families, just a reminder that the office is usually only manned most days of the week. If you need additional copies of any forms or notices that have gone home, please contact your classroom staff or check on Compass.

Please make sure all notices come with your child to their room or are handed into the office. Also, if we can't answer your call at the time, please leave a message as we do check the voicemail on a regular basis throughout the day and we will get back to you as soon as we can. For an emergency call the school mobile on 0428 276 279

GRADE LEVEL	EVENT	COST DUE	PERMISSION DUE
All	Families who returned signed 2025 Voluntary Curriculum Contributions	\$ 61.70	Term 1
All	Families who returned signed 2025 Voluntary Curriculum Contributions	\$ 56.10	Term 2 & 3
All	Swimming Program	\$55	Term 4

OFFICE HOURS FOR TERM 4 2025

Our school office will be manned most days out of the week this term with Amanda and Mr Baker working in the office over the week.

Amanda will be in on Mondays and Tuesdays and alternating Thursdays and Fridays from 9 am to 4 pm for anything financial-related and general office matters.

Mr Baker will be in on most afternoons from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm for general office inquiries.

If the office is closed on a day the phone will be going through to the 2/3 classroom.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Just a reminder that School Newsletters come out on Thursdays (hopefully!) at the end of each month.

Copies of the school newsletter are electronically sent out on Compass.

You can also find a copy of the newsletter on the school website and Facebook page. A hard copy of the newsletter is provided to the eldest student in the family if it was requested by families.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER

Parent Payment Policy 2025

2025 Parent Payment Policy letters have been sent home earlier this term.

A merchant facility has been installed at RPS, payments can now be made at the office by card if this is a preferred option. Other payment options are BPAY, Direct Deposit or Cash.

If you need to discuss payments, please call Amanda McLaughlin, our School Business Manager, she is in on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays.

If you need help or have questions regarding the School Saver Bonus please come and speak to Mr Baker or Amanda

Business Manager
Amanda McLaughlin



VICTORIA CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

Ripplebrook Primary School is now a registered organisation for the Return-It Recycling scheme. If you would like to donate some or all of your 10c returns to the school, please use the code C2000009988.



OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Our library needs your help! If you can spare an hour or two to help in our school library, Mr Baker would really appreciate the help.

He is looking for help with covering books, tidying and sorting the shelves and general tasks around the library.

Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday afternoons are preferable but can be other days if this works better for the individual.

If you are able to help out, please speak to Mr Baker to arrange times that work.



MEAL DEAL

Hot lunch is prepared by Ms Scanlon and a parent helper each Friday.

The cost is \$7 per student for lunch and a treat. All money and orders need to be in on a Wednesday morning (students normally bring these in their Stickybeaks reusable bags which are available for \$10 from the office) and put in their lunch order tub that will be in their classroom so it can be counted for catering purposes.

Please note from time to time the Hot Lunch menu can change from what is originally planned, but we will endeavour to let you know asap if this happens.



Date	Lunch	Treat	Parent Helper
5/12	<i>Hamburger with cheese, lettuce, tomato, egg, bacon and cooked onion</i>	<i>Choc weetbix slice</i>	<i>Erin</i>
16/12	<i>Christmas Luncheon</i> <i>Free all students</i>		<i>Ms Scanlon & Mr Baker</i>

Ms. Scanlon is looking for parents to help with Hot Lunch this year, if you would like to help her with this, please let Paula know. You will need to make sure you have a valid WWCC and that we have a copy of it.

MENTAL HEALTH IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

“How was your day?” – Turning after-school chats into meaningful moments

We've all been there — you greet your child after school and ask, “How was your day?” only to get a one-word answer like “Good” or “Fine.” After a big day of learning, playing, and socialising, many children find it hard to share details straight away.

At school, we're encouraging families to keep these after-school conversations positive and relaxed. Here are some ideas to help turn that classic question into a more meaningful chat:

TRY SOME FRESH QUESTIONS!

Instead of “How was your day?” you could ask:

- What made you laugh today?
- Who did you play with at lunch time?
- What's something new you learned today?
- What was the most interesting part of your day?
- If you could change one thing about today, what would it be?

TIMING IS EVERYTHING.

Many children need a bit of downtime after school. Some will need a chance to have a snack, relax, or play before starting a chat.

KEEP IT SIMPLE AND CARING.

Even if your child's answers are short, asking shows you care about their day and their learning journey. Children often say that when someone takes the time to ask about their day, it makes them feel valued and supported.

If you'd like more ideas on how to spark engaging conversations about learning, visit the Australian Government's Learning Potential website:

<https://www.learningpotential.gov.au/articles/how-was-school-today-good>

Remember — it's not about getting long answers; it's about keeping the connection strong.



Mrs Robyn Smith
Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader
(MHWL)



OSHC



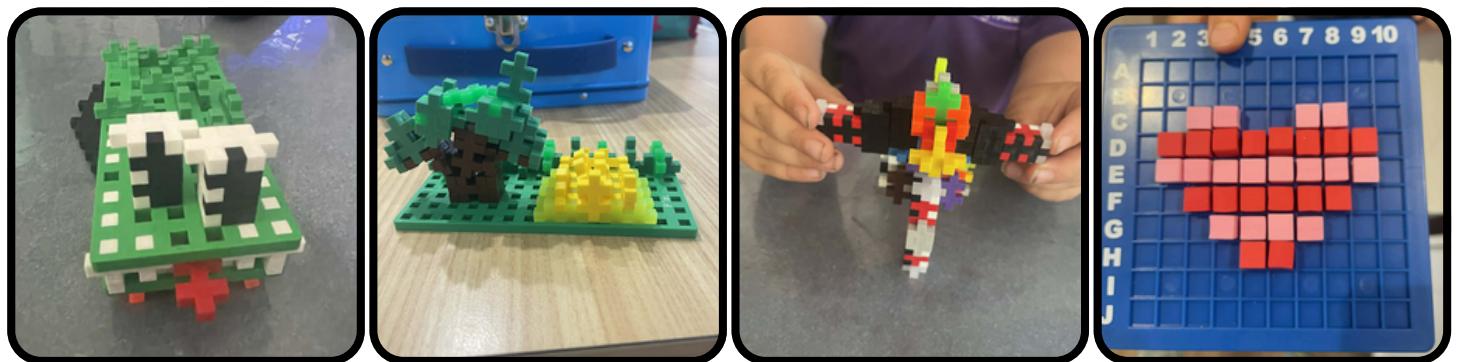
Our OSHC children have had an exciting and engaging start to Term 4, exploring new cultures, building new skills, and working together in a range of hands-on activities. They are all loving the new plus plus building blocks and math cubes we have recently got in using their imagination to create some amazing pieces. We have continued our “Country of the Week” program, chosen by the children themselves, which has created wonderful opportunities for learning, creativity, and connection.

We have also continued our popular Movie Day, chosen through a group vote, which gives children a chance to unwind together and supports child voice and agency. Finish Off Fridays have remained a favourite, giving children time to revisit and complete projects they are proud of.

Throughout the term, children have shown joy, curiosity, and confidence as they participate in the varied learning opportunities provided. Their enthusiasm for cooking, craft, outdoor play, construction, and imaginative activities continues to shape our program planning each week.

I look forward to the fun and learning ahead as we continue celebrating different cultures and supporting children’s interests, strengths, and creativity and Christmas (which we are looking forward to a jam-packed few weeks of Christmas celebrations, crafts and baking)!

If you ever have questions about our program or would like to share ideas, please feel free to get in touch, we love partnering with families to make OSHC a vibrant and supportive space.



For a last-minute booking, please call the school office to check if there is still space available for the day and complete a manual booking over the phone. This will need to be done by 3:00 pm to allow staff to notify the student and other staff of any changes.

For all bookings, cancellations, or general OSHC enquiries, please contact Paula directly on the OSHC mobile: 0428 276 279. As our office is not always staffed, you can just call this number to make sure your message is received promptly. A friendly reminder to ensure your child's enrolment is up to date. Having an active enrolment allows for quick and easy bookings through the app or via a phone call whenever care is needed.

Ms Paula Scanlon
OSHC Coordinator

CLASS NEWS FROM PREP/ONE

Respectful Relationships!

In Respectful Relationships, students have been exploring the concept of identity and celebrating what makes each of us unique. We enjoyed reading *My Shadow is Purple*, an empowering and uplifting story about daring to be different, staying true to yourself, and accepting others for who they are. Inspired by the book, students created beautiful artworks showing themselves alongside their own unique shadow, highlighting the special qualities that make them who they are.

SunFlowers!

Students have also enjoyed being active in the garden. They spent time pulling weeds and planting sunflower seeds and are now looking forward to watching their plants grow over the next few weeks.

We have been learning about sound, the different types of sounds we hear, and how sounds are made. Over the next few weeks, students will be designing and creating their own musical instruments using recycled materials. If families have any small cardboard boxes, tissue boxes, or cardboard tubes that students could bring in to help with their constructions, it would be greatly appreciated.



We look forward to seeing where the rest of Term 4 takes us

Prep/One Team
Mrs. McIntosh, Ms Drury and Ms Scanlon



CLASS NEWS FROM TWO/THREE

It has been a busy and exciting few weeks in our Grade 2/3 classroom!

In phonics, we explored some tricky sounds, including g making the /j/ sound, c making the /s/ sound, and dge making the /j/ sound and revisited tch as the /ch/ sound. Students have been practising these patterns in reading and writing and are becoming more confident at spotting them in words.

In writing, we have continued working on our information reports. Students have been researching their chosen animals and organising their ideas into sections such as appearance, habitat, food, and fun facts. They have also written a recount of our House Athletics Day, learning how to plan, draft and publish their work.

We have also been exploring non-fiction texts. A highlight was reading *The Mess That We Made*, which helped us understand how ocean pollution begins and the serious impact it has on marine life.

We have been exploring fractions, 3D shapes, and probability in our maths lessons. Students have enjoyed hands-on activities and real-life examples to help build their understanding.

Our respectful relationships sessions have focused on positive coping strategies. Students learned the difference between calming strategies (like deep breathing) and cheering strategies (like talking to a friend) and when each might be helpful. We also discussed how we can support others when they need help coping. We explored different ways to solve conflict and how teamwork can help when people face challenges. Students practised describing what good teamwork looks like and how it helps a group work well together.

We have been learning about empathy in our TRP (The Resilience Project) lessons and why it is such an important social skill. Students practised identifying empathy in different situations, explored the social skills that help us build strong friendships, and role-played scenarios to show their understanding.

The students thoroughly enjoyed their swimming lessons and showed great persistence and confidence in the water.

We have also been completing some assessments over the past couple of weeks.

It has been a wonderful few weeks of learning, exploring and supporting each other. We are very proud of the effort and enthusiasm our 2/3 students continue to show!

Grade 2/3 team



Two/Three Team

Mrs Smith, Mrs Wilson, and Mr Baker

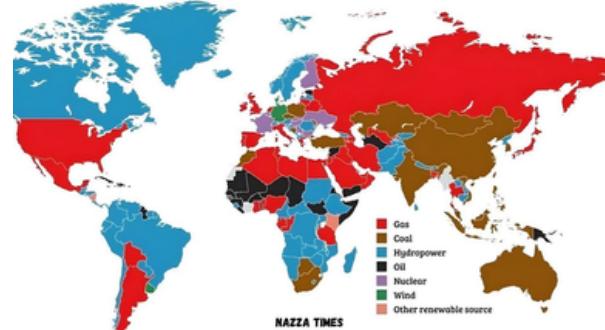
CLASS NEWS FROM FOUR/FIVE & SIX

The students have been busy researching information about energy sources-both fossil fuels and renewables-and writing their opinion about current and future energy provisions. Australia is lucky to have access to large natural resources as well as space for solar, wind or water power generation, however there are positives and negatives for both. Students have been reminded that their opinion is valid as long as they can add some facts or figures to support their arguments. Carbon emissions have been compared between now and 100 years ago and students have learned about the links between industry, population growth and air quality.



COUNTRIES BY MOST COMMON ELECTRICITY SOURCE

Saudi Arabia - Oil	Qatar - Natural Gas
United States - Natural Gas	Indonesia - Coal
China - Coal	South Africa - Coal
France - Nuclear	Australia - Coal
Canada - Hydropower	United K. - Natural Gas
Brazil - Hydropower	Egypt - Natural Gas
India - Coal	Vietnam - Coal
Germany - Renewables	Chile - Renewables
Russia - Natural Gas	Mexico - Natural Gas
Japan - Natural Gas	Italy - Natural Gas
Norway - Hydropower	Spain - Renewables
Sweden - Hydropower	Turkey - Hydropower
Poland - Coal	Poland - Coal



Some students have been writing applications for 2026 leadership positions to present to their peers on Statewide Orientation Day. Student Leaders will be announced at our end-of-year celebrations and Christmas Concert on Tuesday December 16th.

We have been fortunate to have Sasha Mitchell completing her pre-service teaching placement and she has been teaching the students about Statistics and Reading Comprehension strategies as well as being fully involved in weekly teaching, learning and assessments. We wish Sasha well in her career prospects after she graduates from Curtin University.

Grade 4/5 & 6 Team

Mr Kilpatrick, and Mr. Miller



CHAPPY NEWS

Your School Chaplain is Samantha Bond. I am here every Monday and Thursday for groups, games and mentoring. I have been a school chaplain for 14 years in various states and school settings. School chaplains work closely with Wellbeing in the school to support the school community. You can contact me through the school or via email samantha.bond@education.vic.gov.au

COOKING CLUB- MONDAYS

The students have enjoyed Nutella Crumble and Carrot Cake



THURSDAY'S ACTIVITIES CLUB

Loom Band rings and bracelets never get old. It's so satisfying to watch the students pick up the skill so quickly!



CHAPLAINCY GROUP WORK

We are currently running a Social Skills group for a small group of Grade 2 and 3 students.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:

Our 9 boxes are still being processed but we can track where they go and I will hopefully update this next newsletter. Nine boys and girls in a country less fortunate than ours will be pleasantly surprised



CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

If there are any families in our school who would benefit from receiving a hamper box this Christmas, you can privately let me know and discreetly receive it in December.

We are also donating Christmas goodies to The Crossing in Drouin so they can add them to the hampers that they usually create at Christmas.

You can contact myself- Chappy or Mrs Smith with any enquiries for either



CHAPPY NEWS

Cuppa with Chappy

Feel free to come and say 'Hi' any Monday afternoon from 2:30pm. I will be in the Wellbeing Hub (inside and behind the kitchen) and can offer a cup of tea or coffee and a chat. We can also do this on a Thursday by appointment. I can't promise it will be as fancy as the pic though!



MENTORING

The Chaplaincy program has a mentoring/ pastoral care role as well. If you feel your child needs extra support with mild anxiety, social/emotional understanding, resilience, family or friendship challenges, grief and loss, or self esteem, please contact your class teacher, Mr Kilpatrick or Chappy.

Chaplains are available for students, families and staff. Our role is to support the wellbeing program of the whole school in this community. You can contact 'Chappy' samantha.bond@education.vic.gov.au for more information or visit the WellBeing Hub behind the kitchen any Monday or Thursday.



<https://kidshelpline.com.au/kids>
<https://kidshelpline.com.au/parents>

Your Local Tree Nursery

Locally Grown
Our trees are grown right here in Gippsland, ready to enhance any setting, whether it's your garden, property, driveway, or outdoor space.

Quality You Can See
Our range of deciduous and climate-ready trees, grown in 40cm to 100L containers and reaching 2m to 4m tall, is ready to make an instant impact.

Experience & Friendly Service
With over 25 years of growing and delivering trees. Chris and Tony are always happy to share expert advice on planting and care.

Contact us
0484 345 253
info@urbantreegrowers.com.au

Visit us via appointment
Weekdays 8am to 5pm
2086 Westernport Road
Ripplebrook VIC

Scan to visit the website and see the trees we grow



urban tree growers

urbantreegrowers.com.au
growing trees for *your future*

Speech Pathology Capacity

Little Fox Children's Therapy is excited to welcome Speech Pathologist Courtney Shears to the team. In 2024, Courtney will be accepting new speech pathology referrals in the postcodes 3818 & 3821 for young children between the ages of 5-12 who need speech pathology support. Please get in touch with us if your child or student requires support with any of the areas listed below.

Understanding Spoken Language	Verbally Expressing their Thoughts & Ideas	Social Communication Skills
Clarity of Speech	Phonological Awareness	Learning to Read & Spell

Little Fox Children's Therapy
Contact us now at: www.littlefoxchildrenstherapy.com or via email: admin@littlefoxchildrenstherapy.com

