



30/01/2025

## Principal's Report

Welcome back everybody to the 2025 school year. We hope that everyone managed to find some quality time to relax with friends and family during the summer break and that the start of this year has been a positive one for you all.

This year, we again welcome new families to GWSPS across all year levels, including our new Foundation families. We know that the whole community joins us in welcoming you all to our school and trust that your time with us is positive and enjoyable.

Each year when we return, it is a pleasure to see such happy and enthusiastic faces, eager to renew old friendships, make some new ones and get back into some interesting and enjoyable learning. When we chat to students, they share lovely holiday stories but are also looking forward to their new school year. We would like to thank you, the parents, for your efforts in preparing your children so well for the start of the school year. Throughout the year, we will share through the newsletter, the many opportunities that our students have to shine.

Our Foundation children commenced school today. Miss Gibson, Mrs Lawrence and all staff are looking forward to getting to know all our new families and students throughout the year.

A big thank you to the staff for all the preparations they have made for the 2025 school year, as they have already spent countless hours over the past weeks; the cleaners ensuring a fresh and welcoming environment, the Office and Education Support staff with various administrative tasks, the OSH staff for running another fun-filled Holiday Program, and the teachers setting up dynamic learning environments and forward planning to ensure a smooth start and exciting curriculum for the students this year.

Once again, we have started the year with our 'Learning How to Learn' program. The purpose of this school-developed program is to engage students in a range of activities that help build strong relationships with their teachers and peers, and to establish clear expectations for the 2025 school year. This is a crucial part of the curriculum as it paves the path for a happy and successful year of learning for all students. We know that relationships are at the core of all learning. Having spent the time to form a relationship based on trust and respect and getting to know each other beyond the roles of 'teacher' and 'student' (interests, family members, friends, experiences, hopes, fears etc.), we are able to truly begin personalising the learning experience for the children we teach.

We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure all children can achieve their highest potential. We recognise that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school, knowing that a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities, asking that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring:



1. Attendance at school daily and arrival on time, ready for the day's learning experience
2. Completion of all homework assignments given by teachers
3. Daily reading to develop a love for literature and to improve critical language skills
4. Sharing school experiences with you so that you are aware of his / her school life

Working and "learning together" we can achieve great results. In any given year we provide many opportunities for parent involvement within the school: classroom assistance with Reading, Maths or PMP; being a Class Representative; volunteering; and being a member of the Fundraising Committee who do such an amazing job of raising funds for the school and creating a caring culture with numerous events. Parental support of the teachers and the school's programs is also vital and includes displaying a positive attitude towards your child's learning, so I encourage you all to be fully involved in your child's education. **Education is a partnership!** Let's all work together to ensure the best future for the children that we have in our care.

Existing parents will be aware that we run a fortnightly newsletter with a 'Dates to Remember' edition every other week. Each of these editions will contain lots of important information, dates and reminders so please be sure to read both versions of our newsletters. School families will be notified via a Compass alert, which will inform you of the availability of the current Newsletter or Dates to Remember on our school website at <https://www.gwsps.vic.edu.au/newsletter> Alternatively, you can obtain a hard copy at the office.

In addition to our weekly Newsletter/Dates to Remember, year levels will be providing a quarterly (once a term at the beginning of each term) overview of what your child will be learning in the classroom for the term ahead. Information relating to a specific year level event will continue to be communicated via Compass and/or our community newsletter throughout the year.

## Staffing

We'd like to officially welcome Mrs Amnah Asad, Miss Jessie Hare, Mrs Gabrielle Johnson, Miss Katherin Alevras, Miss Kathy Cheng, Miss Ashlee Linke and Ms Emily Guan. Also, a very big welcome back to Ms Clare Read, Ms Emily Gibson and Mrs Stacey Honore from their respective leave periods.

## School Grounds and Buildings update

You may have noticed a few changes upon returning to school yesterday. We've had quite a few works done in the school grounds and buildings, namely new carpet in the portable and most of the south building, and new playground markings throughout the asphalted areas, including re-coating existing line marking. We also had part of the boundary fence on Whites Lane replaced to match the existing fence; we replaced one of the staff car park gates; we attended to various maintenance works, including repairs to the student playground to meet compliancy requirements and, we had benches, posts, and the boundary of the playground area painted. In the next 2 weeks we hope to complete the replacement of the toilet pans in the south building, as well as repainting of the toilet floor and portable ceiling and walls. We also are looking at replacing carpets in the OSH space and the south learning studio, as well as repainting the whole of the south building by mid-year.

## School Assembly Change

At GWSPS, assemblies are a cherished tradition that foster community spirit and celebrate achievements. To better balance learning time and the quality of our assemblies, we're moving from weekly to fortnightly assemblies in 2025.

This change provides:

- **More Learning Time:** Longer, uninterrupted classroom sessions for deeper learning.
- **Improved Assemblies:** Better-planned and more engaging gatherings.
- **Broader Opportunities:** Time for other valuable programs and activities.

Assemblies will remain a key part of our school culture, and we're confident this change will benefit students, staff, and families. Thank you for your support!



## Swimming Trials

Many of our Year 3 – 6 students will be partaking in School Swimming trials tomorrow, Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January, with successful students then attending the WESA District Swimming Trials on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February. A big thank you to Miss Jessie Hare for coordinating this event! Good luck to all students who are participating!

## Student Attendance - Every Day Counts

*The following extract comes from the DET website: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/Pages/studentattendance.asp>*

'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. Missing school can have a major impact on a child's future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they'll have missed more than a year 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. Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are steps you can take to ensure they don't fall behind: Speak with your classroom teacher or year level coordinator and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

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

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher or year level coordinator as early as possible.'

## Supervision of Students in the Playground Before and After School

To ensure that students are appropriately supervised, we ask that students arrive at school after 8.45am each morning. If you elect to send your child/ren to school prior to 8.45am, it is important that you understand that they cannot be supervised until the school gates are open and yard duty teachers begin their assigned duty from 8.45am. Similarly, at the end of the school day, the school will ensure the appropriate supervision of all students until 3.45pm and after this time it is the responsibility of parents to collect/supervise their children. Any children not collected after this time will be sent to our After School Program.

**Please be aware that sending children to Before or After School Care will incur a fee!**

## Meet the Teacher Interviews

Shortly you will be receiving a notice inviting you to book online a 'Meet and Greet' session with your child's teacher. Please be sure to follow the instructions as outlined in the notice and take this very important opportunity to organise a time to meet with the teacher. Interpreters can be organised – please refer to notice. If you are having difficulty completing this, please speak to your child's teacher or contact the school. The meet and greet dates are as follows:

**Levels 1 to 4 - Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, between 1:40 pm – 6:40 pm.**

**Level 5/6 - Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February, between 1:40 pm – 6:40 pm**

## School Council

Information relating to vacancies on School Council will be distributed shortly. Please look out for this if you are interested in nominating or being nominated for 2025. Information will include a timeline and summary of the role of School Council. Our next and final school council meeting for the current membership is on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February. Please contact the office if you'd like to attend as a visitor.

## Student Accident and Private Property Insurance

Please be aware that the Department of Education (DE) does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents and guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs.



In some circumstances, medical or other expenses will be paid by the Department where it is assessed that it is likely, that the Department is liable for negligent (careless) acts or omissions of its staff/volunteers. For more information about the claims process please go to:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/governance/Pages/claimsprocess.aspx>

Student accident insurance/ambulance cover policies are available from some commercial insurers, and can be obtained by parents/guardians for individual students. The Department cannot advise parents/guardians on whether to purchase a student accident policy/ambulance cover, or which policy to purchase. It is recommended that parents seek assistance in this matter with their insurance broker or find a suitable personal accident insurer in the Yellow Pages or online.

Private property brought to school by students, staff or visitors is not insured and the Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage.

## No Hat, No Play

Please be reminded that the 'No Hat No Play' policy is still in effect.

## Chinese New Year

Yesterday, 29<sup>th</sup> January marked the beginning of the Chinese New Year. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in our community who celebrates this significant event a Happy New Year!



**Con Vellios**  
Principal

A poster titled 'EVERY DAY COUNTS' with the subtitle 'Primary school attendance'. On the left, a chalkboard graphic contains the text: '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.' Below the chalkboard is a small photo of a young boy in a school uniform. At the bottom, the text reads: '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.'

## Birthday Treats at School

To avoid disappointment and to support the safety and well-being of all students, we request that Parents/Guardians read the following guidelines carefully.

We have a number of students at our school who are anaphylactic. Anaphylaxis is a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening. Certain foods and insect stings are the most common causes of anaphylaxis.

It is very difficult to monitor the ingredients in foods that are brought in for birthdays. It is for this reason that we ask families to please follow these guidelines when bringing food to the school for a birthday.

These guidelines will be strictly adhered to by all staff.

- **NO birthday lolly bags/gift bags**
- **Only ONE item per child eg. one lollypop or one chocolate treat (freddo frog, kit kat etc)**
- **A list of ingredients MUST be supplied**
- **Food MUST be individually wrapped**
- **No nuts**
- **No homemade food**

If birthday treats do not meet the above guidelines, the treats will be returned home.

Birthday treats are to be delivered by the parent/guardian to the school office.

They will remain at the office until the end of the day when they will be distributed to the students by the classroom teacher at 3.30pm.

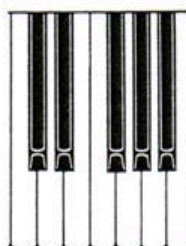


## Violin and Piano News



### Violin and Piano Lessons

Vacancies exist for individual violin and piano lessons held during school hours at GWSPS. Please contact Marika on 0400-604-701 for further information or queries.



## Change of Details

If there has been a change to your living arrangements or contact details that the office may not be aware of, please complete the form below and return to the office as soon as possible.

Student Name:		Class:
Student Name:		Class:
Student Name:		Class:
Student Address:		
Parent (A)	Name:	
	Email:	
	Phone:	
	Address:	
Parent (B)	Name:	
	Email:	
	Phone:	
	Address:	
Parent Signature:		Date:

## CSEF 2024

If you hold a healthcare/concession/Centrelink card **you may be eligible for the CSEF** (Camps, Sports, Excursions Fund) for 2024. This means \$150 per eligible student that can be used to help pay for camps, sports activities and excursions.

To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must on the first day of Term one, or on the first day of Term two;

- Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004*, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
- Be a temporary foster parent

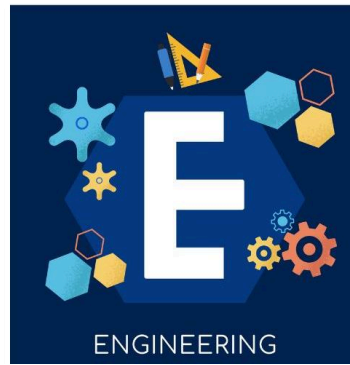
If you think you may be eligible, please be sure to complete an application form (attached to this newsletter) and return it to the school office with a copy of your current, signed Centrelink card as quickly as possible.



SCIENCE



TECHNOLOGY



ENGINEERING



MATHEMATICS

## Spotlight on STEM

In Term 1, all classes across the school will be learning about bees and the important role they play in our world. STEM at Glen Waverley South Primary School focuses on the Design and Technologies component of the Victorian Curriculum. Part of this subject involves understanding how and where our food is made. Bees play an important role, not only in the production of honey but also in the pollination of a huge variety of the foods we eat.

We are excited to be visited by Holly from Backyard Bees who will work with students right across the school in a variety of workshops. More information about these workshops will be available soon on Compass, so keep an eye out for further details.

Photos from some of our STEM learning tasks are posted to the school Facebook page if you would like to see what's happening in the Lab!

There is a donation box outside the STEM Lab for recyclable items needed throughout the year. Take a look at the list in this newsletter for more information on the types of materials needed. Items can be placed directly in the box outside the STEM Lab, please don't take any recyclables to the office.



**Bron Cook**  
STEM



## DONATIONS NEEDED!

Throughout the year, students across the school participate in construction challenges and learning tasks. If you have any of the following materials at home, please consider donating them to the STEM Lab. There is a donation collection box outside the STEM Lab.

Cardboard tubes e.g. paper towel, wrapping paper (NOT toilet roll)

Thin cardboard e.g. cereal boxes, etc that can be easily cut with regular scissors

Clean plastic packaging e.g. bakery containers, berry containers

Plastic caps, e.g. soft drink bottles, fruit/yoghurt pouches





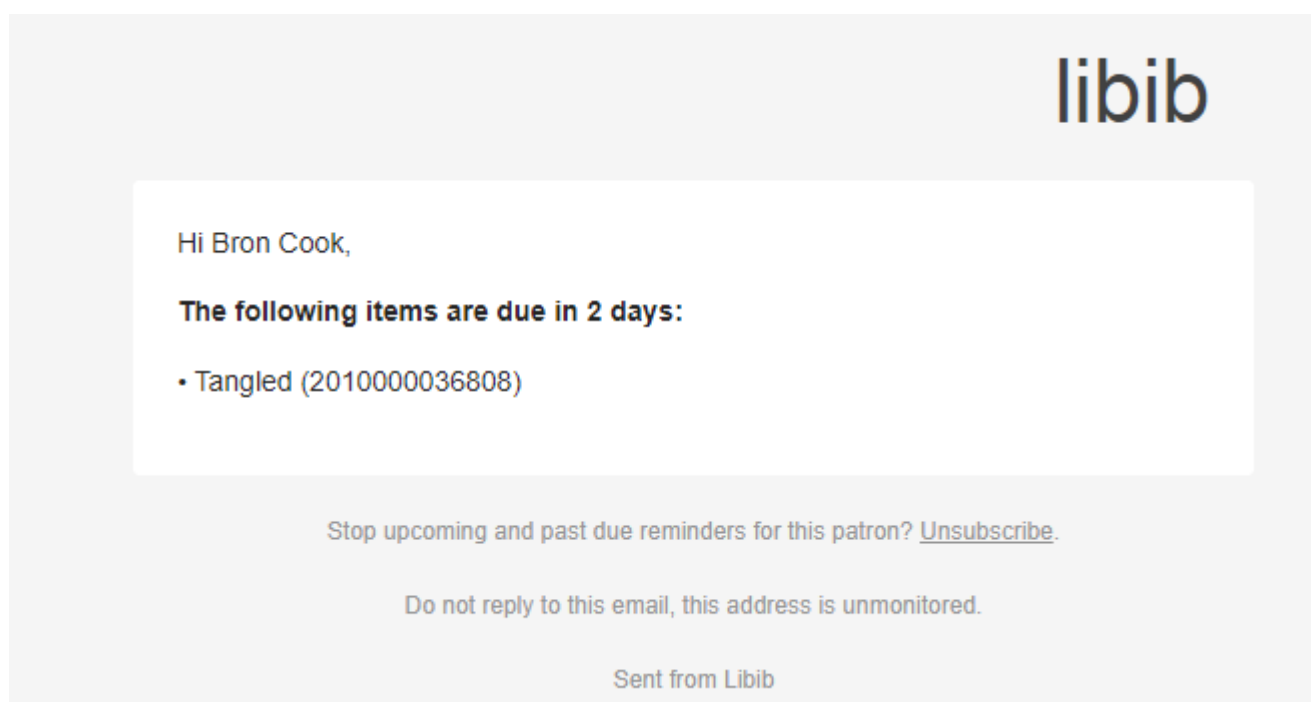
# Library News

In Term 1, classes will visit the library on the following days

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
None	6A 6D 5D 5H	1T 2L 2S	4A 4E 3C 3D	FG FL

Each week, classes will visit the library with their teachers. During this time they will share a story, complete a related activity and have time to browse and borrow. All students should have a named library bag to protect their books. This can be any type of reusable bag. We have spare bags available for students who forget to bring a library bag.

Books are loaned for 14 days. Students are encouraged to return their books each week, even if they are not finished, and reborrow them rather than waiting for them to be overdue. Parents will receive a reminder email 2 days before their student's book is due back. The system will also send up to three reminders once a book is overdue, letting you know the books have not been returned. Students with overdue books will not be allowed to borrow further books until their overdue books are returned. Students should return their library books to their classroom on or before the day of their lesson.



The image shows a screenshot of an email notification from Libib. The email is addressed to Bron Cook and lists a book due in 2 days: 'Tangled' with ID 2010000036808. It includes a link to unsubscribe and a note that the email address is unmonitored.

libib

Hi Bron Cook,

**The following items are due in 2 days:**

- Tangled (2010000036808)

Stop upcoming and past due reminders for this patron? [Unsubscribe](#).

Do not reply to this email, this address is unmonitored.

Sent from Libib

We have lots to look forward to in the library this year! Library Lovers Day is held annually on February 14. We also have National Simultaneous Story Time in Term 2, where students in schools all around Australia are encouraged to join in reading the same book at the same time. The NSS book for 2025 is *The Truck Cat* written by Deborah Frenkel.

Term 3 is packed with events, kicking off with Book Week in August. This year's theme is *Book an Adventure* - stay tuned for more details about school-based activities this week, including our much loved Book Character parade, a QBD Book Fair, and more!

This term also sees the return of our family library activity. Please see the page in this newsletter for more information. If you would like a hard copy, please pick one up from the office and return it to the library for display once complete.

Happy reading!



**Bron Cook**  
Literacy Coordinator



# Term 1 Family Library Activity

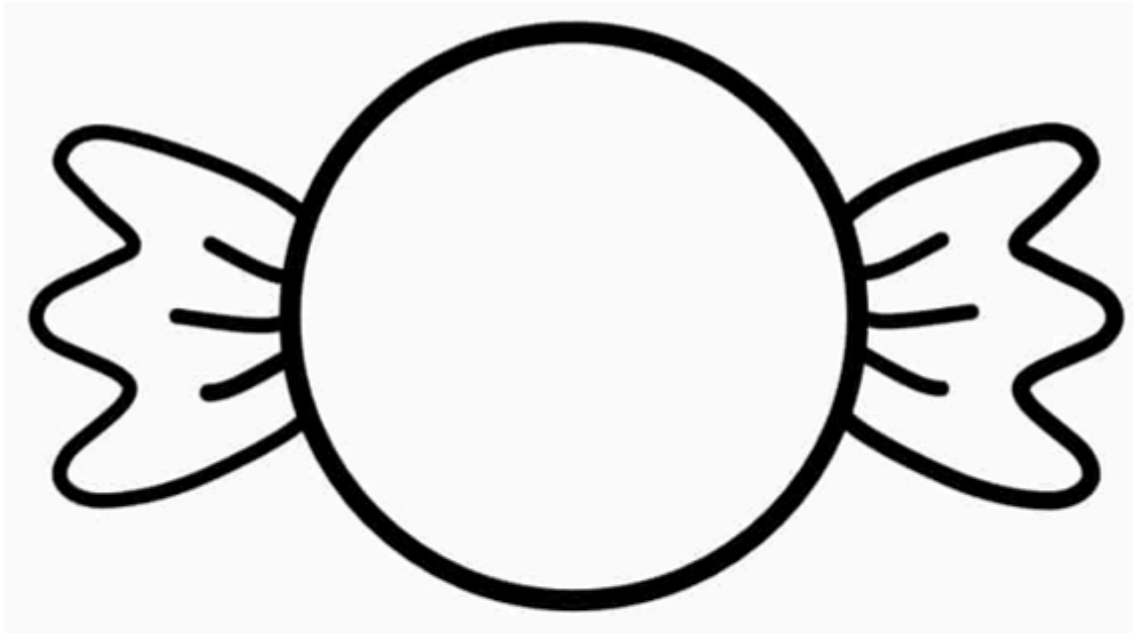
To celebrate Library Lovers' Day on February 14th, this term's activity celebrates the books you love reading as a family, based on the theme A Good Book Makes Life Sweet. Decorate the image below to look like a favourite character, setting, or story.

Cut out the section below and return it to Ms Cook. All activities returned to school will be displayed in the library until the end of this term and will win a small prize (bookmark, sticker, etc). If you need a hard copy of the activity, you can collect one from the office or the library.

I look forward to seeing what your family will share with us!

Bron Cook

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NAME/S:



## Your Marrung Lead

The Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan is a strategy of the Victorian Department of Education to ensure that all First Nations Victorians achieve their learning aspirations and that all students learn about the cultures, histories and contributions of First Nations Australians.

As the Marrung Lead for Glen Waverley South Primary School, my role is to help teachers, students and families understand and work towards these goals, and to act as a contact point within the school for First Nations students and their families.

Some important events we are looking forward to celebrating this year include:

National Reconciliation Week - theme Bridging Now to Next!

NAIDOC Week - theme The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day - theme to be announced

During this year, we will also begin work on our school-based Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). A RAP is a formal commitment to reconciliation. It documents how our school will strengthen relationships, respect and opportunities in the classroom, around the school and with the community. Later in the term, I will be asking for expressions of interest from school community members who would like to be part of our RAP working group. If this is something you would be interested in, keep an eye out for further information in future newsletters.

I look forward to sharing more about this role and the work our school is doing in this area as the year progresses.



**Bron Cook**  
Marrung Lead

# Dates to Remember



## January 2025

Friday	31 <sup>st</sup>	2025 District Swimming Trials Lv 3-6
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## February 2025

Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	Foundation – Early Years Literacy and Numeracy Interviews
Thursday	13 <sup>th</sup>	Lv 3-6 District Swimming (selected students)
Friday	14 <sup>th</sup>	Lv 5/6 Interschool Sport – Round 1
Friday	21 <sup>st</sup>	Lv 5/6 Interschool Sport – Round 2
Tuesday	25 <sup>th</sup>	Lv 1-4 Meet and Greet Interviews
Wednesday	26 <sup>th</sup>	Lv 5/6 Meet and Greet Interviews
Thursday	27 <sup>th</sup>	STEM – Lv 1/2 & Lv 5 School Incursion Backyard Bees

## March 2025

Tuesday	4 <sup>th</sup>	GRIP Leadership Event for Captains
Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	Twilight Sports
Friday	7 <sup>th</sup>	STEM – Lv F & 3/4 School Incursion – Backyard Bees
Wednesday	12 <sup>th</sup>	Division Swimming
Friday	14 <sup>th</sup>	Lv 5/6 Interschool Sport – Round 3
Friday	28 <sup>th</sup>	Lv 5/6 Interschool Sport – Gala Day

# Calendar for Foundation Students 2025

## January / February 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	<b>28 January</b> Curriculum Day Students do not attend school.	<b>29 January</b> No Foundation classes. Student assessments	<b>30 January</b> Foundation students 9.00am–1.00pm	<b>31 January</b> Foundation students 9.00am–1.00pm
<b>3</b> Foundation students 9.00am–1.00pm	<b>4</b> Foundation students 9.00am–1.00pm	<b>5</b> No Foundation classes. Student assessments	<b>6</b> First FULL DAY for Foundation students 9.00am–3.30pm	<b>7</b> Foundation students 9.00am–3.30pm
<b>10</b> Foundation students 9.00am–3.30pm	<b>11</b> Foundation students 9.00am–3.30pm	<b>12</b> No Foundation classes. Student assessments	<b>13</b> Foundation students 9.00am–3.30pm	<b>14</b> Foundation students 9.00am–3.30pm
<b>17</b> Foundation students 9.00am–3.30pm	<b>18</b> Foundation students 9.00am–3.30pm	<b>19</b> No Foundation classes. Student assessments	<b>20</b> Foundation students 9.00am–3.30pm	<b>21</b> Foundation students 9.00am–3.30pm
<b>24</b> Foundation students 9.00am–3.30pm	<b>25</b> Foundation students 9.00am–3.30pm	<b>26</b> No Foundation classes. Student assessments	<b>27</b> Foundation students 9.00am–3.30pm	<b>28</b> Foundation students 9.00am–3.30pm

Want to know what is happening at GWSPS?  
Like us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/GWSPS>



## School Term Dates - 2025

Term 1	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January to Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April
Term 2	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April to Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July
Term 3	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July to Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> September
Term 4	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December

## Curriculum (Pupil Free) Days - 2025

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March (to be confirmed)  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June (to be confirmed)  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November (to be confirmed)

## Public Holidays – 2025

New Year's Day	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> January
Australia Day	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January
Labour Day	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March
Good Friday	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> April
Easter Monday	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April
Anzac Day	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> April
King's Birthday	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> June
Grand Final Friday*	Subject to AFL Schedule
Melbourne Cup Day	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November
Christmas Day	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December
Boxing Day	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> December

\* Friday before AFL Grand Final typically falls on the last Friday in September.

Note: All public holiday dates are accurate at the time of publishing but may be subject to change.

## Contacting Glen Waverley South Primary School

Address:	Whites Lane, Glen Waverley, Vic, 3150
Telephone:	(03) 9560 6371
Email:	<a href="mailto:glen.waverley.south.ps@education.vic.gov.au">glen.waverley.south.ps@education.vic.gov.au</a>
Web:	<a href="http://www.gwsps.vic.edu.au">www.gwsps.vic.edu.au</a>
Facebook:	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/GWSPS/">www.facebook.com/GWSPS/</a>
Principal:	Mr Con Vellios
Assistant Principal:	Miss Clare Read & Miss Elise Vaudeau



# BACK TO SCHOOL 2025

# CONVENIENT SHOPPING

IN JUST A FEW CLICKS

**1** IF YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT...



**SHOP ONLINE**

Visit [psw.com.au/parents](https://psw.com.au/parents) or click on 'FIND MY SCHOOL' on our website.

**2** IF YOU'D LIKE A LITTLE HELP...



**PERSONAL FIT**

Visit [psw.com.au/parents](https://psw.com.au/parents) find your school and pre-book your child's 20 min personal fit session and avoid the queues!

**3** IF THE FIT IS NOT QUITE RIGHT...



**EXCHANGES & REFUNDS\***

Purchases from November 2024 can be exchanged before February 28, 2025. Refund returns are allowed within 30 days from date of purchase.

\*All returned items MUST be in a sellable condition and proof of purchase is required.

AVAILABLE ONLINE AND INSTORE



AVAILABLE ONLINE ONLY



VISIT [PSW.COM.AU](https://psw.com.au)